

New Anglia Board Meeting Minutes (Confirmed) 23rd July 2019

Present:

Claire Cullens (CC)	Norfolk Community Foundation
David Ellesmere (DE)	Ipswich Borough Council
Doug Field (DF)	East of England Coop
Matthew Hicks (MH)	Suffolk County Council
Pete Joyner (PJ)	Shorthose Russell
Johnathan Reynolds	Nautilus
Lindsey Rix (LR)	Aviva
Sandy Ruddock (SR)	Scarlett & Mustard
Alan Waters (AW)	Norwich City Council
Jeanette Wheeler (JW)	Birketts
Tim Whitley (TW)	BT

Attendees

Graham Plant (GP)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council – For Andrew Proctor
Catherine Richards (CR)	East Norfolk Sixth Form – For Nikos Savvas
Mark Ash (MA)	Suffolk County Council – For Sue Roper
Professor Andrew Lovett	UEA – For Item 6
Paul Winter (PW)	Skills Board Chair – For Item 7
Chris Dashper (CD)	New Anglia LEP
Ellen Goodwin (EG)	New Anglia LEP – For Item 6
Chris Starkie (CS)	New Anglia LEP
Natasha Waller (NW)	New Anglia LEP – For Items 7 and 8
Rosanne Wijnberg (RW)	New Anglia LEP
Helen Wilton (HW)	New Anglia LEP

PW reviewed the process of setting up the new Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) as required by Government where minor work is required to fulfil the requirements noting that the new arrangements will require closer links between the LEP Board and the SAP.

DF asked for further details on the Governance requirements of the SAP. PW advised that the voluntary sector needed to be included and discussions were underway with the Community Foundations to address this. PW noted that the Board was currently very large which may need to be addressed to ensure it remains effective.

The meeting discussed the implications of the end of the ESIF funding. CS advised that this had been guaranteed by Government until the end of 2022 and would be replaced by the Shared Prosperity Fund the details of which are still unknown.

Alan Waters (AW) noted that skills environment was very crowded which meant that it was not always clear where companies could obtain support. PW agreed that there were too many initiatives and that clarification was required.

The Board agreed:

- To note the content of the report
- To approve the transition from a Skills Board to a Skills Advisory Panel as required by Government and to continue to endorse its activities

6 Climate Change Adaption and Carbon Reduction Action Plan

Professor Andrew Lovett (AL) addressed the meeting presenting the findings of the scoping study into CO2 reduction as commissioned by the LEP.

AL advised that the report detailed observed changes in temperature when looking at trends over two 30 year time periods which take fluctuations into account. It was noted that Norfolk and Suffolk have experienced a 0.5 degree increase in temperature over summer months and nearly a 1 degree rise in winter over the two 30 year periods studied.

The study then looked at projected changes based on 4 different pathways representing different amounts of global surface temperature increase.

AL presented projected changes in temperature and precipitation and also in sea levels noting that there were significant changes depending on the relevant pathway.

The report noted that there had been a 32% reduction in emission of greenhouse gases since 2005 largely due to changes in manufacturing and in households but transport emissions have not reduced by the same amount and consequently now make up a larger share of CO2 emissions.

The meeting was advised that the national average for CO2 emissions was 5.4 tonnes per person with both Norfolk and Suffolk slightly above this level. It was noted that to abide by levels stated in the Paris Agreement this needed to reduce significantly to 1.7 tonnes per person.

The data was presented split by local authority with variations reflecting the make-up of the area. It also identified the 37 highest emitters which make up 22% of emissions.

LA advised that the study had identified key priorities where changes could be made and where the LEP could provide support.

Domestically – adaptation of building stock to improve energy efficiency and develop heating alternatives for off-gas areas.

Transport – increase public transport and use of electric vehicles with the associated requirement for more charging points.

Agriculture – improved water management and enhanced carbon sequestration such as tree planting schemes or improved cultivation processes

<p>Energy – improved efficiency as demand increases along with enhanced distribution and transmission.</p> <p>Tim Whitley (TW) asked if the study provided a breakdown of transport by vehicle type as this would assist in identifying which interventions would target the highest emitters. AL advised that this is not currently part of the study and would require further research.</p> <p>The meeting noted that the changes could not just be achieved by the LEP alone and partners would need to work together to achieve the reductions. National policy will also play a key role.</p> <p>The Board discussed the issues around bringing in offshore power. Johnathan Reynolds (JR) advised that the SE energy hub was in the very early stages of looking at an offshore energy grid and this was vital to the development of the offshore energy sector. Matthew Hicks (MH) confirmed that 30% of the UK's energy came ashore at Sizewell but that development was being done on a piecemeal basis with a lack of connectivity between projects.</p> <p>Lindsey Rix (LR) suggested that the LEP could support those companies looking to become carbon neutral. David Ellesmere (DE) proposed targeting support for the largest emitters and also for the LEP to coordinate purchasing requirements related to CO2 reduction in order to provide increased buying power.</p> <p>JR noted that the findings of the scoping report needed to be considered in every decision the Board made and the LEP needed to identify those gamechanger projects which support CO2 reduction and identify gamechanger projects and carbon offsetting ideas.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the content of the report and presentation • To support the development of an action plan to tackle some of the key findings of the report • To receive the presentation 	HW
<p>In order to ensure the Annual Accounts were signed off it was agreed that Item 12 would be addressed before Item 8.</p>	
<p>12 Draft Annual Financial Statements – Confidential</p>	
<p>RW confirmed that the accounts had been reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on 1st July and changes agreed that the meeting have been made.</p> <p>DF noted that the LEP now employed over 50 people and proposed discussing with CS how HR could be monitored going forward.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the contents of the report • To approve the annual financial statements and audit management letter for signing by the Chair 	
<p>8 Apprenticeships Levy Transfer Pool</p>	
<p>CS presented the proposal to the meeting providing the background to the issues facing apprenticeship schemes and the proposal to make the funds available for apprenticeships.</p> <p>The LEP will act as a promoter of the scheme and work with SMEs to ensure they have the tools and equipment in place to utilise it. CS advised that Aviva has already signed up and other large companies are being approached</p>	

	<p>CS confirmed that the scheme will need ongoing funding and a meeting with county representatives will take place in August to progress the business case. A more detailed plan will be presented at the September Board.</p> <p>DE proposed that, if successful, the scheme could be expanded and if there is sufficient demand for specific training this could be used to request additional courses locally.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the content of the report • To approve the £60,000 budget to develop a cost-effective model to support the transfer of apprenticeship levy to SMEs in partnership with colleagues from Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils • To receive a business case at the September board meeting 	
9	Growing Business Fund: Large Company Grant Programme	
	<p>Chris Dashper (CD) reviewed the proposal which has already been approved by the IAC noting that one application has already been received and approved by the IAC subject to Board approval of the programme.</p> <p>Jeanette Wheeler (JW) confirmed that this programme would help the Growing Business Fund Panel where it has been challenging to make applications meet the criteria required for the other funds.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the content of the report • To approve the introduction of a GBF Large Company Grant programme <p>MH left the meeting</p>	
10	Chief Executive's Report	
	<p>CS highlighted key items in the report and asked for questions.</p> <p>LIS – Further strategies have now been published. New Anglia will publish its LIS in October having been brought forward to the 2nd wave.</p> <p>Place Branding – This will be launched at the AGM and the invitation will go out this week to approximately 300 businesses and partners.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the content of the report 	
11	July Programme Performance Reports	
	<p>Rosanne Wijnberg (RW) reviewed the reports for July.</p> <p>Business Growth Programme – The Programme is on track to meet its spend target and new activity for the next three years is being finalised. The process of seeking additional ERDF funding to extend the Small Grants Scheme for a further year has begun.</p> <p>New Anglia Capital– CD reviewed the report and asked for questions from the Board.</p> <p>DF asked for details of the split between NAC and private funding. CD advised that overall NAC has invested 40% of funds to the 60% provided by private funding. This is against a target of a 50/50 split.</p> <p>DF requested the inclusion of a summary highlighting progress against targets.</p> <p>ACTION: The summary from the NAC Board report will be included in future NAC programme reports.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p>	CD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the contents of the report 	
13	Management Accounts – Confidential	
	<p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the content of the report 	
14	Board Forward Plan	
	<p>CS reviewed the Forward Plan and asked for requests for additional items.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the content of the plan 	
15	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JW proposed bringing younger entrepreneurs to a future Board meeting to engage them in the work of the LEP.</p>	

Next meeting:

Date and time of next meeting: 10.00am – 12.30pm, 25th September 2019

Venue: The Mess, Kesgrave Hall, Ipswich.