

**MEETING NOTES: Business Growth Theme
Thursday 30 July, Burraton House, Poundbury**

Attending:	Apologies:
Peter Scott, Dorset Business (Chair)	Mary Boughton, FSB
Tony Williams, Wessex Ventures	Peter Wheelhouse, Borough of Poole
Chris Kelu, Bournemouth Borough Council	Steve Richards, SW RDA
Helen Heanes, Dorset County Council	Richard Wilson, Purbeck District Council
Mike Hoskin, Creative Dorset	
Dominic Tambling, Creative Dorset	
Trevor Hedger, West Dorset District Council	
Matthew Beaumont, Multi-area Agreement	
Matthew Butcher, Business Link	
Hilary Ritchie, North Dorset District Council	
Kevin Poulton, East Dorset District Council	
David Walsh, Dorset County Council	
Sarah Ward, Housing Theme Group	
Paul Glossop, GOSW	

		Action
1.	Meeting Notes (10 June 2009) approved as true record Under Section 5, Action Plan. – MAA Board meeting on 21 May had given their support to Broadband	
2.	Green Housing Project – paper circulated The Housing Theme Group had met with Mark Hepworth (MH) regarding the housing action plan. MH suggested, shaping the plan around 6 key projects which use housing to stimulate economic growth. The lead project is about green construction and retrofitting the existing housing stock (100,000 houses over 3-5 years) by skilling-up local business and giving them a market for new products. This project has an impact across the theme groups including business growth, skills, housing, infrastructure and environment. Request for member of Business Growth Group to join the project working group. TH (and Bob Moore) offered to do this.	TH
3.	Project Torch – power-point presentation Chalwyn Estates, Wessex Ventures, Pineapple Group and Ving Ltd are behind Project Torch. The mission of Project Torch is to create a major engineering, manufacturing and innovation hub at Chalwyn Industrial Park, Poole. The micro business incubator facility, known as “5b”, will have 15 small units for commercial/ social enterprise and 5,000 sq ft for light industrial. The goal is to create an inter-active business community with self-help, mentoring, full office support, links to national and international support networks, patent protection, legal support and funding. The Torch process will include a 1 st filter mentor interview, a gentle dragon’s den. Contracts will be on a 6 monthly easy-in, easy-out terms, but with targets and an assessment of the ongoing relationship. Project Torch wants to partner with anyone who can assist them.	
4.	Creative Industries – paper circulated Paper set out the proposed approach for supporting the creative sector across the whole of the sub-region following support of LAA. Plans set out at 4. If supported, they will be worked up to include numbers, funding, updated evidence base, links to skills and to larger businesses.	

	<p>MH visioning work supports this. Details of GVA calculation requested by CK and PG – DT to provide. Business Theme Group supported proposals and asked MH and DT for them to be worked up, including mapping of business engagement – DT to provide HH with post codes of businesses.</p>	<p>DT MH/DT DT/HH</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>MAA up-date * Terms of Reference have been written up and were taken to and approved by the Programme Group. Programme Group have reviewed the Communications Plan * Cathy Francis, MAA Lead, DCLG visited John McBride, MBa and Tony Williams (Borough of Poole) and had a positive, frank exchange, with enthusiasm of the Leaders & Chief Executives coming across. Presentations given on skills and transport. Meeting note to be circulated. * Programme Group next meets on 25 August. They want to see progress and consistency of reporting format. Programme monitoring report templates to be completed by link officers by 13 August. The issue of resources was raised. * Better collaborative working across Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole in 3 areas of Spatial Planning, Local Transport Planning and Economic Development is proposed. Discussions on ED taking place between Bournemouth and Poole. Dorset’s view is that this approach will only work with the close involvement of the District and Boroughs.</p>	<p>MBa DW</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Development of Action Plan/ Green Knowledge Economy Projects Green Knowledge Economy (GKE) priority projects list circulated for consideration by consultants on 16-17 August. This is an initial list and does not include projects submitted by the 24 July deadline, which are being judged separately by MH. Concern was expressed that the areas priorities are being decided by people outside and that this should be our MAA and that the Business Growth Theme Group should be the final judge of Business Growth projects and not MH – MBa to ensure this is taken forward. It is unclear how the Business Growth action plan fits into the GKE action plan. DW indicated that the Business Growth action plan is nearly ready. This has been based on the initial out-line provided by Tony Bray (SW RDA) as it was previously agreed that this approach was broadly right. Areas covered are business support, business sectors, green economy, work space. (SW RDA contacts: Clare Gibson – low carbon economy, Gavin Wonnacott – workspace / innovation parks). The business growth action plan is to be the main agenda item for the next meeting. MBa suggested that Business Growth may also want to look at the supporting roles of project management and securing funding for other theme groups as well as engagement with external stakeholders. MBa feels the MAA has 2 strands (i) partnerships where policy changes can be made, (ii) projects to support programmes. SW RDA Policy & Practice Group is to be an item on a future agenda</p>	<p>MBa DW DW DW/PG</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Any Other Business There was no any other business</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting 08.30 hrs, Wednesday 30 September 2009, Burraton House.</p>	<p>PS/DW</p>