

## **GBSLEP Recovery Taskforce – Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose**

A task and finish group to oversee GBSLEP's short-term response to economic recovery in light of COVID-19 and to the implications of the end of the European Union (EU) Transition period, both in the run-up to 31 December 2020 and during 2021.

The Taskforce reports directly into the LEP Board.

Given the plethora of groups that currently exist, it will be important that this group focuses on GBSLEP specific activity and aligns with work that is being undertaken at a local, regional and national level.

### **Responsibilities**

- To oversee development of GBSLEP's plans for economic recovery on behalf of the LEP Board, including support to businesses through the transition out of lockdown and through times of local restrictions.
- To oversee development of LEP activity related to the end of the EU transition period; both supporting businesses in the run up to 31 December 2020 and also activity required in 2021 when new trading arrangements with the EU are clear(er) and ones with other countries are established.
- To provide business intelligence, expertise, ideas and challenge to the development of the LEP's route to recovery and any actions required to support the transition out of the EU.
- To provide input and challenge into the preparation of the five sector recovery plans that GBSLEP leads on for the West Midlands i.e. Business, Professional and Financial Services; Creative Industries; Food and Drink; Low Carbon & Energy Technologies; and Life Science which will be owned and driven by the relevant Sector Boards.
- To contribute to the recovery plans for sectors relevant to the GBSLEP economy which are led by the Black Country or Coventry & Warwickshire LEPs or the West Midlands Growth Company.
- To help shape GBSLEP's contribution to the 'West Midlands Recovery Plan' being developed by the West Midlands Combined Authority, LEPs, local authorities and partners across the CA geography and to regional activity related to Brexit.
- To advise on the development of the Growth Hub's offer to support businesses from lockdown, through transition, and into recovery and on the offer related to the end of the EU Transition period.
- To identify gaps in provision/support for businesses and the wider economy that the LEP should be addressing and help shape the development of appropriate interventions, including those that are place-based and those which may involve collaborating with other LEPs.
- To approve, on behalf of the Board, spend on interventions up to £100,000. Approvals above that will be made as a recommendation to the full Board by written procedure
- To assess whether current governance structures are fit for purpose and sufficiently agile for overseeing the route to recovery, including the implementation of recovery plans, and propose changes to those governance structures to the LEP Board as appropriate.
- To input into other work to support recovery and the transition out of the EU, including that involving the six West Midlands LEPs and the national LEP Network.

## **Membership**

- Tim Pile, GBSLEP Chair
- Chris Loughran, GBSLEP Deputy Chair
- Matthew Rhodes, GBSLEP lead for Innovation
- Anita Bhalla, GBSLEP lead for Creative Industries and Culture
- Ewa Truchanowicz, GBSLEP SME Champion
- Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of Birmingham City Council
- Cllr Ian Courts, Leader of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Cllr George Adamson, Leader of Cannock Chase District Council
- Cllr Matt Dormer, Leader of Redditch Borough Council
- Simon Collinson - Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Regional Economic Engagement, University of Birmingham
- Mark Hart, Professor of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Aston Business School
- Paul Faulkner, Chief Executive of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
- Michelle Nutt, Area Lead, BEIS

The LEP Executive will engage with other Board Directors, members of relevant LEP sub-Boards and partners (including business representative organisations, higher and further education and local authorities) not on this Taskforce to inform priorities and areas for action.

## **Quorum**

For the meeting to be quorate and decisions to be taken, four members will be required.

## **Frequency of Meetings**

Every one to two weeks in the short-term, moving to every three to four weeks if/when appropriate. Work will need to happen at pace so it is likely that Taskforce members will need to provide input in-between meetings.

**Approved by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Board on the 5th November 2020**