

MEETING NOTES: Business Growth theme

10 June 2009

Venue: Burraton House, Poundbury

Attending:	Apologies:
Peter Scott, Dorset Business - Chair	Mary Boughton, FSB
Chris Kelu, Bournemouth BC	Richard Wilson, Purbeck DC
Gareth Jones, W&PBC	
Steve Richards, SWRDA	
Hilary Ritchie, North Dorset DC	
Kevin Poulton, EDDC	
Matthew Butcher, Business Link	
Matthew Beaumont, MAA	
Paul Glossop, GOSW	
Trevor Hedger, WDDC	
Sarah Ward, Housing theme group	
Peter Wheelhouse, Poole BC	
Helen Heanes, Dorset CC	
David Walsh, Dorset CC	

		Action
1.	<p>Meeting notes (13 May 2009) approved as true record.</p> <p>Up-dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS had not been able to enquire of Cornwall Chamber of Commerce. • SWRDA had announced cut backs in capital spending, affecting various B,D&P projects, including Weymouth sea front enhancement and the Bournemouth Hotel School. • Sector support infrastructure – confirmed that mapping of current support was the agreed action. • 2012 potential – DW reported on meeting with UKTI, and review of planned actions. 	<p>PS</p> <p>Sector leads</p>
2.	<p>Housing theme group.</p> <p>SW explained that the Housing theme group is considering how housing development can support the economy. Asking questions such as what needs to be done to attract the wealth creators needed by the local economy, and how can the housing sector support a unified approach to development? Need to understand how lifestyle developments, such as working from home and remote health care, fit in with the overall agenda. Scope to link with elements of the green knowledge economy through incorporation of green construction technology in the existing housing stock.</p>	<p>SW to liaise between groups</p>
3.	<p>Green knowledge economy.</p> <p>MB informed the group that Mark Hepworth and Goeconomics would be continuing with phase II of the development of the green knowledge economy project. Further details of the work and partners involvement would be available in the near future.</p>	<p>All</p>
4.	<p>Terms of reference.</p> <p>Following discussion of matters to be included in the terms of reference it</p>	<p>DW</p>

	was agreed that DW should draft, circulate and take to the Programme Group. Agreed emphasis upon action and delivery as focus for the theme group.	
5.	<p>Action Plan.</p> <p>Dorset mentoring scheme (Dormen): report tabled demonstrating impact of the scheme. General agreement that the scheme is very effective and should be included within the MAA action plan. Issues around fit with Solutions for Business and funding from any regional mentoring approach. The latter seems to be developing to focus on high growth potential, and may not support local mentoring schemes. May need to consider requesting freedoms and flexibilities to allow Dormen to continue to deliver effectively across B,D&P.</p> <p>Broadband: recognised as vital element of infrastructure to support business growth potential, but currently needs ownership at the highest level if opportunities are to be realised. This involves several public sector bodies jointly procuring broadband capacity and providing enhanced availability for business growth. Links with 2012 legacy and maximising potential from investment for the Games. Needs support from MAA if investment and business growth potential is to be optimised.</p> <p>Framework for taking action forward was discussed, including the need to review first draft action plan in the light of recent SWRDA funding announcements.</p>	<p>Partners to keep group informed & identify actions</p> <p>HEH to co-ordinate and keep group informed</p> <p>MB/DBW</p>
6.	<p>Any other business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation on theme group: it was suggested that a trade union representative should join the group and a potential partner from UNITE was identified. It was agreed to hold this proposal until the action plan was agreed and significant partners identified. DCLG: Kathleen Francis DCLG lead on MAA scheduled to visit B,D&P on 24 July, likely to focus on skills issues, freedoms and flexibilities. BERR / DIUS merger: unsure of impact upon business growth, and the ability of colleges and higher education to operate, and engage effectively with businesses. Agreed to discuss at a future meeting. 	
7.	Date of next meeting: 30 July, 08.30 – 10.30 hrs, Burraton House, Poundbury.	