

**Minutes of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Meeting 11 March 2011
At the Enterprise@Lincoln Building**

Present: Ursula Lidbetter – Chairman, David Dexter - Deputy Chairman, Doreen Stephenson, Chris Baron, Neil Corner, Mark Tinsley, Herman Kok, Eddy Poll, Richard Wills, Prof Mary Stuart, Dr Tony Hill, Justin Brown Carolyn Tuscher(notes).

		ACTION
1.	<p>Apologies Apologies had been received from Andy Baxendale Welcome by Chairman There were no Declarations of Interest at this time. There are 5 Register of Interest Forms Outstanding. There were some amendments to the minutes that were discussed and agreed. In future the papers will be numbered and set out into three separate papers; Discussion, Decision, Information.</p> <p>The three LEP Board Members gave feedback on the National Conference on the 7th March. The LEP Delivery Team from BIS have held a number of Regional Seminars across the country, Common themes were discussed; Links with Local Authorities are critical. Green Growth is at the forefront of Political Drive RGF is for sustainable job creation For the second round of RGF there is a decision to be made as to whether quick submissions are made or does the LEP Board take time to make informed submissions in the hope that not all the money will go on a first come first served basis. The message from Ministers was “get on and do it” The Coventry and Warwickshire LEP is supported by Jaguar Land Rover, they meet monthly, no substitutes are allowed, and they have many different levels of Committee reporting back to the main Board. The next round of RGF Funding opens on the 12th April; any successful bids will be for the sustainable job creation. It was felt that the Greater Lincolnshire LEP was slightly behind other LEPs in terms of working across sectors especially where there was no critical mass. Dr Hill informed the Board that he had spoken to Vince Cable MP about this and the fact that Lincolnshire is not about manufacturing as such. Resources for the LEP must be business led. Prof Stuart suggested the use of Graduate Internships for certain projects. First the LEP needs to decide what it wants to do and then resource to meet the need, it does not want to be seen as a new QUANGO. It was agreed that the Document written by Andrew Thurston was not for discussion at this meeting</p> <p>The Board need to revisit the questions raised in the document and discuss at the next meeting</p>	CT

2.	<p><u>Report Back on the Constitution</u></p> <p>The four original partners involved in the formation of the LEP, have signed the Terms of Reference on behalf of the entire Board.</p> <p><u>Priorities</u></p> <p>It is urgent that the LEP defines its priorities.</p> <p>Visit Lincolnshire – The LCC Representatives were asked to clarify the Situation surrounding Visit Lincolnshire and the way forward.</p> <p>An assurance was given that the Website and Brochure were still live and being done and that most businesses would not see any change to the service.</p> <p>There is a Chamber Event at Louth on 31 March 2011.</p> <p>The Chairman thought it a good idea if the LEP was represented at this event, to promote the Role of the LEP in promoting the future of Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Tourism Businesses need to come to the table and tell the LEP Board what they need. Two thirds of businesses had no benefit from Visit Lincolnshire; the LEP needs to tap into this business voice as there are very few big players within the tourism sector. They are mainly SMEs. It may be the LEP needs to look at the Federation or Chamber to facilitate a forum as there is a real danger that what is already there may well fragment. Use the Federation database to issue a questionnaire to the tourism sector.</p> <p>In order to get the most from the 2012 Olympics the County needs to be ready by September 2011, as the Olympics could also be the biggest threat to the County as well.</p> <p>The LEP needs to add Transport to the list of Priorities.</p> <p>It is also crucial that the LEP sources other funding routes including European Funding Private Funding FE money and Job Centre Plus Funds to act as match funding.</p> <p>The Business Link Role needs to be replaced.</p> <p>The LEP needs to act as a Gate Keeper for funding. Any project that does not get LEP support of match the LEP Priorities will not get through. This needs to be a rigid process to ensure legitimacy of the Board</p>	ALL
3.	<p><u>Engagement with Others</u></p> <p>The LEP Board needs to engage widely with businesses across Lincolnshire and must work out the best way to achieve the maximum impact. The Board Meetings are just the tip of the iceberg in terms on going communications. Priorities for actions include: engagement with SMEs in Lincolnshire. This is a massive challenge to bring them together and possible need to make use of the FSB and Chamber networks. There also needs to be a system for access the LEP Board and for the Board to be able to respond back.</p> <p>It was suggested that an extra page could be added to the questionnaire that is circulated for the Economic Snapshot by the University which accesses businesses throughout the county.</p> <p>The LEP needs to be careful about the projects that it endorses otherwise it becomes worthless and the legitimacy of the Board can be</p>	

	<p>questioned. The LEP also needs to be a critical friend the LCC and persuade on occasion the Local Authority to do something differently even if that may be painful. The LEP can not be running projects itself but will need sub groups as and when required. For example the LEP could endorse the Food for Life project but this would need someone to deliver it but also it should not be in competition with the Agronomy Bid. Richard Wills offered to write a script for what the Board members could say if approached and the possibility to have a brochure like the Coventry one was discussed but it is difficult without funding.</p>	RW
4.	<p><u>Working Across LEP and other Boundaries</u></p> <p>The Subscription for the Rural LEP Network is £1000 for the first year and this has been paid by the Local Authority initially to see if it works. Rural LEPs need a strong voice against the Urban LEPs. Counties Collaborate Cities Compete. It is mainly a forum for rural issues to have a voice and to exchange information and update Government officials on the rural agenda. We do not want Rural LEP issues to be seen as DEFRA issues but for the DCLG and BIS.</p> <p>Engagement with NE lincs has been delicate as the politicians have been divided. At last there has been a unanimous vote to join the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, but they retain the right to work with other partners. Of course this is ok.</p> <p>The Board is asked to endorse the request for 2 places for NE Lincolnshire, one for the Local Authority Representative and one for a Private Sector Representative. AGREED</p> <p><u>Further Action</u> The Chairman will write back to NE Lincolnshire to formal accept their inclusion and to confirm details of the next Board Meeting. Note: The letter was sent on 15 March 2011</p>	UL
5.	<p><u>Funding - Regional Growth Fund Round 1 Update</u></p> <p>The Regional Growth Fund Round 1 results should be made public within 2 weeks. The Bids received were far in excess of the total amount of funds available. The areas that will take priority are those that have been adversely affected by the decline in public sector</p>	

<p>employment.</p> <p>Round 2 bidding begins on the 12 April and as yet no further details have been made available. Round 2 needs to focus more on Programmes rather than projects which will then allow smaller projects to bid into for funding. A Tourism Programme was suggested to help replace Visit Lincolnshire</p> <p><u>Further Action</u> The LEP Chairman will speak to Lincoln BID on this issue</p> <p>Councillor Doreen Stephenson, Chris Baron and Justin Brown will form a sub committee to look at the Tourism Agenda and Prof Stuart offered some support from the University.</p> <p>Other projects that need further investigation are Grantham Growth and the Boston Lock Gates. This is still early days but is very important both for Boston and for freight in general. It possibly needs to be tied in to a whole waterways project.</p> <p>In light of all the different themes it was decided to hold a strategy day.</p> <p>The Board would like to be informed as to what happens to the Bids that are unsuccessful in Round 1. Can they be resubmitted for Round 2? Justin Brown suggested that unless the LEP is informed otherwise then they should be resubmitted and we should aim to enlist individual support from an officer in BIS to help us to resubmit. Also if this is the case then we should aim to look at those bids that were successful and see what we can learn.</p> <p>Broad band Funding The Government has set aside £830 Million for Broadband, this equates to £60 per household. Plans need to be in place to bid into this fund which opens on the 18th April. Justin Brown needs to just think this process through. Do we rush a proposal through or is the money there to be allocated per head and take time to scope out a better bid?</p> <p>Capacity Fund The LEP Capacity fund is not to be used for the Secretariat. It can be used for: Consultations – Process of Engagement The LEP Board needs to link in to the needs of NE Lincolnshire. Barriers to business growth Business Support Strategy Intelligence gathering</p> <p>Justin Brown is to elaborate on this before the 31 March 2011 deadline and discuss outside of the LEP Board with the Chairman. He will also produce a fact sheet in time for the Strategy day.</p>	<p>UL</p> <p>DS,CB,JB</p> <p>CT</p> <p>JB</p>
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6.	<p><u>Economic Assessment</u></p> <p>The LEP Board were given a presentation by the Lincolnshire Research Observatory on the Local Economic Assessment.</p> <p>The document is still out for consultation and the aim of it is to provide a credible evidence base for future policy decisions.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Forward Work Programme</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Board needed to have a day to formulate strategy on the following to develop strategies to promote Lincolnshire in a coordinated way and to create a thriving environment for business. In order to achieve this the LEP Board need to know what environment it is that businesses require. The information is available it just needs analysis for a coherent approach.</p> <p>Broadband Transport Housing Event – A voice for business</p> <p>It was agreed that sub committees of relative Board Members could be used to deal with approaches from organisations and facilitate meetings between Board Meetings as and when required.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Any other Business</u></p>	
9.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 10.00am on 10 June at the Enterprise@Lincoln Building, University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool.</p>	