

Economic and Skills Development Partnership

Wednesday 26 September 2018

8.30 - 10.30 am

**The Lexicon Management Suite, The Avenue Car Park,
Bracknell RG12 1AP**



AGENDA

Item	Description	Page	By	Time
1.	Apologies for Absence		Lizzie Rich	
2.	Action Points from Last Meeting	1 - 4	Bob Collis	
3.	The Lexicon: presentation by Harry Pickering, Investment Manager, Schroders		Harry Pickering	
4.	Proposed ESDP Autumn Event		Bob Collis	
5.	Sub-group Updates	5 - 6	Sub-group chairs	
6.	BID Update		Anneken Priesack	
7.	Dates of Future Meetings		All to note	
	20 November 2018			
	22 January 2019			

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Economic and Skills Development Partnership
Tuesday, 3 July 2018
8.30 - 10.40 am
ON Semiconductor, Greenwood House, London
Road, Bracknell, RG12 2AA



Present: Bob Collis, ESDP Chair
 Nancy Lalor, Learning to Work
 Peter Smith, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Councillor Bob Wade, Bracknell Forest Council Small Business Champion
 Anneken Priesack, Bracknell Forest Council

Apologies: Julie Rowe, WWP The Key Group
 Harry Pickering, Schroders
 James Taylor, Bracknell & Wokingham College
 Andrew Hunter, Bracknell Forest Council
 David Orren, Thames Valley Business Advisors

Action Points

Minute	Item
119	<p>Action Points from Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record.</p> <p>Arising from the minutes, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESDP thanked Campbell Christie who had left Bracknell and Wokingham College for his wonderful service to the Partnership as a member of the Partnership Board and as Chair of the Employment and Skills Sub Group. • The Partnership thanked Nancy Lalor for arranging the presentation on the Heathrow consultation at the last meeting. <p>The Partnership discussed how meeting attendance could be improved at future meetings.</p> <p>It was agreed that attendance was better when a topic of interest was promoted to a wider pool of contacts, and it was proposed that future meetings could be split into two parts; a topic of interest and general business. The following were proposed as items for future ESDP Board meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2018 – BID steering group update • November 2018 - Town centre update • January 2019 – the work of the LEP <p>Anneken Priesack commented that she would be presenting at a Breakfast meeting at the Coppid Beech Hotel and would promote the ESDP and its membership. Bob Collis would forward some 'elevator pitch text' to her for the presentation. (Action: Bob Collis)</p> <p>The Partnership agreed that it was important to keep Bracknell and Wokingham College (now Activate Learning) on the Partnership's membership in some form.</p>

	<p>Previous Partnership events such as the Breakfast Forum, Chamber of Commerce events, and the Heathrow presentation had been successful, and more such events and joint events now needed to be planned.</p> <p>The Partnership suggested that the ESDP should include a retail representative, and it was suggested that the Lexicon may assist with this area of recruitment. It was agreed that Anneken, Andrew and Bob would discuss the matter of attendance and of 'key topics' and would present a note to the Partnership. (Action: Anneken Priesack/Bob Collis/Andrew Hunter)</p>
120	<p>2 Year Plan Review</p> <p>The Partnership considered the 2 Year Plan Review and Bob Collis updated on the following areas on the Plan.</p> <p>Item 3: Deliver Work-streams <u>Employment and Skills sub group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subgroup was losing momentum as there was no work stream update since Campbell Christie left • The subgroup was currently without a Chair, following Campbell Christie's leaving Bracknell & Wokingham College and significant changes at the College following the merge with Activate Learning. • It was agreed that Activate Learning be approached and asked if they would like to continue their involvement with the Partnership • Learning to Work volunteered their help to the group, as long as the purpose, objectives and outcome of the group were clear from the outset. Anneken agreed to send the Terms of Reference of the group to Nancy to discuss. (Action: Anneken/Nancy) • Anneken agreed to approach the College regarding the agreed meeting dates for the group, to discuss with Learning to Work. (Action: Anneken) <p><u>Infrastructure sub group.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subgroup was functioning well, and Bob Collis continued as chair. There was a core of 5 or 6 members who attended regularly. • The subgroup regularly meet in the Pegasus Office in the Columbia Building which is a good arrangement going forward. • The workstream had been reviewed, but had not changed significantly. <p>Item 4: Enhance membership It was proposed that a promotional press release with Newsquest local newspapers would rejuvenate the membership. Bob Collis agreed to contact Paul Thomas of Newsquest to arrange a regular feature for inclusion in the press around the theme of 'Bracknell Means Business'. (Action: Bob Collis)</p> <p>Item 5: Identify funding opportunities The Partnership were working with the Local Authority to support funding opportunities through the joint Berkshire bid for A329 and A33 improvements.</p> <p>Item 6: Provide Support for the BID The Partnership resolved to continue supporting the BID.</p> <p>Item 8: Communicate Bob's Blog continued, and the Partnership commented that it was a useful</p>

	<p>resource to communicate with the wider Partnership and contacts.</p> <p>Bob Collis and Peter Smith agreed to consider a joint meeting between the ESDP and Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce in Spring 2019. (Action: Bob Collis/Peter Smith)</p> <p>Bob Collis had been invited to speak with Gary Cranford, Economic Development officer at Wokingham Borough Council who was looking to establish a similar group in Wokingham. The Partnership welcomed this connection and were keen to work with any Partnership in Wokingham once established. (Action: Bob Collis)</p> <p>Bob Collis suggested that an additional item for the 2 Year Plan Review might be 'To hold two regular business events a year' with topics suggested for each.</p> <p>The Partnership also discussed how the ESDP might get involved and support plans relating to the local housing objective for the business community's employees.</p>
121	<p>Photography Competition</p> <p>Bob Collis gave an update on the joint BFC/ESDP Photography Competition. Progress had been smooth and the competition was due to launch through the Parks and Countryside website and a press release due to go out in July to promote the competition. Simon Fryer would be on the judging panel, and the ESDP would sponsor the Business Growth category.</p> <p>The competition required further sponsorship, and the Partnership were asked to propose any potential sponsors. (Action: all)</p>
122	<p>Sub-group Updates</p> <p>There were no further updates to the sub-groups additional to those given under the 2 Year Plan Review.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Sub-Group had agreed to focus on journeys to work, and to look at how businesses could help to reduce congestion in Bracknell. Parking had been noted as an issue for businesses, however a Park and Ride facility was not viable at this time. There was a possible Park and Ride facility being created to serve Wokingham from the Coppid Beech, and it was suggested that if this was the case, this facility might serve Bracknell too. (Action: Bob Collis to raise with Gary Cranford)</p>
123	<p>BID Update</p> <p>Anneken Priesack and Bob Collis had attended the BID steering groups.</p> <p>A BID Stakeholder Information Day had been proposed for 20 September 2018 at the 3M building. Businesses from the Western and Southern business areas would be invited to attend. The results of the BID survey would be available to identify the business needs of the area, and would have been presented to the BID steering group at the end of August.</p>

	<p>Anneken and Bob agreed to update the Partnership on the progress and outcome of the survey. (Action: Bob/Anneken)</p> <p>Peter Smith agreed to call a contact at Vodafone to discuss their involvement in the BID. (Action: Peter Smith)</p>
124	<p>LEP Update</p> <p>Anneken Priesack updated the Panel on the Smart City project, which involved four Local Authorities releasing funding to businesses to develop Internet of Things devices. Further details would be provided as available.</p>
125	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Bob Collis advised the Partnership that he had been invited by Activate Learning to give the ESDP's views on their merge with Guildford College, but had not felt in a position to comment having no prior experience of Guildford College or Activate Learning. It was agreed that although the ESDP was not in a position to comment on the merge, Activate Learning would be encouraged to send a representative to the Partnership Board.</p> <p>The Panel thanked David Burrows and ON Semiconductor for hosting the meeting and Kirstine Berry for taking the meeting notes.</p>
126	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>26 September 2018 20 November 2018 22 January 2018 19 March 2018 21 May 2018</p>

ECONOMIC & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

INFRASTRUCTURE SUB-GROUP

WORK STREAM – UPDATE September 2018



Economic & Skills Development Partnership

Programme 1:	Lead/Review Date
Provide direction and input to the Local Plan and associated policy documents on the Bracknell Forest business community's infrastructure needs.	SC
Update:	Date:
Local Plan: The ESDP will consider commenting on the draft Plan in the Autumn. Heathrow Expansion: The ESDP responded to the consultation in March stressing the need for a new Southern Rail Access between Heathrow Airport and the Bracknell Forest area, linking to trains using the Reading and Waterloo Line. Heathrow has offered to update the ESDP on the proposed expansion at a future meeting. Transforming Cities Fund: The ESDP wrote I support of the Reading, Bracknell, Wokingham joint bid for funding road capacity improvements to the A33/A329 corridors	17/8/18 BC
Programme 2:	Lead:
Explore the viability of creating a Business Improvement District (BID) within Bracknell Forest, forming a Steering Group to assess and report on potential options.	BC
Update:	Date:
In August, the Steering Group's BID management company Partnerships for Better Businesses (PFBB) completed a Feasibility Survey of businesses on the Southern and Western Business Areas to gauge the level of interest in the proposed BID. Following the favourable outcome, a Stakeholder Meeting will now be held on 20 September 2018 at Fujitsu.	17/9/18
Programme 3:	
Working with the LEP, provide business-led advice to Train Operating Companies and Network Rail on delivering improved rail services to and from Bracknell.	SJ
Update:	Date:
Following lobbying from organisations, including the ESDP, SWR had decided to implement the 'December 2018 Timetable' which would have increased peak hour services to and from Waterloo and retain the current service levels at Martins Heron. Since then, however, SWT and DfT have decided to delay the implementation of any new timetable. ESDP will continue to monitor the situation.	17/9/18
Programme 4:	Lead
Provide business-led advice on future development needs for Superfast Broadband in Bracknell.	TB
Update:	Date:
City Fibre and Exponential-e spoke on topics covering Full Fibre and other advanced communications at the ESDP Breakfast Forum on 12 April. This topic will be further explored at our proposed Autumn Event.	17/9/18
Programme 5:	Lead:
Provide support to the LEP and local authority in seeking funds to improve Bracknell's Strategic road corridors to increase capacity and provide reliable journey times	SJ
Update:	Date:
BFC officers continue to update the ESDP on progress with improvement schemes.	17/9/18

Programme 6	Lead:
Continue to improve and promote the sustainable transport network that provides a high level of accessibility to key services including employment, education, healthcare, shopping and leisure.	SJ
Update:	Date:
City Fibre, Exponential-e and Morgan Lovell spoke on topics covering flexible working and changes to workplace environments at the ESDP Breakfast Forum on 12 April. This topic will be further explored at our proposed Autumn Event.	17/9/18
Programme 7	Lead:
Provide advice and direction on improving the availability of rented and graduate accommodation to meet increasing demand from Bracknell's business employers.	JT ML
Update:	Date:
The ESDP will review the value of continuing to explore this topic.	17/4/18
Photographic Competition	Lead:
The Sub-Group took on an additional task of supporting a joint photographic competition with BFC Parks and Countryside Dept. based on their existing annual competition.	JT ML
Update:	Date:
The joint BFC/ESDP photographic competition based on the theme 'Bracknell Forest – a Great Place to Grow' was launched in May. The competition closes in October. We still seek sponsors for some of the prizes.	17/9/18 SF BC
Workstream Review	Lead:
Review the value and progress of the Workstream	BC
Update:	Date:
The Sub-Group Reviewed the Workstream in May 2018. It was agreed that, whilst most programmes should be retained, the outcomes from the forthcoming Autumn Event will provide guidance on how to take forward Programmes 4 and 6. For programme 6, it was also proposed that the Sub-Group should identify emerging transport topics that need business support if they are to be fully implemented, in the Borough, e.g. electric charging of vehicles.	17/9/18

BC/17/9/18