

**Business Advisory Panel
Minutes BAP 27/06/2019**

Present: John Stenhouse (CPCA); Fiona McGonigle (CPCA); John Bridge (Chambers); Alan Todd (FSB); Charlotte Horrobin (MAKE UK); Hannah Padfield (NFU); Caroline Hyde (Allia); Simone Robinson (IOD); Stuart Gibbons (LeMARK)

1. Introductions by individual members, the panel represent collectively some 7,920 Cambridgeshire businesses, providing a strong local rural presence, a global reach, with a focus on skills for manufacturing and engineering, providing leadership and governance skills, having access to local, regional and national advisory boards together with steering future solutions to local economic sustainability.
2. Election of Chair; Stuart Gibbons and Vice Chair; Simone Robinson by secret ballot.
3. Terms of Reference tabled and agreed; there followed a discussion on adding additional members and a number of options were put forward and considered. Some were considered suitable to invite as observers or presenters to further meetings. The Chair agreed to formally invite the CBI. (CHy would introduce Thea Goodluck at Tech Nation East of England as a potential panel member).
4. Forward Plan was agreed with the amendment to include all three LIS strategies of Skills, Growth Service and Inward Investment at each meeting in timed sessions to maximise benefit.
5. Local Industrial Strategy Introduction; discussion on upskilling, skills gap and training and future Local Growth Fund calls to support the LIS.
6. Four recommendations to the Business Board were tabled and agreed;
 - a) EU Exit exporting support needed e.g. like Passport to Export and OMIS, using the title of "Think global", with Mayor as flagship leader to provide more hands on support than available at present;
 - b) EU Exit support for export/import documentation like that withdrawn by UK Gov in May, in the form of workshops and subsidised (50/50) consultancy support to better prepare businesses;
 - c) Bolster marketing with a positive spin on showcasing businesses in Cambridgeshire ("open for business") and those exporters who have made significant progress especially to Commonwealth countries (CHy would provide some existing case study material);
 - d) Implement 5G and 1GB infrastructure, be that fibre or wireless, across the region, to make every area a place to work and live;

In recent business surveys a frustration was expressed at the lack of decision making by politicians, the recommendations above would help allay those thoughts. As regulations are seen as a barrier to growth in Cambridgeshire again the recommendations above would counter those views.

7. Future meetings and dates were agreed, Bi-monthly, one month ahead of board meetings to ensure minutes were tabled at each Business Board meeting.

Dates of next meetings:

22/08/19 PM; 24/10/19 AM; 19/12/19 AM; 20/02/20 PM; 23/04/20 AM

8. AOB; The panel considered themselves to be transparent representing a large local membership and apolitical.



Signed

Date 28/06/09

S. Gibbons (Chair)