

**West of England Local Enterprise Partnership
Board meeting**

**Thursday 10 May, 10.00am - 12.00pm
3 Rivergate, Temple Quay BS1 6ER**

Present:	
Prof Steve West, University of the West of England (Chair)	Jon Reynolds, BT
Mayor Tim Bowles, West of England Combined Authority	Martino Burgess, Gregg Latchams
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council	David Brown, The Bristol Port Company
Cllr Tim Warren, Bath & NE Somerset Council	Dick Penny, Watershed
Cllr Nigel Ashton, North Somerset Council	James Durie, Business West
Patricia Greer, West of England Combined Authority	Katharine Finn, PwC
Amanda Deeks, South Gloucestershire Council	Neil Douglas, Viper Innovations
Ashley Ayre, Bath & NE Somerset Council	Mohammed Saddiq, Wessex Water
Mike Jackson, North Somerset Council	Prof Hugh Brady, University of Bristol
In Attendance:	
Helen Edelstyn, West of England Combined Authority	Chris Rawson, Regeneris
Jessica Lee, West of England Combined Authority	Mark Lever, Sector Specialist Invest Bristol and Bath (IBB)
Chris Jennings, West of England Combined Authority	Graham Harrison, National Composites Centre
Melissa Houston, West of England Combined Authority	
Apologies:	
Cllr Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Council	Christopher Grier, Airbus
Denise Murray, Bristol City Council	Andrew Hodgson, KPMG
David Pester, TLT Solicitors	

Draft Minutes

1.	Welcome and Apologies	Action
	Steve West welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting of 19th March 2018	
	The minutes were approved as a true record.	
3.	Declaration of Interest	
	All Board members have a responsibility to treat all proposals/projects equally and impartially and must therefore declare whether they or their organisation has either a direct or indirect interest in any of the projects to be considered by the Board. Steve West emphasised the importance to keep this up to date. Members must inform the LEP office of any changes and declare any interests as we go through the agenda. Dick Penny, Prof Hugh Brady and Prof Steve West declared an interest as the Bristol VR Lab is in receipt of funding for a WECA led 5G project.	

4.	<p>Local Industrial Strategy</p>	
	<p>Steve West introduced the item and set the tone by reminding members that the LEP Board has an opportunity to play a significant and active role in developing the Local Industrial Strategy. He stressed the need to be joined up, ambitious and realistic.</p> <p>Jessica Lee updated members on the development of the Local Industrial Strategy and gave an overview on the direction and approach.</p> <p>The governance structure sets out a strategy steering group, challenge panel and that the overall governance lies within the WECA and Joint Committee. Jessica appealed for volunteers from the business membership to be involved. ACTION: Any business members interested in sitting on the strategy steering group are to email the LEP office.</p> <p>To ensure the evidence base has real rigour around it, the creation of a Challenge Panel has also been proposed. Initial thoughts were to approach academic economists, however board members felt industry groups were also necessary and requested the panel not be limited to economists. ACTION: Members to email recommendations for the Challenge Panel to the LEP office.</p> <p>Patricia Grier recently met with Gareth Davies, Director General for BEIS who is leading on the Industrial Strategy. An action from this meeting was for the project team to produce a SWOT analysis using the data we have and a meeting with Greg Clarke to present and discuss this has been scheduled for July.</p> <p>An open discussion developed around funding bids, future calls, the need to be ready, joined up and understanding where there are opportunities to collaborate.</p> <p>James Durie commented the importance of broad business engagement on the Local Industrial Strategy and to connect beyond the board.</p>	<p>Business members</p> <p>ALL</p>
5.	<p>Digital Strategy</p>	
	<p>Steve West introduced the item and welcomed Chris Rawson from Regeneris, who has been commissioned to support the evidence base in developing a digital strategy.</p> <p>Regeneris are now in the last 4-5 weeks of the study and Chris gave a short presentation on the evidence gathered, current position against our European competitors and key headlines.</p> <p>The board thanked Chris for the update and an open discussion developed around “demand” – this is not just about speed. It’s about availability and affordability, understanding what people need and identifying what we can do locally and what help we need from Government.</p> <p>Chris Jennings updated the board on current bids. 5G Smart Tourism - £5m allocated. 25 partners involved and they recently held their first board meeting. Opportunities to test/trial during the Harbourside Festival and Wallace and Gromit trial this summer.</p> <p>Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Bid – To extend fibre coverage. This will be a regional West of England bid rather than individual and submitted in the summer.</p>	

	<p>5G Urban Connected Communities – Looking for one city region to become an urban city testbed. A big opportunity but with a very tight deadline. Jon Hunt from WECA will lead. Chris highlighted that we are in a good position but there's tough competition. Submission by June 12th.</p> <p>Steve West noted that a bid has been submitted by a South West partnership (coordinated by Academic Health and Science Network and Bristol CCG) for Local Health and Care Record Exemplar (improving tech to support the quick and efficient sharing of patient records). Steve will update the board if bid is successful.</p>	
6.	Creative Sector	
	<p>Dick Penny gave a short presentation, providing board members with an overview of the creative figures and headlines for Bristol and Bath – a sector characterised mainly by SME and micro businesses, with strong cross sectorial collaboration. The board were informed that the sector, alongside the 4 universities have submitted a number of innovation bids.</p> <p>Mark Lever, sector specialist for Invest Bristol and Bath (IBB) took members through the Channel 4 pitch. An image driven presentation focusing on diversity, with personal testimonies, talent pipeline and lifestyle connectivity to give a positive, strategy view of the future.</p> <p>Steve West highlighted that this was a great model in how to get people involved in a project. Everyone has come together, been proactive, owned it and is excited. Mayor Marvin Rees also felt the approach has worked well and post submission Alex Mann CEO of Channel 4 will visit potential locations.</p> <p>ACTION: Steve West requested that following the discussions around digital and creative and the need to be joined up, that a Crib Sheet of killer facts would be helpful</p>	LEP Office
7.	National Composites Centre (NCC)	
	<p>Steve West introduced the item and welcomed Graham Harrison, Head of Government Affairs and Strategic Partnerships at the National Composites Centre.</p> <p>Graham gave a very brief update on the NCC expansion plans. Patricia Greer agreed to explore this with peers.</p>	
8.	Wrap-up	
	Due to time constraints, this will be added to the next LEP Board agenda.	
	Next meeting: Wednesday 11 July, 9:30-11:30am WECA Offices	