

Economic and Skills Development Partnership
Tuesday, 5 September 2017
8:30am – 10:30am
Room 106, Fujitsu, Lovelace Road, Bracknell



Present: Bob Collis, Transport Research Laboratory
 Campbell Christie, Bracknell & Wokingham College
 Derrick Nirmalan
 Peter Smith, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Councillor Bob Wade, Small Business Champion
 : Anneken Priesack, Bracknell Forest Council
 Andrew Hunter, Chief Officer: Planning, Transport & Countryside
 Nancy Lalor, Learning to Work
 Julie Rowe, Key Group / WWP
 Adrian Crockett, Venture Life Group

Apologies: Tony Bellis, 3M
 James Sackley, Bracknell Forest Council

Action Points

Minute	Item
72	<p>Introduction to new members</p> <p>The chair introduced new members and welcomed them to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Crockett, Venture Life Group introduced himself and his company, which was an international healthcare provider. • Andrew Hunter, Chief Officer: Planning, Transport and Countryside had recently taken over the management of the Council's Economy and Regeneration function from Victor Nicholls and had therefore taken over the ESDP. • Julie Rowe joined the Partnership in place of Sheila Robbie who had left the Key Group.
73	<p>Action Points from Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2017 were approved as a correct record.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Reviewing the minutes, the chairman indicated the action points which had been completed and updated the meeting on the results and matters which remained ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the Government's Industrial Strategy and Airports National Policy Statement had not progressed further, and no response to the ESDP's input had been received. The Partnership recognised that the Airports National Policy Statement was of particular importance to the ESDP due to proximity to Heathrow. • The Partnership noted the difficulty of finding representatives from larger

	<p>companies due to the high turnover of staff and scale of organisations such as Dell and Vodafone. It was hoped that Fujitsu, who had been hosting the BID Steering Group, could get more involved in Partnership activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership was reminded that the sub-groups were looking to boost their membership, and to suggest any individuals who may be suitable. • Marcus Cauchi had met with Campbell Christie to discuss Employment and Skills Sub-group membership. Marcus had provided contact details for a company called ISM who might be able to help the Partnership. • The BID launch was now planned for November (date and venue not yet known). This would be a key meeting for stakeholders, to secure sufficient interest. The Partnership suggested that this event would be a good opportunity to work together with the Chamber of Commerce. <p>The ESDP recorded their thanks to Fujitsu for hosting the meeting.</p>
74	<p>Lexicon Opening Update</p> <p>Anneken Priesack gave an update on the plans for the town centre opening on 7 September 2017. The majority of shops would open on time along with some staggered openings throughout the next month. The weekend's activities will include entertainers, stilt walkers and interactive screens. Where shops are not occupied yet, the empty shop windows would be filled with artwork by Bracknell and Wokingham college to support skills development.</p> <p>If partnership members have any feedback on the new town centre, comments were requested to be sent to the Lexicon/ Bracknell Regeneration Partnership directly through the website, or to Council representatives where relevant.</p>
75	<p>Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Events Update</p> <p>Peter Smith updated the Partnership on the latest Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce business events.</p> <p>The 'Made in Bracknell' banner event was reported to have been very popular. In future events would ideally be held every other month in order to spread the message about the upcoming BIG (Bracknell Investment Group) BID. The local authority would share relevant contacts which could help with BID events. (Action: Andrew Hunter/ Peter Smith)</p> <p>With regard to 2018 events, Peter commented that the Chamber was waiting for ideas from businesses and that if any partner had a suggestion for a future business event, they should pass this to Peter and the Chamber. (Action: all)</p> <p>It was agreed the Bob Collis would also attend a Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting in September/November to talk about the ESDP and the BID (Action: Peter Smith)</p>
76	<p>2 Year Plan Update and Progress</p>

	<p>The chairman gave an update on the 2 year action plan and noted that the majority of actions had green status.</p> <p>With regards to enhancing ESDP membership, it was noted that a current membership drive would continue, with suggestions of representation from Frimley Health Foundation Trust and the West London Mental Health Trust, both of which Campbell Christie had contacts with, and the CBI who Bob was due to meet with. (Action: Campbell Christie / Bob Collis)</p> <p>With regards to identifying funding opportunities, the ESDP was reminded of their letter of support to the Local Authority funding bid to fund the A322 improvements. There were no Local Authority current funding bids which would benefit from ESDP endorsement, however Campbell noted that the College may have some upcoming bids which the ESDP could support for Employment and Skills. The partnership discussed the objective to communicate with ESDP members. An informal blog called 'Bob's Blog' had been drafted and would be circulated to ESDP members. (Action: Anneken/Bob)</p> <p>A celebration seminar style event for members was supported, however it was noted that the key messages must be clear for the event to avoid confusion. Campbell Christie offered Bracknell and Wokingham College as a potential venue for up to 50 people for 1.30/2 hours. The seminar would not be formal but have some items and opportunity for networking.</p> <p>Another suggestion was for a marketing campaign, however this would come at a cost and need organising. It was noted that the BID would take priority for marketing resources.</p> <p>The suggested photography competition had multiple benefits including tie ins with the local schools and colleges and the opportunity to get some good photographs for marketing purposes. Nancy Lalor suggested that Paul Thomas at News Quest would be a good contact to explore supporting the competition. (Action: Nancy Lalor). The partnership was keen to explore the arrangements for the Local Authority's existing Parks and Countryside photography competition. (Action: Andrew Hunter) Campbell Christie tentatively agreed to support the competition through the college, with help from Nancy and Learning to Work. (Action: Campbell Christie)</p> <p>It was recognised that the objectives for the 2 year plan were generally on target, although the Partnership noted that the plan had only existed for a matter of months.</p>
77	<p>Sub-group Updates</p> <p>Campbell Christie gave an update from the Employment and Skills sub group. Apprenticeships were a current focus due to the government apprenticeship levy for large organisations including Bracknell Forest Council.</p> <p>Campbell also reported that the Elevate programme had been funded by the EU money, and the future of the programme was uncertain following the end of funding in 2019.</p> <p>At Bracknell and Wokingham College, health and social care courses were being</p>

	<p>promoted. A cyber security apprenticeship was being investigated, but evidence of local demand was needed before the course was deliverable.</p> <p>Bob Collis gave an update on the Infrastructure sub group which had been focussing on the following areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction and input had been given to the Local Authority's Local Plan. Andrew Hunter agreed to circulate the current Local Plan documents to the ESDP for comment, and to include the ESDP in future consultation in December/January 2017/18. (Action: Andrew Hunter) • Rail infrastructure had improved to Waterloo after promotion and input from the Local Authority transport team and the influence of the Infrastructure Sub-group. • Full Fibre Broadband had become a national news item, and Rob Lamden of BTLC had agreed to advise the Sub-group on Broadband delivery in Bracknell Forest. Bracknell Forest had not been included in a recent government pilot, but it was noted that existing broadband speeds were comparatively good. • Promotion of sustainable transport and flexible working had been discussed with Stuart Jefferies, as the Local Authority had seen little improvement in traffic at peak hours despite businesses claiming to endorse and recommend flexible working patterns.
78	<p>BID Update</p> <p>Bob Collis gave an update on the BID. It was reported that nearly 300 districts have currently been set up throughout the country so far. The initiative is led by local businesses who pay a levy above their corporation tax and business rates to fund improvement initiatives in the district. In Bracknell, the Western and Southern industrial areas would be brought together to form a BID , and would vote on what they would like to support from a list of costed projects. A business plan would be created and required approval by government and Bracknell Forest Council . A seminar was due to take place in November 2017 (venue TBC) which would be open to all organisations to outline the key points of the project plan before the ballot.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding the future governance of the BID, and it was explained that although the partnership would guide the company into fruition, the ESDP would not be directly involved in governance once the BID was established. It was hoped that the organisation would stay connected and benefit from the same membership.</p>
79	<p>LEP Update</p> <p>The partnership was updated on the current bids for funding towards infrastructure. Of a total £150m potential funding for LEPs across the country, Thames Valley LEP had been awarded £35m which would fund transport improvements, broadband, Local Plan and skills development work. The main projects were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport subgroup of LEP promoting a third runway at Heathrow, and the western and southern rail links to Heathrow which would have major

	<p>benefits for local supply chain businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superfast broadband which would leave Bracknell with 99% superfast broadband coverage. Where Bracknell Forest's coverage had been consistently good, West Berkshire had improved from 65% coverage in 2013 to 99.7% with the help of LEP funding. • Local Plan Spatial Economic Narrative across Berkshire to establish the business needs of the 6 unitaries over the next 15 – 20 years. • Skills: Bracknell and Wokingham college were considering bidding for remaining £385k of LEP budget to possibly put towards a cyber security apprenticeship. • The LEP was investigating the issues arising and implications of Institutes of Technology which were being encouraged across the country. Support to the Careers Enterprise Company provided enterprise advisors to schools which is part funded by LEP. The Company currently had 27 volunteers but more advisers were being recruited.
80	<p>Article 4 and Local Plan Update</p> <p>Andrew Hunter gave an update on Article 4 and the Local Plan. Article 4 relates to government legislation which allows office buildings to be changed to flats without planning permission. Areas could only be protected from being converted if the Local Authority have Article 4 in place.</p> <p>For Bracknell, this will take effect from 27 February 2018. 1,000 units have already come forward with Western and Southern industrial areas being identified particularly as needing protection as any homes positioned in these areas would reduce office space available for the future. The Local Plan would identify a preferred plan for office space, residential areas, schools and roads until 2036. The ESDP would be consulted during the consultation period running from December 2017 – January 2018. Andrew Hunter agreed to send maps and notice of consultation for circulation. (Action: Andrew Hunter)</p>
81	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The chairman showed the group a new marketing booklet, a PDF version of which would be circulated. (Action: Anneken to send to Lizzie for circulation). Paper copies would also be available from Anneken.</p> <p>Nancy advised the partnership of a careers event on 12 October at Bracknell Leisure Centre which Bracknell schools will be attending. 4 October there would also be a STEM conference. (Action: Nancy to send details to Anneken)</p> <p>It was reported that James Sackley would be leaving Bracknell Forest Council at the end of September. The partnership wanted to extend their thanks to James and were appreciative of the work he had done whilst in his position especially in his support to the Partnerships Board and Infrastructure Sub group.</p>
82	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p>

	The next meeting would be held on 7 November 2017, venue TBC.
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