

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE THAMES VALLEY
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (BTVLEP) BOARD MEETING**

Held Friday 6 February 2015 from 9.30am at
Stoke Park, Park Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks SL2 4PG

Present: Cllr Mike Appleyard, Buckinghamshire County Council (Alternate)
Cllr Adrian Busby, South Bucks District Council
Cllr Isobel Darby, Chiltern District Council
Cllr Carole Paternoster, Aylesbury Vale District Council (Alternate)
Cllr Richard Scott, Wycombe District Council
Philippa Batting, Buckinghamshire Business First (Alternate)
Michael Garvey, Buckinghamshire Business First (Stupples Chandler Garvey)
Guy Lachlan, Buckinghamshire Business First (Jones & Cocks Ltd)
Alex Pratt, Buckinghamshire Business First (Serious Brands)
Andrew Smith, Buckinghamshire Business First (Pinewood)

Apologies: Cllr Neil Blake, Aylesbury Vale District Council
Cllr Martin Tett, Buckinghamshire County Council

In attendance: Jock Lowe, Heathrow Hub (Part meeting)
Piers Warburton, Gatwick Airport (Part meeting)
Alex Kirby, Gatwick Airport (Part meeting)
Rebecca Bunting, Buckinghamshire New University
Richard Harrington, BTVLEP Chief Executive
Jim Sims, BTVLEP Development Manager
Ian Barham, BTVLEP Partnerships Manager
Sarah Fraser

SUMMARY MINUTES

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- There were no new declarations of interest at this meeting.

2 AIR CAPACITY - FUTURE OPTIONS

- The need for airport expansion if the UK is to continue to compete globally was recognised.
- Whilst not out of the question that the Government might consider expansion at both Heathrow and Gatwick, it was thought the business case may be difficult to make.
- Road/rail interfaces and environmental impact had been considered in all options presented.
- Presentations given did not mention the impact on inward investment of delaying expansion.

(Jock Lowe, Piers Warburton and Alex Kirby left the meeting)

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 12 December 2014

- The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3.1 Matters arising

- **Buckinghamshire Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP)** - Work is underway developing the LIP. The purpose of the LIP is: to prepare information on projects to be promoted in the next Local Growth Deal bidding round; and to proactively consider business cases and prioritisation for these projects.

4 LOCAL GROWTH DEAL UPDATE

4.1 Round 1

- Funding from round 1 of the Local Growth Deal will land from April 2015 and contractual documents will be in place for all projects by the time funding arrives.
- The infrastructure projects to be supported have all been progressed early prior to funding arriving, as have the sustainable transport projects, discussions with Amersham & Wycombe College re estate refurbishment, and liaison with the University of Surrey on the 5G project.
- The University of Surrey and Enterprise M3 LEP (who are leading on the 5G project) will be invited to the next Board meeting to provide an update on progress and outline direct benefits that will accrue to Bucks as a result of the project.
- The need to progress projects to plan and establish a track record of delivery, was highlighted.
- Discussions to be held re possible additional monies available through HMT, primarily for Creative Industries projects and in addition to Public Works Loan Board funding.
- The executive team will be looking (Feb/March) for additional projects that can be 'packaged up' should additional funding become available.

4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

- In addition to the National Monitoring Framework, the governance framework proposed included local milestone monitoring.
- The accountable body's Section 151 Officers had input into the final framework.
- The Board emphasised the need to monitor project outcomes.
- It was agreed to create a post investment summary/evaluation for each project.
- It was agreed to approach the What Works Centre asking them to undertake analysis work into the impact of the BTVLEP's interventions on Bucks.

4.3 Round 2 Update

- BTVLEP's round 2 allocation was confirmed as £8.8m.
- Government has advised preparing now for round 3 as this will quickly follow the General Election.

5 FINANCE UPDATE

- The forecast position was for a slight surplus at year end; surpluses in previous years being rolled forward into the next financial year.
- The annual report being prepared will provide detail on what the BTVLEP has delivered, what has been invested and what it is hoped to deliver in future.

6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

6.1 LEP Network

- Geoff French will be joining the LEP Network Management Board to represent the grouping of LEPs which includes the BTVLEP when AP steps down at the end of March.
- Work continues on the LEP Manifesto to be launched at the LEP Network Conference.

6.2 Delivery

- Wycombe District Council has confirmed early repayment of funds loaned for work at Handy Cross, originally scheduled for repayment in 2019. The loan for Hughenden Spine Road and Upper Site will be combined and the loan period extended to March 2016.

6.3 Partnerships

- The BTVLEP continues to develop strong partnerships; with the other GTV7 LEPs, with government departments and agencies, and Network Rail etc, in addition to the Tri County discussions taking place with Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, to ensure that Bucks is in a good position post-election.

7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

7.1 GTV7

- It was agreed to dedicate £3,000 towards establishing a joint resource across the GTV7 LEPs (to be matched by all others in the group) that will look at consolidating the Greater Thames Valley LEPs' position in the South East, at lobbying government for greater investment in the area, and at working more closely with the London LEP.

7.2 Combined Authority

- The Leaders of the Bucks, Oxon and Northants Tri-County Combined Authority proposal have invited the Chairmen of the 3 LEP areas involved to help deliver their economic strategy going forward. Meetings of this group are in the process of being set up.

7.3 Growth Hub

- Discussions are underway to gain maximum additionality from the Bucks Growth Hub, always complying with government's governance procedures.

7.4 Skills

- BTVLEP are on the point of contracting for two substantive posts to provide oversight of the skills project and to provide the link between the BTVLEP and the Skills Board.
- It was agreed to provide an update for the next Board meeting on the "hard deliverables" within the Skills project and to get a note of progress against these at each Board meeting.

7.5 Broadband

- Existing work on broadband deployment across the county is progressing well.
- New innovations are being investigated re addressing harder to reach areas which will make it far easier to take superfast broadband capability to villages in the county, and work is underway to include these new technologies in the existing broadband framework.
- It was confirmed AVDC would be looking to include Broadband in the latest iteration of the Local Plan being produced.
- An update on progress to date with Broadband projects will be given at the next meeting.
- The Board requested an update on progress with having broadband connectivity included within local planning policies for all new build premises.

7.6 Comms

- Local Bucks MPs are receiving regular updates from the BTVLEP executive team and are currently very engaged. It was reported they are looking for a much better combined voice on certain issues, such as Broadband vouchers only being given to city areas.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Bureaucracy

- The Board raised concerns about the increasing level of bureaucracy being required by central government.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 20 March 2015, from 9.30am, Windmill Hill Archive Centre, Waddesdon Manor