



Directors Board Meeting No: 27

8th June 2021

5:15 – 8:00 pm

VENUE
Microsoft Teams Platform

AGENDA

1.	17.15	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest (Directors are asked to note the Declaration of Interest Register)</p> <p>Apologies:</p>
2.	17.20	<p>Minutes To approve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Board Meeting 26 (9/03/21) • Minutes of the Nominations & Personnel Committee (22/2/21) • Minutes of Finance and Audit Committee (24/2/21)
<p>Items for Decision/Information – Confidential Papers for approval as detailed Committee/Sub-Group recommendation (Exempt Information¹)</p>		
3.	17.25	<p>HMG LEP review process update – Mark Livesey LEP Network Director</p> <p>Discussion topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Stream Activity • Next steps and timetable
4.	18.05	<p>Ox-Cam Arc – Progress update (Bev Hindle Ox-Cam Arc Director/NT)</p> <p>Discussion topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging Growth Body approach • Working Sub-Group Progress • Timetable for establishing a shadow structure
5.	18.15	<p>Destination Management Organisation – DCMS Consultation Response (PS/AG)</p> <p>Discussion topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from the working Group • Timetable and next steps
6.	18.30	<p>Skills White Paper Update (RB)</p> <p>Discussion topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Advisory Panel • Local Skills Improvement Plan Update

7	18:45	Finance, Corporate Governance & Capital Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7a) Forecast Outturn 2020/21 • 7b) Proposal from Enterprise Zone Sub-Group • 7c) Corporate Governance • 7d) Funding Change Request Proposal from Programme Sub-Group
Public Invited to Join the Meeting – 19.00		
Board Meeting - Items for Discussion/Information		
8.	19.00	Questions from the public arising from the Agenda (Max 3 mins per question – notified in advance in writing)
9.	19:30	Getting Building Fund Update (WH/RB) Presentation: Business Investment Fund Investment - Task and Finish Group Programme update
10.	19.50	Chief Executives Report (NT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 1 Communications Update • Annex 2 Growth Hub Customer Journey
11.	20.00	Meeting Closes
<p>Dates of future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Dates to be confirmed 2nd Tuesday of the month (Provisional) 14th September, 14th December, 8th March (22) 		



<u>Subject: Chief Executive's Report</u>	
Author: Nigel Tipple Tel: 0345 241 1196 Email: ChiefExec@oxfordshirelep.com	Board Meeting No.27 8th June 2021 Agenda Item no: 9
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd: OxLEP Ltd, HQ Building, Thomson Avenue, Harwell Campus, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0GD	

Summary

The report provides an update on operational activity supported by the team over the Q1 reporting period. The report is supported by the following annexes:

- Annex 1 Communications Update (Activity Tracker)
- Annex 2 Growth Hub Customer Journey

Recommendation

That the Board:

- **Notes the report, annexes 1-2 and activity supported to date;**

1. Communications Update

Since the last Board meeting in March, our communications focus has continued to shift from amplifying the message of emergency COVID business support, towards focusing on delivering our key strategic objectives and renewal where possible. Annex 1 attached provides a detailed operational update.

2. Skills Team Update

The [Local Skills Plan and Report](#) was completed and submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) in March 2021.

In May 2021 the Government introduced the [Skills and Post-16 Education Bill](#), which forms the legislative underpinning for the reforms set out in the [Skills for Jobs White Paper](#). Core to delivering the White Paper reforms is the Skills Accelerator, which aims to reshape the technical skills system to better support the needs of the local labour market and wider economy by bringing employers, colleges and other providers together to identify local skills needs. The Skills Accelerator is made up of two pilot projects:

- **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) Trailblazer** (6-8 areas nationally)
- **Strategic Development Fund (SDF) Pilots** (12-16 areas nationally)

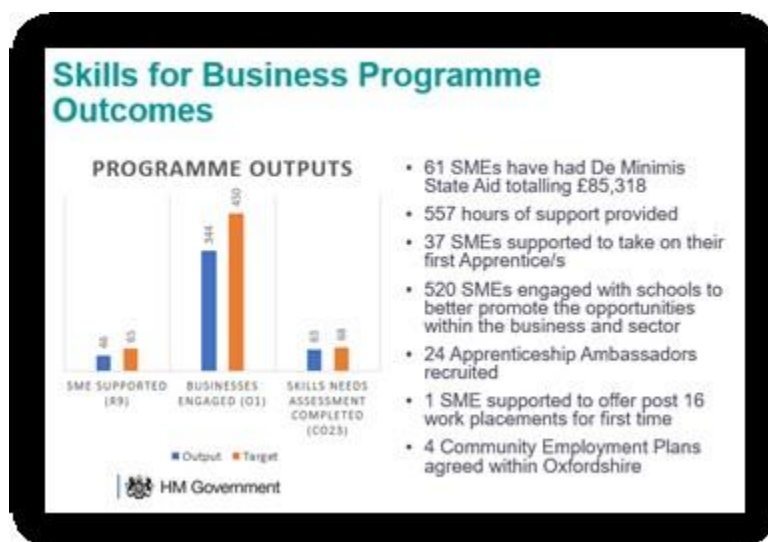
It is intended that LSIPs will set out the key changes needed to make technical skills training more responsive to employers' skills needs locally. LEPs/MCAs (including Skills Advisory Panels) are not eligible to lead applications, as LSIPs must be led by established Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs), however OxLEP and TVBLEP have been in discussions with the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) regarding their 'Green Valley' Trailblazer bid, which seeks to 'harness the energy created as we transition to a high-skill, low carbon economy to design an employer-led approach to skills'.

Launched on 20 May 2021, the SDF is a £65million fund (£38m capital: £27m programme) that will explore how providers can work together more effectively, alongside employers and other partners, to respond to local skills and innovation priorities – including those identified by LSIPs. Independent providers, which are the majority within Oxfordshire, are unable to apply for this pilot.

Skills for Business (S4B) Programme

The S4B programme was due to officially close on 31st March 2021. OxLEP was successful in applying to DWP for a short-term programme continuation request (PCR) to extend delivery to the end of July 2021.

A 12-month PCR has also been submitted to extend the programme to July 2022. This is awaiting the results of an internal process review on the application status.



Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) Partnership:

The Oxfordshire Careers Hub has 24 schools focusing on all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks, which represent the Government's 'gold standard' of careers framework in schools. Oxfordshire has increased from an average of 3.3 benchmarks (September 2019) to 4.1 (April 2021), which is very close to meeting the national average (4.2 benchmarks).

To date, 103 young people across 13 schools have been supported with up to three 1:1 sessions with a trained careers advisor through the My Choices programme. We have been awarded further funding over the summer for 'Ahead of the Game', to continue to provide 1:1 careers guidance and support to young people aged 16-18 who have concerns about transitioning to FE, HE or employment. We will also fund the expansion of our very successful [Find Your Future](#) online careers platform for young people, schools/colleges and parents/carers, which provides information under one 'virtual roof'.

In order to support Gatsby Benchmark 6: Experiencing the Workplace (usually achieved through work experience), we have liaised with [Springpod](#) to offer schools and colleges the opportunity of a virtual work experience week – due to a lack of physical opportunities as a result of COVID-19. Plans are underway for a week-long Science, Technology, Art, Engineering and Maths (STEAM) event in June.

Promoting Apprenticeships and T-Levels:

The 5th annual Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards took place virtually on 6 May 2021, hosted live by last year's Apprentice of the Year, Teya Agnese (University of Oxford) and Simon Newton, Managing Director of Darke & Taylor. The event was supported by 18 sponsors and included 11 categories with a total of 34 finalists. People from 289 households viewed the stream on the night – highlights can be

viewed on [YouTube](#). A launch event for the 6th annual awards will take place in November 2021, ahead of the main event in May 2022.

We collaborated with Abingdon & Witney College and Activate Learning to promote the new T-Levels qualification starting from September 2021. The new T-Level is available to school leavers after completion of GCSEs, as an alternative to A Levels or an Apprenticeship – it is 80% classroom-based, with the remaining 20% as a meaningful industry placement.

Other Skills updates:

- Leading the Employment Pillar for Oxfordshire County Council's Civilian Military Partnership.
- Collaborating with the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes to create a video for graduates and post-graduates, promoting employment opportunities across Oxfordshire.
- Supporting Oxford Brookes' OxTech Fest, 7-8 September.
- Second Provider Network meeting, Tuesday 29 June.

3. OxLEP Business Team

Inward Investment/Internationalisation

We continue working with partners to deliver the [Internationalisation Plan](#) and have developed new collateral that is being promoted to potential investors. This includes:

- [A Prospectus for international investors](#)
- [A new updated and revised Life Sciences and Healthcare Proposition](#)
- [A brochure on Oxfordshire's response to Covid19](#)
- [A Future of Mobility Proposition](#)

Other ongoing work includes writing an Energy Prospectus and working with partners across the Arc and Department for International Trade (DIT) to develop three videos promoting Arc sector strengths in Space, Future of Mobility and Life Sciences. A set of sector snapshots are also being produced throughout the year.

On 20 May 2021, we held a webinar in collaboration with DIT and Oxfordshire partners to promote the sector strengths and capabilities in Life Sciences to DIT sector experts and our International Investment and Trade Advisers (known as Posts). This was to help encourage investment, R&D and collaboration opportunities with internationally owned companies. Over 50 attendees registered for the webinar and the recording will be sent to all 100+ Posts across the world – we are following up with Posts and have already secured some leads.

Development continues on the two international investment propositions as part of our successful bids to [DIT's High Potential Opportunities \(HPO\) programme](#) – one on Fusion Energy in Oxfordshire and the other on Connected Autonomous Vehicles (Modelling and Simulation) in partnership with other LEPs. Following successful lobbying, the Fusion Energy proposition will also focus on international trade opportunities linked to sector/research expertise and the work of our leading technology companies supporting fusion – including those in robotics and cryogenics sectors. DIT will use this as a pilot with a view to rolling out to future HPOs if successful. Both propositions should be completed by July.

In addition, we have been working with local partners and DIT in active account management with businesses to support existing investors and expansion projects.

We will be able to report on Oxfordshire Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) when the national results are announced by the Government in June 2021. Due to COVID-19 and the global economic slowdown,

investment enquiries and successes in 2020/21 were forecast to be down, therefore we adjusted our target FDI successes from 33 to 25 projects. Current indications suggest we will exceed this target.

Managed by the Invest Team, the BEIS-funded EU Transition Business Readiness Support project ran through to the end of March 2021 – providing support and specialist advice to businesses. It was contracted to Newable and supported 1,197 businesses.

Launched in December 2020, DIT’s Internationalisation Fund with OxLEP provides £120,000 of matched ERDF funding. Seven grants have been given to Oxfordshire businesses, with a further 15 applications being assessed. On 24 May 2021, the Business Support Sub-Group (BSSG) received a report on the Internationalisation Fund, noting that the Oxfordshire fund is very small and likely to be spent by summer 2021. BSSG agreed to write to the Regional ESIF Committee requesting allocation of additional funds and OxLEP is making representations through the DIT Project Advisory Group and MHCLG.

Enterprise Zones

The Enterprise Zone (EZ) Sub-Group met on 18 May 2021. In Q4 2020/21, 39 jobs were created and 39 jobs left the EZ; as of the end of March 2021, 2,345 new jobs have been created within the EZs. Performance against targets for completed floorspace and jobs created is summarised below (Q4 2020/21):

	20/21 target	20/21 to date	RAG rating
Jobs			
EZ2	358	205	
EZ1	0	74	
Floorspace			
EZ2	28,907	28,907	
EZ1	0	2,920	

Had the two new warehouses on the EZ2 Diageo site, Sutton Courtenay Lane been occupied it is possible that the EZ2 jobs target would have been exceeded. It is hoped that the two warehouses will be occupied early in 2021/22, hence the amber rating above.

A paper on EZ management costs funding went to EZ Sub-Group, where the proposal for reimbursing and funding South and Vale EZ management costs from retained Didcot Growth Accelerator EZ (EZ2) business rates growth was recommended for approval by the OxLEP Board. New MoUs and Funding Agreements are being developed for both EZs and these will be brought to the Board for approval in due course.

Refreshed forecasts and reporting on retained business rates will be presented to the EZ Sub-Group in August and OxLEP Board in September 2021. An updated forecast will be presented to the Sub-Group in February 2022 and OxLEP Board in March 2022. This cycle will then be followed each year.

Oxfordshire Growth Hub

A BEIS-funded enhanced business support offer was introduced in July 2020, including: an online triage tool, personal business support plans, additional 1:1 support, start-up club, Foundation to Growth

Programme, Peer Networks and a series of webinars developed utilising feedback from the triage tool. This was the most robust business support offer since our inception.

National Peer Networks Programme

Bringing together SME owners for interactive action learning, we enable individuals to discuss challenges, gain and reflect on feedback and identify practical solutions to common business issues. Peer Networks also provides 1:1 advice, mentoring and coaching services delivered by sector experts. Over six months in 2020/21 we supported 143 individuals – each receiving 18hrs of support with a specialised advisor.

National Kickstart Grant Scheme

The Kickstart Grant Scheme aimed to help businesses manage the impact of COVID-19 and access specialist professional advice, equipment or technology to support quick recovery. In Oxfordshire, the scheme was open to SMEs based in the county – launching in October 2020 and closing pre-Christmas.

Grants were awarded to 121 businesses (48 Visitor Economy and 73 General), with a total value of £305,302. All claims have now been defrayed and the project delivered to time and budget (with an acceptable 5% tolerance).

Innovation Support for Business (ISfB)

We have completed 19 grant rounds and approved grants of £648,329, against total project costs of £1,734,997. To date, we have provided 2,475hrs of support to 471 businesses through 77 workshops. In addition, 323 businesses have benefitted from a total of 831hrs of 1:1 support.

eScalate

Since its launch, we have completed 21 eScalate grant rounds – round 21 closed on 16 April. This was the final round for this programme as the funding has now been fully committed. We have committed 53 grants totalling £638,930.26, against a total project value of £1,277,860.52.

Since April 2020, 43 webinars and 6 peer networks have been run. A total of 148hrs 1:1 support have been delivered to businesses since the start of the programme.

Business Investment Fund (BIF)

BIF is a £2.1m capital grant fund to support businesses to accelerate investment to strengthen business performance, drive technology/innovation adoption and increase sales/market share. BIF offers co-investment grants ranging from £25,000-£100,000, with businesses required to cash match, for capital projects that delivery tangible outcomes aligned to driving economic recovery, growth and job creation. Grant applications outside of the thresholds will be considered in exceptional circumstances, with applicant justification.

In total, we received 108 expressions of interest valuing £6.264m and 76 full applications valuing £3.278m.

Support Summary 2020/21

Businesses/individuals	1700
Triaged (since July)	1245
Personal support plans(since July)	1245
Managed and awarded grants	£1,813,343.23
One to one support	693 individual businesses
Hours of support	10719
Webinars delivered	103
Peer networks cohorts (18 hours of support)	23
Grant schemes	4
Foundations to Growth	2 groups (18 individuals)
Start up club	100 participants
Pop Up Business School (37 hours)	107 participants
Jobs safeguarded/created	897
Referrals	900+
Value of support (excluding grants)	£750k

Planned Support 2021/22

Building on the success of 2020/21, our 2021/22 activity will focus on:

- Enhanced triage service
- Personal support plans
- eScalate ERDF programme – enhanced offer
- ISFB ERDF programme – enhanced offer
- Business Investment Fund £2.1m
- Foundations to Growth
- Numerous webinars developed off back of triage tool data
- Numerous Peer Networks including National Peer Networks – 15 cohorts (165 individuals)
- Start Up Club
- NED for a day
- Business Surgeries

Annex 2 demonstrates the client journey when they engage with the Growth Hub, based on the developmental stage of the business.

6. Strategy

Following a survey of Oxfordshire businesses, we worked with the Intellectual Property Office to produce the IP for Oxfordshire Businesses report and action plan – overseen by the Innovation Sub-Group. Going forward, we plan to bring more visibility and connectivity of existing IP advice and support services to create more defined, structured and targeted IP services; support businesses with smarter strategic management of existing IP; and increase levels of engagement with IP services. Existing channels for this work include the Growth Hub, local authorities, IP legal support professionals and business strategic sites.

Recent engagement with Innovate UK highlighted the scale of their investment in the county, as well as the prospects of the projects and businesses receiving support. Oxfordshire is one of the top recipients of Innovate UK funding – including some flagship sectors in the LIS (Life Sciences and Quantum). This confirms our status in the innovation space and gives better insight into the range of activity beyond Oxfordshire (e.g. partnership projects across the South West and South East). This

information will help us a stronger case for wider impact, in line with the levelling up agenda. Moving forward, we aim to consolidate a range of data sources, including from Innovate UK, Companies House and our own in-house project – Connecting Global.

OxLEP contributed to the Government’s UK R&D Roadmap, published in January 2021. Prior to this, we were already working on project 2.4%, which includes developing ways of tracking the levels of investment into R&D towards 2.4%, along with a dashboard of clusters of companies which have the potential to increase investment. This work is linked to the Connecting Global project, which aims to capture and showcase the Oxfordshire offer. This will support the Government’s ambition to attract research talent to the UK – increasing inward investment into research and making UK research institutions partners of choice.

Culture and Visitor Economy Sub-Group (CVESG)

Over the last few months, the CVESG has developed key working groups to drive more actions forward between CVESG meetings: Arts and Culture; Creative Industries; OXiA (a world class business conference centre); and the Visitor Economy. Key new activities to date include:

- Creating an Oxfordshire-wide Arts and Culture Network (monthly Zoom meetings).
- Updating the Arts and Culture Strategic Framework.
- Delivering OxLEP-led panel events at the [Creative Industries Festival](#) (May 2021) and connecting businesses to the newly formed [CIRIN](#).
- Developed the Visitor Economy Renaissance (part of Oxfordshire’s Economic Recovery Plan).
- Submitted OxLEP response to the DCMS Review of Destination Management Organisations consultation. *Review outcome is expected early autumn 2021.*
- Supporting the promotion of the forthcoming ‘Creative City’ at Upper Heyford, including forging links to help secure investment to deliver the scheme.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and OxIS

An Oxfordshire Plan 2050 duty to cooperate meeting between OxLEP and local authority planning officers took place during May 2021 in advance of a consultation on growth options in July 2021. Aligned with the Plan 2050 consultation, an updated infrastructure strategy (Oxis) stage 1 report has been produced, commissioned by the Growth Board. The Oxis update provides a refreshed evidence base and re-prioritisation of strategic infrastructure schemes.

Oxis sets out a strategic framework to plan over the long-term horizon of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. It establishes infrastructure investment priorities, potential delivery and funding opportunities and sets out the priority strategic infrastructure investment needed to support sustainable, clean, healthy and inclusive growth in Oxfordshire – reflective of the ambition to build a global innovation ecosystem. It applies a multi-criteria appraisal related to five themes: environment, health, place-shaping, productivity and connectivity.

**Communications update (Activity Tracker)
June 2021**

Some key outputs from the Communications team over the past year include:

- Between 1 May 2020 and 1 May 2021, we have grown our collective LinkedIn audiences by 1,413 followers
- Between 1 May 2020 and 1 May 2021, we have generated 39 pieces of media coverage (local, regional, trade and national) highlighting the work of OxLEP
- Between 1 May 2020 and 1 May 2021, we have collectively delivered 124 online events or webinars, which has led to 3,400 people registering, meaning an average of 24 people attending each session

Further commentary on our current projects and programmes:

<p>Business Investment Fund</p>	<p>The Communications team fronted the promotion of the Getting Building Fund-supported Business Investment Fund (delivered by OxLEP Business). A fund launch was delivered on 2 March with a total of 165 individuals in attendance.</p> <p>The launch event can be viewed via the below link: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/new-capital-investment-fund-%E2%80%93-which-aims-play-key-role-covid-19-economic-recovery-%E2%80%93</p>
<p>Further promotion of business support programmes</p>	<p>As a communications team, we have also led marketing and communications campaigns to support the delivery of the following OxLEP Business programmes – this includes ongoing social media promotion, event delivery and LinkedIn paid advertising campaigns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Networks 2 programme • Enhanced Growth Hub • Business Support Tool (around 1,400 business engagements achieved to-date) <p>ERDF-funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Support for Business • eScalate <p>This culminated in the Growth Hub 21-22 launch event, which took place on 27 May – this can be viewed again via the below link: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxlep-business-launches-support-next-year-%E2%80%93-and-there%E2%80%99s-never-been-more-offer</p>
<p>Virtual visit to Oxfordshire by HRH, The Earl of Wessex</p>	<p>Working with the Lord Lieutenant’s office for the county, we hosted a virtual visit to Oxfordshire for HRH, The Earl of Wessex on 5 May.</p> <p>The event saw the Earl discuss with event participants topics as diverse as quantum computing through to how the county has led the global response in creating a COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>More details can be found here: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/hrh-earl-wessex-pays-virtual-visit-oxfordshire-meet-faces-behind-county%E2%80%99s-world-class</p>
<p>PR agency support</p>	<p>PR agency Tala continues to provide guidance and a supporting activity plan, aligned with our strategic priorities.</p> <p>Current live projects include:</p> <p>EP50 (Energy Pathfinders: 2050) A new, special interest group formed by Oxfordshire Greentech (OG) and OxLEP with the aim of supporting the ambition of the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, setting a pathway to achieve zero carbon growth by 2050. EP:50 will select and champion 10 innovative projects that deliver both clean energy and insulation solutions for the region’s greatly-needed new homes.</p> <p>The winner of the first category (Greencore Construction) was announced on 22 April: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/zero-carbon-housing-project-named-oxfordshire%E2%80%99s-greenest</p> <p>Sector proposition – life sciences: A new sector proposition for our life sciences sector has been created, with the aim of helping</p>

	<p>to attract companies (internationally) to Oxfordshire, aligned with narrative created in the Local Industrial Strategy: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/business/invest-oxfordshire/sectors/life-sciences</p> <p>Projects currently being scoped out include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further sector propositions: Documents aimed at supporting the inward investment drive for Oxfordshire to be created. Sectors to include: Energy, fusion, robotics and AI. • Connecting Global: Supporting the creation of narrative to feed into the soon-to-be-developed online platform, Connecting Global.
COP26	<p>To support our approach in highlighting the world-class activity and commitment in Oxfordshire towards a zero-carbon future, we created a series of expression of interest documents to be submitted to COP26 organisers ahead of the event in Glasgow in November this year.</p> <p>Supporting our approach has been a series of feature blogs, built around a 'Getting ready for COP26' narrative. These can be read on the news section of our website: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news</p>
Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report	<p>To support our role in highlighting the strength of Oxfordshire's low-carbon and clean tech strengths, we are working with partners from Bioregional and the Environmental Change Institute (University of Oxford) to launch the 'Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire' report on 29 June.</p> <p>Details can be found below: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/new-report-set-outline-how-zero-carbon-future-oxfordshire-can-be-met-2050-be-published</p>
Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2021	<p>Working with the OxLEP Skills team, we promoted this year's Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, resulting in around 27,500 social media engagements online.</p> <p>The awards can be viewed here once again: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/oaawards2021</p>
Creative Industries Festival	<p>We have partnered with Oxford Brookes University to support and deliver a number of workshops during May at the inaugural Creative Industries Festival, which followed the Creative Industries Showcase that we delivered in the summer of 2019.</p> <p>We led on two events at the festival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OxLEP presents: How can our globally-recognised city and county's creative and cultural assets help drive a vibrant post-Covid-19 creative economy? • OxLEP presents: What is a creative and diverse county? <p>Our events reached around 90 creative industries professionals from across Oxfordshire and beyond.</p> <p>More details on the event can be found below: https://www.brookes.ac.uk/Research/creative-industries-research-and-innovation/Festival-2021</p>
COVID-19 county PR group	<p>Alongside local authority, health and emergency service communication heads, we are playing a central role in communicating key messages to support COVID-19 related messaging, as well as creating supporting assets for our business community.</p> <p>Our main role in recent weeks has been to continue to highlight the testing capabilities available to businesses across the county – we have worked directly with business park and science park communication leads to ensure that messaging is communicated effectively.</p>
Ox-Cam Arc PR group	<p>Following the publication of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc investment prospectus in September last year – through the Arc PR group – we continue to be one of the key organisation's helping to shape messaging for the prospectus and the economic potential of the region.</p> <p>In the coming weeks and months, it is our aim to create narrative that builds around the prospectus messaging that focuses on how our communities across the county can benefit</p>

	<p>from future investment into the Arc.</p> <p>This narrative being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Prospectus aims to secure investment to support the physical, digital, financial and knowledge infrastructures across the Arc</i> • <i>The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Prospectus builds on the region's world-leading innovation, supporting our ability to compete successfully at a global level</i> • <i>The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Prospectus outlines how the region can create employment and an inclusive, prosperous economy for all our communities</i> • <i>The Oxford to Cambridge Arc Prospectus will demonstrate how the region can lead the UK's economic recovery from COVID-19 and support the government's 'levelling-up' investment programme</i>
Government-funded projects	<p>We have worked with delivery partners to promote a number of government-funded projects, highlighting the investment secured for Oxfordshire by OxLEP.</p> <p>Announcements over the past quarter have included:</p> <p><u>Local Growth Fund:</u></p> <p>£500,000 Headington life science laboratory development at The Oxford Trust's Innovation Centre supported by funding secured by OxLEP https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/%C2%A3500000-headington-life-science-laboratory-development-oxford-trust%E2%80%99s-innovation-centre</p> <p>OxLEP-backed Local Growth Fund supported project set to further enhance 'cleaner' connectivity in Oxford https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxlep-backed-local-growth-fund-supported-project-set-further-enhance-%E2%80%98cleaner%E2%80%99-connectivity-in-oxford</p> <p>OxLEP announces start of major Local Growth Fund project on A40 https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxlep-announces-start-major-local-growth-fund-project-a40</p>
Media coverage	<p>Since the last Board meeting in March, we have either secured – or helped to secure – the following media coverage.</p> <p>Oxford Mail and Oxford Times: Earl of Wessex meets the people behind Oxfordshire's innovation https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/19295164.earl-wessex-visits-faces-behind-oxordshires-innovation/</p> <p>Zero-carbon housing in Abingdon wins top green award https://www.heraldseries.co.uk/news/19249426.zero-carbon-housing-abingdon-wins-top-green-award/</p> <p>Built Environment Network: OXLEP backed Local Growth Fund supported project set to further enhance 'cleaner' connectivity in Oxford https://www.built-environment-networking.com/news/oxlep-cleaner-connectivity/</p>
Annual report 2021 and annual event	<p>The 20/21 annual report will be developed during the summer months to be launched at our 2021 annual event – the date for this will be confirmed in the coming weeks and we will look to host the event in a physical setting (COVID dependent), but also ensure that it is available for businesses to view online.</p> <p>The 20/21 annual report will be delivered as a digital report, housed on our website.</p>
New to OxLEP Business series	<p>We launched a new series of webinars aimed specifically at attracting new businesses to OxLEP and our business support programmes.</p> <p>The 'New to OxLEP Business' series launched on 23 April and will broadly be held every six to eight weeks, each focusing on a different element of our business support.</p> <p>The first event can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qolQkctG3-M&t=1120s</p>

ITEM 9 CEO Update Paper - Annex 1

	The next 'New to OxLEP Business' event will be held on Friday 25 June.
UK transition	<p>We worked with the OxLEP Business team and its contractor (Newable) to deliver supporting webinars for our Brexit business support programme.</p> <p>Workshops were delivered on 16 March and can be found below:</p> <p>'UK transition webinar: Value Added Tax (VAT) in the post-EU landscape': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1uJ2hbCJgE</p> <p>Businesses continue to be driven via social media, e-marketing and digital event delivery to the following webpage: https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/uk-transition</p>

Further notes:

- Jordan Whitefoot has been in-post as Digital Marketing Executive since mid-April, with a focus on supporting our organisation to be more agile in communicating our work and business support through digital means. Our PR and Communications Executive, Leona Weston, will return from maternity leave on 3 June
- We continue to update our communications strategy and calendar of activity in-light of COVID-19 and the UK transition. Our aim is to continue to place strategies and propositions – like the Local Industrial Strategy (in particular the Oxfordshire Investment Plan), Energy Strategy and the emerging Oxford-Cambridge Arc – at the centre of our communications work, though repurposed in such a way that it reflects the economic challenges and possible opportunities following the pandemic and Brexit.

Annex 2 – Growth Hub Customer Journey

