

MEETING NOTES: Business Growth theme

Date: 13 May 2009

Venue: Burraton House, Poundbury

Attending:

(PS) Peter Scott (Chair) – Dorset Business	Apologies:
(MBe) Mark Brownbridge - NDDC	(PW) Peter Wheelhouse – BoP
(GJ) Gareth Jones - WPBC	(HR)Hilary Ritchie - NDDC
(PM) Pete Manley (SWRDA)	(MBn)Mary Boughton - FSB
(KP) Kevin Poulton - EDDC	(HH)Helen Heanes- DCC
(MBr) Matthew Butcher - Businesslink	(SR)Steve Richards – SWRDA
(MBt) Matthew Beaumont – Dorset Business	(RW) Richard Wilson - PDC
(DW) David Walsh (link officer) – DCC	
(SW) Sarah Ward – WDDC (Housing theme Chair)	
(TH)Trevor Hedger - WDDC	

1> **Meeting notes (16 March):** approved as record subject to amending page 2 (bullet 2) should read; “(SW) noted that £30milion was paid to social landlords ...” (not £3B)

2> **Update:**

a. (GJ) explained that the South Dorset Marine Cluster stakeholder group had met (Chair- Prof. Armitage of Bournemouth University) A vision statement had been agreed and SWOT analysis was to be taken to the next meeting (22 May) This meeting would also agree a framework for actions. (GJ) considered that greater promotion of the group is needed. SW suggested (GJ) check with Plymouth/Cornwall to investigate what work they had done around marine clusters.

ACTION: (PS) would also make enquiries of the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce.

b. (KP) urged that the Group research the infrastructure available to support ‘the development of sectors’ (refer Geoeconomics report-March) (KP) in particular mentioned; the creative sector and tourism sector.

c. (PM) explained that for SWRDA the critical mass of sectors was an issue and they were keeping a watching brief on this kind of work.

d. (KP) questioned understanding of what geographic area was included under the general term – ‘conurbation’ - Bournemouth, Poole and areas of East Dorset District, Christchurch and Purbeck District.

ACTION: PM offered to supply SWRDA view of what was the ‘priority area’.

e. The Arts Institute at Bournemouth has recently gained accreditation as a university. From July 1st it would be known as the University College of the Arts at Bournemouth.

f. The FSB was approaching local authorities to sign a local procurement accord. DCC has signed and others are considering.

ACTION: (DW) on behalf of (MBn) would circulate the Glover Report

- g. (DW) reported interest in working with UKTI to secure knowledge transfer from the Olympics. He said there was a need to find a sub-region representative to sit on a UKTI forum to maximise this opportunity.
- h. (KP) advised that Halcrow consultants were progressing a review of market towns with Wimborne as a focus. The report was due in September. The Group felt there might be an opportunity to develop this work in a way that included other locations such as s ; Weymouth, Dorchester (Brewery Square) and Bridport.
- i. (PS) explained that the theme group membership needed more private sector representation/engagement. He would approach business to gauge interest. Possibilities are Marriott hotels (Michael Reigenhart) – hospitality sector and Sunseeker – marine sector)
- j. The marketing potential of the 2012 Olympics was raised.(DW) noted that work to see how the event could promote the area on the world stage was being progressed.
ACTION: (DW) to share this work with the Group.
- k. (MB) updated the Group on how the consultation by the Geoeconomics was to be progressed. The Chief Executives had made recommendations to put the ‘Green Knowledge Economy’ concept at the centre of MAA strategy but that first the concept needed to be developed into specific and costed actions. The MAA Board meeting 21 May would be asked to endorse the recommendations and support commissioning of further work to provide what is essentially a revision of the area economic action plan. (PS) noted that the ‘launch’ of the refocused programme could link with the Jubilee celebrations of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

3> Action Plan:

- a. (PS) advised that a draft should be ready for the Programme Group to review when it met on 3rd July. The work from the meeting 16 March should largely inform these. (MB) encouraged the Group to agree a few (3 to 4) thematic priorities around which specific , time and result bound projects could be built . These could be reasonably short term or ‘task and finish’ in nature but should consider:
 - i. the links they had with other theme groups work (golden threads)
 - ii. the recommendations surrounding the Green Knowledge Economy concept
 - iii. necessary and available resources/capacity
 - iv. the priorities of the draft action plan (ex Tony Bray-SWRDA, February 2009)
 - v. the 2012 Olympics and associated opportunities such as the BT fibre-optic project into Portland
 - vi. the overall economic development focus of the MAA.

(MB) also wanted the group’s *Terms of Reference* to be completed for that meeting (3 July). He explained that a document outlining the framework for Terms of Reference and the requested minimum requirements had been circulated to all Groups in order to gain some level of common process/standards but that the Group was able to largely organise itself as it wished.

The Group discussed the required levels of commitment, responsibility and resources needed to make progress. (PS) summarised that the Group needed direction from the MAA Board.

ACTION: (PS) to write to Gordon Page as Chair of the MAA and seek guidance.

4> Possible Projects:

- a. (MB) encouraged the Group to consider two possible areas for further development:
 - i. Support for 'social enterprises' in the sub-region
 - ii. Establishing a local authority backed 'bank' in the sub-region focused on local business financing. (refer work by Essex County Council with Bank Santander)
- b. (SW) noted the links between 'social enterprises' and the housing theme . There is also potential to build social enterprise into future 'digital connectivity' projects. It was felt the Terms of Reference could include some provision for 'social enterprise'.
- c. The risks attached to establishing a bank were considered. Discussion focused on the (greater?) value of better organising to bid for available government funding for recession 'busting' activity eg.. Future Jobs Fund or capital funds from SW Councils.

5> Future Meeting Dates:

- a. Next meeting- 10th June 0830 at Burraton House, Poundbury.

6> Any Other Business:

- a. (SW) The housing theme would hold a 'stakeholders' meeting on 8 or 11 June. Aim is to debate and agree action plan. Feedback from the Business growth theme is sought. (DW) would be attending event.

END