

## Key Points

### LEP Response to COVID-19

The Board received a report updating them on the work being carried out to support businesses during the current crisis and was advised that the LEP continues to work closely with a wide range of partners including all Norfolk and Suffolk local authorities, business groups such as the chambers and FSB, colleges, universities and LEP sector groups.

It was noted that calls into the Growth Hub have reduced allowing the team to concentrate on providing support for individual businesses and that the new Business Resilience and Recovery Scheme continues to be successful with 19 approvals granted to date and more than 39 applications in the pipeline. Further funding has been requested as part of the Local Growth Deal 4 submission.

The continued success of the vacancy page on the LEP web site was highlighted and Board members were asked to provide details of any other vacancies to the LEP and to continue to promote the page.

### Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan

The Board was presented with the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Restart Plan for Norfolk and Suffolk which has been produced by the LEP team working with local authority, business, education and voluntary sector colleagues in less than four weeks and with the involvement of more than 700 individuals and more than 100 groups.

The plan provides a clear set of actions for Norfolk and Suffolk partners to help businesses and other organisations restart following the lockdown and includes measures to mitigate the severe economic downturn. The meeting was advised that this tactical Restart plan covers the next 6-9 months and will be followed by a strategic, longer term document.

The Board agreed:

- To endorse the Economic Recovery Restart Plan

### Impact on Employment

The Board received a paper setting out the potential impact on employment across Norfolk and Suffolk following the outbreak of Covid 19 which noted that, as the furlough and self-employed schemes come to an end, redundancy levels are anticipated to rise very sharply in the autumn of 2020 and in early 2021. The report included a range of unemployment projections, based on different scenarios all of which included a rise in unemployment.

The paper presented the Board with details of the planned initiatives aimed at reducing the numbers of redundancies and supporting those seeking employment:

The Board discussed the impact on school leavers and graduates and the importance of creating new high value jobs where possible.

The Board agreed:

- To support the actions laid down in the paper

### LEP Operating and HR Policies

As per the LEP's governance procedures the annual review of the LEPs policies and procedures for employees and board members has been completed. The following policies were presented to and approved by the Board.

- Modern Slavery Statement
- Environmental Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy and Statement
- Board Attendance & Observers Policy

### Further Papers Reviewed

- Continuing Business Report (Noted)
- June Performance Reports (Noted)
- Board Forward Plan (Noted)