



Minutes

Name of meeting

Economic Development Board (EDB)

Date and time

Tuesday 8th October 2024, 10am-12pm

Venue

Boardroom, Building 41, Cowes

Attendees

Colin Rowland, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Ian Stephens (all IWC), Will Myles (VIOW), Janet Stevens (IW College), Nicola Kildunne (regional FSB), Steve Holbrook (IOW Chamber), Rachael Randall (HTP), Gavin Stride (Creative Island), Peter Thomas (IW Grain standing in for Graham Biss Natural Enterprise), Rob Sauven (Business Net Zero Hub), Dominic Ward (IOW Tech Group)

Observers Chris Brammall, Alex Minns, Lee Mathews, Ella Clapham

1.

Welcome

2.

Apologies

Graham Biss (Natural Enterprise)

3.

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes approved.

4.

Presentation from Stantec – Progress on Solent and IOW Growth and Prosperity Strategies

Gareth Brown (Stantec) presented the progress on the Solent and IOW Growth and Prosperity Strategies. He explained that the two strategies will be valid up to 2050 and will include a set of themes, priorities, and priority interventions to address economic challenges and opportunities. He explained the process of developing the strategies including desk-based reviews, visioning workshops, and stakeholder engagement. This creates a long list then a short list of interventions. Gareth asked the Board for feedback on the working draft 'vision statement' for the IOW.

Rachael Randall enquired whether Health and Social Care is part of 'foundational economy' – Gareth agreed a definition should be added to define foundational economy.

Rob Sauven suggested there should be further emphasis on young people and that a written section could be contributed by a youth group.

Will Myles highlighted that the term 'visitor economy' is more extensive than 'tourism'.

The Board liked 'living in harmony'.

Gareth then showed the emerging key themes and Rob Sauven suggested that 'young people' could be a theme. Gavin Stride suggested that showing the links between the themes is as key as the themes themselves. Alex Minns suggested adding Leisure as a key theme. Rachael suggested Housing and Accommodation should be a theme due to its critically in retaining young people on the Island.

Gareth outlined the upcoming IOW stakeholder engagement including 1:1 and thematic workshop sessions throughout October. Rob Sauven suggested Social Housing Providers as a group to engage with. Gavin Stride highlighted the challenges of representing creative sole traders but that six of them would be in attendance of a 1:1 session.

Gareth outlined the next steps including a shortlist of interventions and the submission of a draft strategy in December.

ACTION – Share the Stantec slides with the Board.

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Presentations – IOW Tech Group and VIOW

IOW Tech Group

Dominic Ward (IOW Tech Group) presented first and outlined the business needs from the technology sector. He explained the purpose of the IOW Tech Group is to inspire the next generation of young people in STEM on the Island through active involvement in schools and careers events. Developing local talent and attracting new skills people to the Island is essential to growing technology activities on the Island and driving more employment opportunities. Dominic outlined several proposals that could be delivered through a partnership approach to tackle these challenges including subsidised ferries, funding a recruitment banner at the IOW festival, and sponsoring student loan fees.

ACTION – Share IOW Tech Group slides with Board.

Visit Isle of Wight

Will Myles (VIOW) presented next and talked through the End of Campaign Report Transport Infrastructure Board Additional Campaign. The campaign involved several social media adverts aimed at attracting

people to holiday on the IOW and to visit the Travel section on the VIOW website. It targeted seven different geographic regions and three different audiences. The campaign was successful at driving traffic to the website and demonstrated budget efficiency through its Cost Per Click. London was the top location of where users were based when visiting the Travel page. Will also showed a VIOW video advert and presented their Twixmas marketing campaign report which centred around encouraging bookings on the IOW during the festive lull between Christmas and New Year's.

ACTION – Share documents and videos with Board.

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Regional developments - Solent LEP/Solent partners – Colin Rowland (paper attached)

Colin Rowland outlined the current situation with the transition from Solent LEP to Solent Partners. The Cabinet Report outlines the new functions of Solent Partners now that the LEP has gone.

Colin Rowland highlighted the issue of Ventnor and the road network with Leeson Road closing. He suggested a group discussion is needed as to how Ventnor and other seaside towns can be supported in regards to regeneration.

Rachael Randall raised that she was the previous chair of SLEP and has been asked to be first chair of the new Business Board and is canvassing for membership. Legacy work will happen on where the funding will go. Business Board to be led 80% by local business and will take legacy from the LEP. She highlights CECAMM is an example of a previously funded project. Chair is also going to be on Upper Tier Board.

Will Myles highlights that there will be piece of work being developed related to Item 15.

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Current Projects Update

a. UKSPF

i. Building 41 - Chris Brammall reported that Building 41 continues to develop successfully through attracting new coworkers and office tenants. It continues to host events and activities.

ii. Go for Growth – Chris Brammall reported that Go for Growth is developing successfully and nearly at full capacity. Business health checks, mentoring, and workshops being delivered. Recently put out to tender a series of small business support packages to be delivered up to the end of March 2025 with a focus on KTPs, new markets, and innovation. All will be available for registration on the Innovation Wight website.

iii. Inclusive Island – Chris Brammall reported a very successful recent launch conference with approximately 50 people in attendance, attracting some interest from a national stage as Government is looking at this with a view to moving the long-term sick into work. Inclusive Island is set to assist 20 businesses in developing Inclusivity Plans as part of UKSPF.

b. Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) – Chris Brammall reported that the rural grants programme is developing well. IW Grain returned their grant and this funding has been reallocated to other grant bidders.

c. Youth Hub and Universal Support – Ella Clapham reported that the Youth Hub is progressing well with 197 young people welcomed into the Hub and 59 moved into employment since it opened 1st May. Lee Matthews reported that Universal Support Fund is another DWP funded scheme which will look to support people who are long term sick and disabled into employment.

d. Levelling Up Fund

i. East Cowes – Alex Minns reported on Venture Quays and its status on nearing completion. Columbine at leases and licence stage. UKSA signed HoT. Public Realm project next.

ii. Greenway – Alex Minns reported that the Green Link project is in its early stages, but engineers are appointed. DfT has requested no major spending until after Autumn statement.

e. Ryde Town Fund – Alex Minns reports that the Ryde Town Board is waiting to hear from Government after the Autumn Statement on whether the funding will still be awarded.

Skills Board

Lee Matthews updated that skills is being identified as a key theme within the IOW Growth Strategy. A mapping exercise is underway to identify what opportunities there are currently and what are upcoming. There can be an update at the next meeting on the findings. The role of the Skills Board is being considered. Julie Jones-Evans suggests a focus on young people skills at the next meeting.

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IOW Film Studio

Julie Jones-Evans reports that planning permission has been granted. The next phase is construction and skills. Currently working with the Regeneration team, Creative Island, and IW College for £150k funding to support 'below the line' entry level roles. They are reaching out to other UTLAs for top up funding.

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Future Funding to Support Economic Development

Current funding streams support Economic Development until end of March 2025. New external funding streams to support these activities are still unknown.

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AOB

Ros Parker (Principal, IW College) – Strategic priority of the college is to attract and retain students to the IOW to live, learn, and work through offering entry level to higher level education pathways. A key element to achieving this is the provision of student accommodation which will initially be scope out in Newport.

Future meetings were agreed to be as follows:

- 7/1/2025 – presentations by Natural Enterprise, IW College, Mission Zero?