

BUSINESS BOARD	AGENDA ITEM No: 1.4
23 MARCH 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

BUSINESS ADVISORY PANEL UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Business Advisory Panel (BAP) meeting on 20th February 2020 and to consider and approve inviting additional members

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Austen Adams, Interim Chair of Business Board
Lead Officer:	John T Hill
Forward Plan Ref: N/A	Key Decision: No
<p>The Business Board is recommended to:</p> <p>a) Note the minutes and recommendations of the Business Advisory Panel meeting held on 20th February 2020 (Appendix 1)</p>	

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Business Advisory Panel [BAP] was formed to fulfil the following functions:

- To serve as a consultative business group that is representative of the business community, to inform the Combined Authority Business Board, Combined Authority and partners on the issues, needs and opportunities facing the Combined Authority area's business community.
- To consider and review the Local Industrial Strategy and provide practical business feedback and guidance to the Combined Authority on its prioritisation, development and effective implementation.
- To comment to the Combined Authority on the Local Industrial Strategy implementation and the Growth Hub activity.

- To support the Business Board with representation from a local, membership-based business community in a transparent and apolitical manner.

2.2 The BAP met on 20th February 2020 and the minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix 1. The Business Board are asked to note the following:

- a) Note that BAP members are extremely concerned at the new points-based Immigration system launched this week by HMG and the further negative impact this will have on the retention of EU workers across all Business Sectors especially Agriculture, Construction, Manufacturing, Hospitality, Retail and Healthcare.
- b) Note that Peterborough does not have an identifiable over-arching Business Networking/Support structure and recommends to Business Board that existing groups are supported to raise their profile so that Business Leaders in Peterborough can access valuable peer-to-peer support.
- c) Note that Health & Wellness in the workplace for Business Leaders and their Employees is an increasing risk affecting Business success and productivity and recommends future Business Support programmes include this topic.
- d) Note that there is a risk that future UK Imports may not match the current UK quality standards and defensive strategies are being implemented in sectors such as Food/Agriculture to prevent this happening.
- e) Note that Coronavirus is already impacting local Business in a variety of ways and recommends that Business Board encourage BEIS/HMG to mobilise plans for a supportive response to Business.
- f) Note that BAP will create a Letter of Intent co-signed by all Groups to capture current priorities for the BAP and their members.
- g) Note that BAP members will support the CPCA Climate Change Commission and will input the views of Business on this important topic
- h) Note that BAP members will cascade to their members information shared by CPCA colleagues on the following:
 - i. Local Growth Fund
 - ii. Small Capital Growth Grants
 - iii. Agri-Tech Grants
 - iv. Brexit4Business Support Programme
 - v. Aston Supply Chain initiative
 - vi. Business Growth Service

3.0 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

Officers will report at the Board, on current activities that address some of the noted points above and in particular points b and c.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATION

4.1 There are no significant implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct legal implications.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR NATURE

7.1 There are no direct implications for nature.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 **Appendix 1** –Minutes of the BAP Meeting on 20th February 2020

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	N/A