

One Surrey Growth Board, Monday 11 September – Meeting Note

<p>Matt Furniss (Chair) – Welcome and Introductions</p>	
<p>Welcome to all members and thanks them for their attendance. List of apologies and welcomes in minutes (see Appendix B)</p>	
<p>Dawn Redpath – Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Integration</p>	
<p>Dawn Redpath gave an update on the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) integration.</p> <p>Surrey County Council is committed to working towards 1st April 2024 transfer date as set out in Government guidance and will continue to review and adapt to ensure their approach is fit for purpose. Dawn set out the key principles within which they will be approaching the transition. Surrey County Council also recognises the uncertainties staff in the LEPs face and are committed to acting with sensitivity.</p> <p>More government guidance expected to come by January 2024. SCC will review this information, while the Growth Board will have an ongoing role, it is likely that a review of the Terms of Reference and membership of the Board will be needed early in 2024.</p> <p>By way of an introduction to the ensuing presentations, Dawn Redpath reminded the board that driving Surrey’s GVA has been central to the Board’s aspiration in response to the report from University of Surrey commissioned three years ago. Innovation is a focus of the Board’s work as driving innovation is key to driving GVA.</p>	<p>Discussion Points and Actions:</p> <p>Discussion began by highlighting the importance of recognising the work of LEPs, the importance of integration plans (with local agreements being a bare minimum) and the need to build on work that has already been done. Emma agreed that reviewing the Terms of Reference for the Board makes sense.</p> <p>It was noted that different parts of the country are approaching the LEP Integration differently. As economic development is not a statutory function, it was highlighted that funding is at risk of being absorbed into other budgets and may change along with a change in government. Protecting capital funding is particularly key; some projects have already failed due to funding cuts such as the Fibre Spine (gigabit capable running through Guildford to Basingstoke). Other Local Authorities have given their growth boards sanction over spending money as a further check and balance to ensure funds do not go elsewhere.</p> <p>The sentiment on protecting capital funding was backed up, IP and data must also be preserved and handed over to whichever upper tier authority correctly. Adding to the point on people, care must be made in some of the language used, as some people may be in scope for TUPE transfer.</p> <p>The Board heard that core LEP funding represents 10% of the overall LEP budget, with funding and contributions from other sources (commercial sponsorships, District and Borough (DB) contributions, FE/HE) which may not be available to Surrey County Council. There is a 90% funding gap to</p>

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	<p>be able to deliver the full range of services the LEP currently provides. DB consultation is important as they do not currently feel engaged.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the LEPs for the work done to date and confirmed that the intention was that the funding would be ringfenced for economic growth. He highlighted the positive relationships being built with education providers drawing on the example of SCC's collaboration with Royal Holloway on the CoStar bid. He confirmed that SCC will also continue to engage with Ds & Bs and that there may be an opportunity to consider the future of the Fibre Spine.</p> <p>Board members agreed that it is good to hear funds have been ringfenced for economic development and supported the idea that the Growth Board would be part of future governance. From a DB perspective, the collaborative approach of LEPs has been valued. Getting the Fibre Spine project back on the agenda was viewed as positive. The point about sensitivity required in response to talented and hardworking colleagues at the LEP was reinforced.</p> <p>Concluding, it was noted that while speed is important, it will take time to fully consider all issues regarding the LEP integration.</p>
<p>Fiona Tuck – Mapping the Innovation Economy in Surrey</p>	
<p>Fiona Tuck provided an overview of the timelines and findings of the study.</p> <p>Their research aims to identify innovation places in Surrey, utilising a range of layers e.g. emerging economy firms, innovation assets. Overall, the result is a map which shows the presence of Surrey's innovation economy firms within density-based clusters.</p> <p>Some key points</p>	<p>Discussion Points and Actions:</p> <p>The Board discussed a range of factors influencing enterprise establishment and activity.</p> <p>In the Camberley/Frimley area, whilst retail is collapsing, light industry business parks are completely full despite rental levels not going down.</p> <p>EM3 work with Basingstoke highlighted how the presence of Higher Education is critical to enterprise establishment and activity, something for consideration in Reigate.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slide 12 shows that Guildford does not only have a Games cluster but a range of others. - There is an urban-rural divide in innovation assets. Particularly, innovation assets are sparser in the southeast compared to the northwest. This is crucial to bear in mind as rural innovation has different challenges and considerations e.g. digital connectivity and physical mobility/networking. - Surrey is in an enviable position as it is not just a single sector. It is crucial to find what Surrey is good at and 'do it on purpose'. <p>Surrey has research expertise but needs to balance it with adoption and diffusion of innovation. Business support will be important to helping businesses reluctant to adopt new processes.</p>	<p>Collaboration was also identified as a key aspect that fuels innovation. Businesses want to know who is near them and who they can collaborate with; businesses in the Research Park welcome opportunities to get to know their neighbours.</p> <p>The group also discussed skills and retaining young professionals in the region. The challenge of unaffordable housing for younger people was raised</p> <p>A lot of work is being undertaken to understand skills needs of employers, such as through the LSIP and Surrey County Council's skills roundtables with clusters (e.g. cybersecurity, life sciences).</p> <p>Chair of Skills Forum promoted the Surrey Festival of Skills (23rd November at Sandown Racecourse) as a great opportunity for employers to engage with a range of potential talent (e.g. young people, mid-career changers).</p> <p>Surrey County Council has also created a Green Careers video targeted at school-aged students which was commended by the group.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Dynamics to check the Cluster Mapping Data City inputs to test whether Surrey's light industry business parks accommodate any of the emerging economy / innovative businesses identified in the study.
<p>Dr Will Lovegrove – Introduction to UKRI CCF-RED Gain (Games and Innovation Nexus)</p>	
<p>University of Surrey, together with University of Warwick, University of Creative Arts and University of Warwick submitted a bid for CCF-RED, titled 'Games and Innovation Nexus' or GAIN. £1.5 million funding from Research England, match funded from universities (£728,000) and a SCC provisional contribution (£240,000)</p>	<p>Discussion Points and Actions:</p> <p>The subject of location was discussed and whether a games hub can be taken outside of Guildford to support diffusion of innovation to the west.</p>

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<p>An initial workshop was held in June 2023 at University of Surrey, with Universities, Colleges and industry representative (Tencent), which produced positive discussions.</p> <p>GAIN aims to address and break down the incompatible innovation model between industry and academia to encourage closer collaborations and commercialisation.</p> <p>Learnings from this programme will inform a business case for the Council to potentially install a financially sustainable games-innovation facility in the town centre.</p>	<p>Will suggested that Gaming was particularly being anchored to Guildford, the Chair agreed this was his experience.</p> <p>A campus-style approach was highlighted as one solution. It was agreed that a hub does not need to sit on its own, it's necessary to find and create links between other hubs that have their own set of expertise/facilities.</p>
<p>Prof. Amelia Hadfield – Charting our Investment and Growth Potential: University of Surrey Research Findings</p>	
<p>Amelia Hadfield updates the Board that an MOU between SCC and UoS has now been signed. The MOU outlines the shared thematic priorities of both organisations and will serve as a steppingstone to the Civic Agreement that will clarify areas of collaborative engagement.</p> <p>Amelia presented an update on the research looking at Surrey's growth patterns and inwards investment. Two reports are due: a Quantitative Scoping Report and a Qualitative Strategy Report:</p> <p>Commercial Property – There is a need to dispel notion that there is no space in Surrey—the issue is the size of space (too large). Report will suggest ideas on how properties could be repurposed. Qualitative research highlights obsolete websites and out-of-date information which needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Amelia presented findings as the Surrey Business Leaders Forum held at Asahi, where they invited businesses to partake in a half day workshop at the University of Surrey in November.</p> <p>Next steps: Waiting for ONS data which will be helpful for report.</p>	<p>Discussion Points and Actions:</p> <p>Emma Smith shares that they have a service that can disaggregate at Surrey level that is new and demand-driven. Happy to share contacts. Amelia welcomes any data that could be provided that could make a quantitative contribution e.g. footfall data, vacancy rate.</p> <p>The Board discussed the tension between some of the residents and new developments. Residents need to be made aware of the potential that innovation and new developments can bring to the communities.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL to get in touch with Amelia if they have suggestions on who to invite for the workshop at the University of Surrey. • Emma and Amelia to get in touch on disaggregating Surrey and Sussex ONS data.

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David Stedman – Our Surrey Story	
- To be presented at December Board	Discussion Points and Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board to review slides in advance of December meeting.
Matt Furniss (Chair) – AOB	
- Julie Llewelyn requested if Corporate Philanthropy/CSR could be added into a future agenda. - Emma Smith requested for the Board to bring devolution back onto the agenda at some point.	

Ends

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Appendix A: Attendees

Representative	Job Title	Organisation	Role
Cllr Matthew Furniss	Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Economy (Chair)	Surrey County Council	Chair
Julie Kapsalis	Chair	Coast to Capital LEP	Member
Michael Queen	Chair	EM3 LEP	Member
Richard Grainger	Chair SLBF	Chair of Surrey Business Leaders' Forum & Director: McKay Securities Pls and Liberation Group	Member
Louise Punter	Chief Executive	Surrey Chamber of Commerce	Member
Mike Brennan	Chair SSLF	Chair: Surrey Skills Leadership Forum	Member
Shona Johnstone	Head of Markets Partners and Places - South	Homes England	Member
Julie Llewelyn	Former High Sheriff of Surrey and Vice Chair	Community Foundation for Surrey	Member
Steve Sharratt	Chief Executive Officer	DBE Energy & Greener Futures rep	Member
Prof. Mark Ellul	Chief Operating Officer	University for the Creative Arts	Member
Jarmila Yu	Chair, Surrey Branch Institute of Directors	Yunique Marketing Ltd	Member
Damian Roberts	Chief Executive & CX D&B rep	Surrey Heath Borough Council	Member
Emma Smith	South East Area Lead	BEIS	Observer
Daniel Murray	Head of Economy & Growth	Surrey County Council	Observer
Dawn Redpath	Director, Economy & Growth	Surrey County Council	Observer
Prof. Amelia Hadfield	Head of Department of Politics	University of Surrey	Speaker
Dr Will Lovegrove	Director, Innovation Strategy	University of Surrey	Speaker
Fiona Tuck	Associate Director	MetroDynamics	Speaker
Caroline Fleming	Director, Innovation Strategy	University of Surrey	Guest
Francesca Castelo	Innovation and Cluster Officer	Surrey County Council	Guest

Apologies

Philip Hammond: Former Chancellor and Surrey MP

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Chris Grayling: Former Secretary of State for Transport and MP for Epsom & Ewell

Joanna Killian: Surrey County Council

Claire Fuller: Surrey Heartlands ICS

Prof. Max Lu: University of Surrey

Prof. Klaus Dodds: Royal Holloway, University of London

Frances Rutter: Lord Lieutenant's Business Group

Cllr Rob Humby: Hampshire County Council

Cllr Bruce McDonald: Elmbridge Borough Council

David Stedman: Surrey County Council