



# Minutes

Name of meeting	Economic Development Board (EDB) Executive Partners meeting
Date and time	6 July 2022, 3pm Hybrid meeting
Present	Present: Norman Arnold (Chair), Janet Stevens, Chris Ashman, Ashley Curzon, Julie Jones-Evans, Will Myles, Ella Clapham (notes), Amy Stubbs (notes)
Apologies	Steven Holbrook
1.	<b>Minutes of the Economic Development Board meeting held on 12 May 2022</b>  Approved.  CA explained that the formal launch of Innovation Wight would be in early Autumn once dates have been cleared for WIFI installation. WightFibre have agreed to sponsor three locations at the centre to have gigabit connectivity.
2.	<b>Shared Prosperity Fund (CA)</b>  Reflection on the limited funds available from UKSPF but noted it is an allocation not a bidding process and will assist with continuing support for business opportunities such as Innovation Wight. Will provide another tranche of revenue funding.  <b>ACTION</b> - CA to take any comments on UKSPF proposal until 31 July.  <b>Levelling Up Fund (LUF) round 2</b>  Round 2 Bid was due for submission by 07/07/22 but unable to do so due to problems with the government portal. Will provide two weeks for the bids to be submitted once the portal is open. IWC Cabinet approved the draft of the bid for submission. CA showed the group the draft bid map. CA highlights for anyone else writing letters of support to do this.  <b>ACTION</b> - CA to write to Geoff Underwood for his support.  <b>IW Investment Plan</b>  Report going to July Cabinet. Report sets out clearly the apportionment of £1m over the 3 years. Projects still running will be picking up in years 2 and 3. Innovation Wight funding running until March 2023 to help make the Island

accessible as a business location. Government template has to be finalised by end of July, following Cabinet approval.

**ACTION** - CA to circulate report.

### **Multiply**

Bid has been submitted. £600k over 3 years focusing on numeracy within vocational settings. Proposals have been invited and will have been decided on at end of June.

AC updated on a recent discussion he had about the SLEP looking at whether they can coordinate the skills across the Solent, so a Solent wide skills prospectus which could have additional SLEP money associated.

### 3. **Skills Board – update (AC)**

First meeting on 14/06 was a good start. Rachael Randall was appointed chair on condition it was in her role as an IW business. ToR and links back to apprenticeship board were discussed during the meeting. Other discussions about representation included inviting representatives from specific sectors along to different meetings so they can feed into the board. The issues that businesses are facing around workforce rather than skills was also discussed along with the use of IWC apprenticeship Levy outside of IWC. Agreement to gather data on skills such as through the next Economic Profile. Aim to sign off on the revised action plan and ToR at next skills board meeting.

**ACTION** - AS to provide brief for economic profile and survey.

### 4. **Recovery Plan update – progress (CA)**

Trying to find enabling agencies to collaborate on the recovery plan which now had a wider focus around anti poverty. JJE raised the issue of getting more intelligence from Palladium on their clients who were seeking work. It was suggested the board invite Palladium to a follow up session to discuss progress of their programme on the Island. Key feedback was around IWC application forms for jobs which were putting people off applying.

EC provided update on Wight Gift Card and Green Impact.

#### **ACTIONS**

- CA to pick up with Palladium regarding intelligence and their expressed interest in hot desking at Innovation Wight.
- Katy Harwood to call Palladium regarding IWC application process.
- EC to contact with portfolio holder for waste regarding Wight Gift Card.

### 5. **Digital Twin Programme**

Hosted by the Department for Business, Energy, Innovation and Skills who are holding a public briefing session at Isle of Wight Council at 6pm tonight (06/07) in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Newport.

6. **Executive Members update**

WM provided an update on VIOW, the status of tourism on the Island this summer, and the Tour of Britain which is coming to the Island in less than 10 weeks.

**ACTION** - EC to contact Laura Gaudion to see if the individual organisations that issued the £250 bonus to carers could reach out to the recipients of the card to encourage them to spend it.

7. **AOB**

CA attended a presentation with Island farmers on potential collection centre for livestock to assist farmers with getting their animals off to market.

8. Date of future meetings

Scheduled every six weeks as follows

Thursday 11 August, 10am-12pm  
Thursday 15 September, 10am-12pm  
Thursday 27 October, 10am-12pm  
Thursday 8 December, 10am-12pm