

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED THE DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 9
MARCH 2021

This page is intentionally left blank

West of England LEP Board

Tuesday 09 March 2021, 9:00am
Meeting held “virtually” via Zoom

Present:

Prof Steve West, West of England LEP (Chair)
Katharine Finn, PwC
Christopher Grier, Airbus
David Brown, The Bristol Port Company
Dick Penny, Independent Consultant
Heather Cooper, Hargreaves Lansdown
Joanne Rumley, Foot Anstey
Jon Reynolds, GDS Digital
Margot Day, Buro Happold
Mohammed Saddiq, Wessex Water

Natasha Swinscoe, WEAHSN
Neil Douglas, Viper Innovations
Richard Bonner, Arcadis
Prof Sue Rigby, Bath Spa University
Zoe Metcalfe, ValueSwift
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council
Cllr Don Davies, North Somerset Council
Cllr Toby Savage, South Gloucestershire Council
Mayor Tim Bowles, West of England Combined Authority

Officers in Attendance:

Patricia Greer, CEO
Jess Lee, WECA
Lynda Bird, WECA

Dave Perry, CEO, South Gloucestershire Council
Melissa Houston, WECA
Malcolm Coe, WECA

Also Present:

Peaches Golding, Lord Lieutenant [item 2 only]
Chris Curling, Deputy Lieutenant [item 2 only]

George Margesson, WECA [item 5 only]
Rachel Pykett, WECA [item 5 only]

Apologies:

Cllr Dine Romero, B&NES Council
Will Godfrey, CEO, B&NES Council

Cllr Toby Savage, South Gloucestershire Council
Mike Jackson, CEO, Bristol City Council

Minutes

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed external guests Peaches Golding and Chris Curling.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p>
2.	<p>Queen’s Awards for Enterprise and for Voluntary Service</p> <p>As Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant for Bristol, it is Peaches Golding’s responsibility to represent the Queen and members of the Royal Family and to support delivery of their priorities</p> <p>Peaches gave a brief overview of the Queen’s Awards, including eligibility criteria to apply and the benefits of receiving an award. The Queen’s Awards are the most prestigious business award in the country, and also receive significant recognition internationally. They recognise that what the business does is genuinely distinctive in its market place.</p> <p>The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise have four categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Innovation ▪ International Trade ▪ Sustainable development [based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals] ▪ Promoting opportunity through social mobility <p>The objective of the presentation was to ask LEP Board members to work together to promote and raise awareness of these awards that can make such a difference to businesses within this region.</p> <p>In discussion members of the LEP Board endorsed the power and benefits of receiving a Queen’s Award,</p>

	<p>and the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This year the awarding bodies are taking the pandemic and Brexit into consideration when assessing applications. ▪ Businesses can apply for more than one award. ▪ The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are valid for 5 years. ▪ The opportunity to spot excellence and encourage businesses to apply. <p>Agreed: Peaches to provide the LEP Board with a communications pack to help WECA/LEP Board members promote through their Social Media channels.</p>
--	--

	Subject
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 20th January 2021</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2021 were agreed as a correct record with one amendment, to note that Joanne Rumley was in attendance at the meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>The Chair reminded Board members that they had a responsibility to treat all proposals/projects equally and impartially and must therefore declare whether they or their organisation had either a direct or indirect interest in any of the projects to be considered by the Board.</p> <p>The Chair stated that his employer UWE works closely with the LEP and WECA around the Recover Fund</p> <p>Richard Bonner registered that Arcadis have been awarded a Strategic Partner delivery role for Bristol City Council</p> <p>There were no further declarations of interest.</p>
Items for discussion	
5.	<p>Phase Two Recovery</p> <p>Steve West introduced the item and informed Board members that following the publication of the recovery plan last year the identified medium-term challenges to the regional economy will be considered as Phase two of this work.</p> <p>The conclusions of this phase will then serve as a bridge between our immediate action to stabilise the economy and getting the region back on track to deliver the Local Industrial Strategy, influence the Spending Review and broader engagement with Government on opportunities to strengthen our regional recovery.</p> <p>Jess Lee took members through a short slide pack and invited Board members to focus on challenge 1 the future of town and city centres and to bring the perspective as big employers, occupiers of city centre space and anchor institutions.</p> <p>Observations from the business members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More conversations needed around blended working as staff will want more agility - What does this

	<p>look like for demand?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff will want the office interaction but not full time. ▪ There is a need to repurpose space to complement change. ▪ Without clarity from Government around “Working from home when you can” businesses will develop their own hybrid working. ▪ As social beings who want to be social, we need to think more proactive and create blended spaces – not just focus on retail. <p>Due to limited time available to enable a detailed conversation, it was agreed that a follow up workshop would be arranged to consider the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent are businesses in the West of England planning for these changes (e.g. hybrid working etc.) 2. What do these mean for businesses and employers in the West of England? 3. What makes the West of England an attractive place to do business and how do our towns and cities contribute to that? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What features do businesses want to see in towns/cities in the future? 4. What are the implications for businesses of emerging preferences for ‘staying local’?
6.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freeport bid update <p>The recently submitted Great Western Freeport Bid had not been successful. Members expressed strong disappointment with the decision and emphasised the importance of continuing to work together to realise the best outcomes for the Region. A feedback session is scheduled with officials and following this Members may submit a response to Government and discuss with Local MPs.</p> <p>LEP Board members also addressed the Levelling Up agenda, including concerns around geography and criteria for awarding future funding.</p> <p>Agreed: A feedback meeting on the Freeport Bid is scheduled for Monday [15th March] – next steps to then be decided.</p>
Information only	
<p>Reports on Sub-Groups</p> <p>Within the LEP papers Board members were provided with a summary on the progress of organisational sub groups.</p>	

This page is intentionally left blank