



Directors Board Meeting No: 31

14th June 2022

17:00 – 20:00 hrs

VENUE

Microsoft Teams Platform

AGENDA

1.	17.00	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest (Directors are asked to note the Declaration of Interest Register) Apologies:
2.	17.05	Minutes To approve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Board Meeting (8 March2022) To note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and Audit Committee minutes (17 February 2022) • Nominations and Personnel Committee minutes (16 February 2022)
Items for Decision/Information – Confidential Papers for approval as detailed Committee/Sub-Group recommendation (Exempt Information¹)		
3.	17.10	Local Elections Update – Discussion (All)
4.	17.20	Corporate Governance and Financial Reporting (LD/NT) a) Financial reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>forecast outturn 2021/22</i> b) Corporate Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Board succession planning</i> • <i>Sub-Group review update</i> • <i>Board Effectiveness Review outcomes and next steps</i>
5.	17.40	Economic Recovery Plan and UK SPF/Levelling Up Approach (NT) a) Annex 1 ERP Monitoring Plan
6.	18.00	Local Skills Improvement Plan/Employer Representative Body (RB)
7.	18.20	Programme Sub-Group Update (SW/PRS/LD) a) Programme Update presentation (PRS/SW) b) Approach to programmes closedown (LD/SW) c) Project Evaluations (SW)
Public Invited to Join the Meeting – 18.40		



Board Meeting - Items for Decision/Information		
8.	18.45	Questions from the public arising from the Agenda (Max 3 mins per question – notified in advance in writing)
9.	19.15	Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership -Update (MP/CL)
10.	19.45	Chief Executives Update Paper (NT)
	20:00	Meeting Closes



OxLEP Board Meeting
8th March 2022
5:00pm – 8:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams Platform

MINUTES

Board Directors Present:	Jeremy Long (Chair - JL), Nigel Tipple (NT), Alistair Fitt (Deputy Chair - AF), Angus Horner (AH), Penny Rinta-Suksi (PRS), Phil Southall (PSo), Miranda Markham (MM), Peter Nolan (PN), Cllr Emily Smith (ES), Cllr Barry Wood (BW), Cllr Susan Brown (SB), Cllr Liz Leffman (LL), Ariana Adjani (AA), Patrick Grant (PG), Jayne Norris (JN), Cllr David Rouane (DR), Jacqui Canton (JC)	
Board Directors Apologies:	Wendy Hart (WH), Cllr Michele Mead (MM)	
Minutes:	Sadie Patamia (SP)	
In attendance:	Helen Brind (HB), Richard Byard (RB), Rob Panting (RP), Sarah Watson (SW), Lyn Davies (LD), Lorna Baxter (LB), Sally Andreou (SA), Ross Burton (RB), Robin Rogers (RR), Sebastian Johnson (SJ)	
Item	Action/Responsible	
Item 1 – Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest		
Apologies were accepted from Wendy Hart and Michele Mead		
Item 2 – Minutes		
Minutes		
To approve		Approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Board Meeting (14 Dec 2021) 		
To note		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and Audit Committee minutes (Nov 2021) • Nominations and Personnel Committee minutes (Nov 2021) 		Noted Noted
Items for Decision – Confidential Papers for approval as detailed Committee/Sub-Group recommendation (Exempt Information¹)		
Item 3 - Whole System Working (Robin Rogers)		
a. Recovery & Renewal Framework		
Item 4 – Whole System Working - Business and Skills Update (RB)		
Item 5 – Corporate Plan Update (NT/LD)		
a) Annex 1 Corporate Plan Final Draft (to follow)		
Item 6 – Corporate Governance, HR, and Financial Reporting (LD/NT)		
a) Financial reporting		
b) Corporate Governance and HR Updates		
Item 7 - Programme Sub-Group Update (SW/PRS/LD)		
a) Change Request (SW/LD)		
b) Programme Update presentation (PRS/SW)		
Public Invited to Join the Meeting		
Board Meeting Part Two – Items for Decision/Information		
Item 8 – Questions from the public arising from the Agenda (Max 3 mins per question – notified in advance in writing)		
There were no questions received from the public.		
Item 9 – Chief Executives Update Paper (NT)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 1 Communications Strategy 		

• **Annex 2 Clean Growth Sub-Group Work Plan**

NT presented the paper.

He drew attention to the communication strategy. He also pointed out the work done by the Internationalisation Team and the recognition this has received in terms of both Investment and Jobs secured and performance of the team on a national basis.

NT highlighted the continued work being supported across the Ox-Cam Arc through the Economic Working Group, recognising that this collaboration benefits not just Arc partners but Oxfordshire specifically ensuring the assets, capability and opportunities for inbound investment are seen on a global stage.

He noted progress with the Enterprise Zones 2 MOU and performance of both Zones in securing investment and Jobs in the County.

NT reflected on the proposed review of Sub-Group working in line with the Corporate Plan ambition and that the groups Chairs would be coming together to explore stronger working and collaboration over the coming years. By way of example the Clean Growth group work programme was attached at annex 2. Much of this work relies upon strong partnership working building upon initiatives such as our COP 26 work, EP 50 and other programmes focused upon supporting businesses in the County to transition to Net Zero.

NT confirmed the Annual Performance Review had taken place. It had been a positive meeting demonstrating the significant engagement of the teams in local Covid and wider Arc partnership working coupled with strong delivery performance. A formal outcome position is expected later this month. Our position on delivery, performance and governance remains strong.

RB confirmed the positive focus of the meeting and agreed with NT reflections.

PN asked if it was true the Central Government were no longer interested in the Arc as he had read in the newspaper at the weekend. NT stated that there was still strong and collaborative work going on. Noting there were still conversations taking place with officials as to the shape and focus of future activity across the arc but that ministers appeared to be supportive of an economically led approach.

BW agreed this was a fair description. He stated there was some confusion with regards Government Sponsorship. A meeting had been scheduled with the PM to discuss the way forward, however, world events had prevented this taking place.

AF stated he agreed. The University Group have written to HMG and had received a positive reply stating it was still high on their agenda.

PG stated the he believed the Arc had whatever value we attached to it and that in some ways HMG's step back was helpful in allowing us to shape a bottom up response.

LL commented that England's Economic Heartland was looking at connectivity across this geography and that this was vital if we were to realise our own and wider collective ambition.

JL agreed that there was common currency and objectives throughout the Arc and that we had to shape a proposal that worked for the partners.

Recommendation

That the Board:

- **Notes the progress outlined in this report and annex.**

Noted

Item 10 - Draft Communications Strategy – discussion (RP/RB)

RB introduced the item, noting the Draft Communications strategy had been developed to ensure our Communications resource is fit for purpose. It also exists allows us to refresh our communication channels, relationships and content, ensuring we have appropriate and targeted resources.

RP took the board through a presentation covering the strategy focus and approach. He reflected upon the importance of positioning our work across a number of audiences ensuring that our communications work supports our Corporate Plan priorities, builds upon our ongoing busines engagement, that it meets our corporate objectives, ensures we have an equal voice and recognises the need to be flexible in a changing environment.

RP noted priority themes would be Economic Recovery, Sustainability, Innovation, focusing efforts on responding to opportunities and ensuring effectiveness in the use of resource and outcomes.

He noted the importance of Board oversight and engagement and therefore through CMT was proposing the establishment of a Communications Steering Group (Task Group) of Board Directors to provide support, direction and guidance therefor ensuring greater visibility and engagement. RP requested that any Board members that were interested in taking part in this group should get in touch. He also highlighted the desire to have a Board Director Champion for communications, again this would be followed up after the Board and volunteers encourage to contact the team to discuss.

PN asked what sort of external agencies might we consider to support the work programmes identified in the draft strategy, and would they be tendered ?

RP replied that support was needed both internally and externally on effective digital content for example to ensure it lands effectively. There is also a need to maintain and build on the support for strategic partnerships. A brief to support a tender exercise is being developed and that may require more than one tender or agency to cover the scope required. All such tenders would be managed in line with our company procurement policy.

MM stated she was interested in understanding on how we raise the profile of our messaging across our partners.

RP stated there were roughly 140 communications representatives across our partnership and operational programmes that the Comms Teams work with. He recognised the challenge, but also opportunity to extend our reach and noted the strategy would help us focus our attention and priorities engagement to ensure consistency and targeting of messages.

Item 11

The meeting closed at 7.50pm



<u>Subject:</u> Chief Executive's Report	
Author: Nigel Tipple Tel: 07792 907302 Email: ChiefExec@oxfordshirelep.com	Board Meeting No.31 14th June 2022 Agenda Item no:10
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 Q4 reporting period. The report is supported by the following:

Annex 1 Communications Update

Annex 2 Oxfordshire Growth Hub Update

Recommendation

That the Board:

Notes the progress outlined in this report and associated annex's

Information

1. Communications Update

Key impacts:

- Driven by targeted digital content generation, we currently have a total social media following of 17,502 followers across our collective LinkedIn and Twitter profiles (up 292 followers on the last quarter), as well as 4,461 additional followers on the OxLEP Skills-led 'Oxfordshire Apprenticeships' Twitter profile
- Since June 2021, we have secured an estimated total of 60 separate pieces of media coverage, generated directly by OxLEP activity.

Key activity updates

Communications strategy (2022 to 2024) and activity plan:

- As per previous Board meeting, a communications strategy has now been approved by Board giving strategic direction through to March 2024. This will be supported by a communications steering group of course terms of reference are currently being finalised, ahead of appointment.
- Underpinning this communications strategy will be a specific digital strategy that aims to ensure we; 1) have a consistent pipeline of prospects, while simultaneously increasing

awareness of the OxLEP 'brand' (lead generation), 2) build and retain customer engagement and 3) be able to analysis our activity to ensure we remain agile when it comes to digital communications delivery. This strategy will be reviewed by OxLEP CMT during June prior to it being actioned.

- An associated activity plan through to March 2024 – aligned with the communications strategy – will ensure communications activity supports and aligns with the required operational outputs of OxLEP activity.
- The communications team have also invested in content automation software, Jasper (www.jasper.ai), which will allow the organisation to create greater levels of optimised content, supporting our ability for greater engagement digitally with targeted audiences.

Recruitment and agency support:

- We continue to aim to ensure the Communications team is adequately resourced with the right skills set for the delivery of our communications strategy and activity. Unfortunately, a first attempt to recruit into two roles in April/early May – a digital content creator and a marketing campaigns executive – were unsuccessful. A second recruitment campaign is now underway, closing on 10 June
- We are currently in the process of recruiting a supporting marketing/PR agency, delivering support through to March 2024 (with a review scheduled ahead of year two). Details of this brief, alongside a full timeline, can be found here: www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/pr-and-marketing-opportunity-response-tender-requested-oxlep. At the time of writing this report, the process had reached submission review stage with 13 agencies submitting responses.

Website development:

- We are currently in the final stages of delivering an updated OxLEP Business website (www.oxlepbusiness.co.uk), with a 'go-live' date expected by early-July. The purpose of this project is to create a more-effective customer experience and to support better retention of business support clients into all areas of OxLEP work (aligned with our digital strategy aims). A similar exercise is also being considered for our OxLEP Skills offer.
- An audit of the current main website took place during Q1, with the subsequent aim of creating a greater 'content-driven' main OxLEP site during this financial year.

Capital project progress:

- We continue to work with partners from across government departments, the Oxfordshire business community and other key stakeholders to highlight the investment secured by OxLEP, as well as leveraged investment and wider opportunities brought about by our capital programmes – see Annex 1 attached

Annual report and annual event 2022:

- We are currently in the process of generating content for our 2021/22 annual report, which – once again – will be a digital publication and published by the September Board meeting.
- This year's annual event is earmarked to take place in November, with the aim of delivering an 'in-person' event but accessible digitally too – full details to be published in due course.

2. Support for Business

Oxfordshire Growth Hub Activity

Thanks to the recent written procedures Board approval, we will now be able to offer an enhanced business support offer. We will continue to deliver one to one support, Foundations to Growth, local Peer Networks, and a series of webinars including net zero, B-Corp and ABC to Neurodiversity. Annex 2 attached provides detailed updates on our programme progress, outputs and outcomes.

Growth Hub programme priorities for 2022/23

- We will continue to offer an enhanced Growth Hub business support service following the Boards funding agreement.
- Develop proposals for ERDF project extensions (eScalate and ISfB) requests through to April 2023 including an additional grant scheme for ISfB
- Working with Local Authority partners to deliver a coordinated UK SPF programme of business support activity.
- Deliver a Visitor Economy Renaissance programme including digital diagnostic, wrap around support and grant support scheme
- Deliver £450k Cherwell Business Adaptation Fund on behalf of Cherwell Council
- Deliver £200k Apprenticeship Bursary grant scheme.
- Support Oxfordshire BIPC Centre – deliver 4 start up (in person) workshops on their behalf.

Internationalisation/Investment

We are working with Department for International Trade (DIT) to finalise FDI numbers for 2021/22 and will be reporting numbers at the September Board. Current indications are that we have exceeded targets which is very positive considering the global investment challenges over that period. We are also working on the current pipeline of investment enquiries (new investments and expansions) in sectors including life sciences, quantum, fintech, space and retail, food and drink. We are supporting a large scale FDI expansion in Oxfordshire that will safeguard and create c500 jobs over the next 10 years and supporting large scale capital investment projects at sites across Oxfordshire

Activity in the period:

- We hosted our Area Lead and Assistant Area Lead from the Government's Cities and Local Growth Unit in May which included the launch of the OxLEP funded Mini TESA (The Energy Systems Accelerator) and the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards.
- We are working with Harwell, UKAEA, the University of Oxford and other partners on the development of an event in September 2022 called *Ox to Zero* promoting the world leading capabilities and investment opportunities in net zero and clean growth in Oxfordshire with an ambition to stimulate further research, collaboration and international investment into the County.
- We are leading the development phase of the Oxford Calling digital platform, working alongside the Comms Team with input from SMT and CMT colleagues. CMT will decide on the future of this project at the end of the development phase.
- We continue to work with the OxCam Arc Leadership Team, DIT and Arc LEP/AUG colleagues to develop an Arc Internationalisation Plan.

Enterprise Zones (EZ)

The EZ Board Sub-Group met on the 17th May noting the following:

- A new Memorandum of Understanding for the Didcot Growth Accelerator Enterprise Zone (EZ2) is being drafted and will be brought to a future Board meeting for approval via the Sub-Group and Finance and Audit Committee. Thereafter we will co-develop an investment plan for the use of EZ2 retained business rates which will be submitted to Board for consideration and approval.

- The EZ Officer team continue to monitor performance against targets for new jobs and floorspace – in consultation with site owners and developers. As at the end of March 2022 a total of 2,506 new jobs have been created within the EZs, an increase of 52 since December 2021.
- Full end of year (2021/22) data is being collated for a return to Government later in June 2022.

Skills Team Update

Social Contract Programme:

Recruitment and onboarding for the two Apprenticeship Advisors (Clare Oliver and Leah Bryan), Administrator (Sarah Penn) and Community Employment Plan Adviser (Cat Armstrong) is now complete. Through funding by the Social Contract programme, we have been able to offer Sophie Laurie-Lynch, who joined us through the Government's Kickstart scheme, a Level 4 Communications and Events Apprenticeship. The University of Oxford (who we helped set up their Apprenticeship programme through the City Deal funding) has kindly shared some of their Apprenticeship Levy to pay for her Apprenticeship training. We will be sharing this best practice to other businesses to show how easily the Levy can be utilised to benefit others!

Community Employment Plans

There are currently 11 Community Employment Plans (CEPs) under development. One is in Kingsgrove, Wantage which has 5 employers actively engaged with a range of education organisations including UTC and King Alfred's Academy, St Birnius, Icknield College, Fitzwaryn School, A&W college. Another future development is for ALDI in Abingdon, which has DPS and ALDI looking to provide work placements to A&W College and/or Oxford Brookes. They are also targeted to attend career events advised by CEC team.

We have also launched the £400,000 'No Limits' tender in order to support those groups most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic: <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/invitation-tender-oxlep-skills-and-oxfordshire-social-contract-programme>

Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) partnership:

The CEC has been announced that from September 2022, all schools in the Enterprise Advisor Network (EAN) will join the Careers Hub. The Careers Hub will also be expanded from 48 to 52 schools/colleges (which will include SEND and the Pupil Referral Unit). This will enable all schools/colleges to focus on achieving all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks (rather than previously just 2 through the EAN). This mirrors our own ambition through the Local Skills Report and Plan to meet skills priority number 2: Help to provide clear, diverse and inclusive career pathways for young people and adults to ensure they are aware of the Oxfordshire Labour Market and sectors.

2022 Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards

The Awards Final was held on Thursday 19th May, Oxford Media Factory was commissioned to produce a live/recorded broadcast for the awards. Hosting the evening was Simon Newton, Managing Director of the electrical company Darke and Taylor, and Teya Agnese a former overall OA Apprentice award winner. Highlights of the awards evening can be seen here:

<https://youtu.be/60kmaGp8geo>

3. Culture & Visitor Economy Sub-Group Update

Creative Industries, Arts and Culture, and the Visitor Economy

The CVESG through its working groups has the following to report:

- Continuing to support and advise Oxford United FC's multi-purpose large scale conference facility for Oxfordshire.

- Hosting of the now bi-monthly Oxfordshire wide Arts and Culture network sessions. The network are hoping to deliver some projects that include an APP (subject to funding) to raise the audience numbers in relation to events and activities of the network members.
- The second Creative Industries showcase event, 'Oxfordshire's Future is Creative' is on the 21st June 2022 10-4.30pm at Oxford Brookes University. The link to attend is [here](#).

Visitor Economy Renaissance Programme (VERP)

The first tender has resulted in two contract awards, one each to Experience Oxfordshire and Cotswold Tourism, both are in final contract negotiations ; between them they will deliver the outcomes specified in the invitation to tender including strategic marketing campaigns for both international and domestic markets including shoulder seasons.

The element of the programme – “Improving business competitiveness” will be delivered by our Griwth Hub Team through a new Visitor Economy Grant Fund (VEG) including business diagnostic and digital skills elements. The £500k VEG fund will be soft launched during July, with applications (ranging from £5k- £24,999) being welcomed in October 2022. A further round is envisaged for April 2023 if funds remain. The aim of the fund is to help eligible businesses to adapt and grow through enabling a refresh/renewal of products, services, experiences and encouraging the use of technology to attract visitors to businesses whilst becoming more resilient to shocks such as the C19 pandemic.

ITEM 10 - CEO Update Report Annex 1 (June 2022)

Capital project announcements:

Mini-TESA (Getting Building Fund):

<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxlep-backed-project-%E2%80%93-set-be-key-player-championing-innovation-energy-systems-0>

Earth Lab at Earth Trust (Local Growth Fund):

<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/industry-experts-and-passionate-%E2%80%93-place-%E2%80%93-advocates-alike-come-together-discuss-%E2%80%93-building>

Wood Centre for Innovation (Local Growth Fund):

<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxlep-announces-completion-major-local-growth-fund-project-set-boost-innovation-county>

'Meanwhile in Oxfordshire' (Getting Building Fund):

<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxford-community-workspace-officially-opens-new-spaces-are-secured-through-oxlep-backed>

Further content generation:

- Further concerted activity over the past quarter also included the following projects and programmes (note, this wasn't just limited to media relations, but integrated activity across social media, e-marketing and digital events):

Cherwell Business Adaptation Fund:

- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/major-new-business-fund-seeking-support-ambitious-cherwell-based-businesses-set-launch>
- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/launching-tomorrow-major-new-business-fund-seeking-support-ambitious-cherwell-based>
- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/cherwell-business-adaptation-fund-launched-oxlep-business-encourages-companies-apply>
- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/cherwell-business-adaptation-fund-oxlep-business-makes-final-call-businesses-apply>

Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2022:

- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxfordshire-celebrate-work-based-learning-excellence-sixth-annual-apprenticeship-awards>
- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/one-week-go-oxfordshire-%E2%80%93s-apprenticeship-stars-set-shine-county-%E2%80%93s-annual-celebration>
- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/looking-ahead-ooawards2022-blenheim-palace-%E2%80%93-apprentices-becoming-part-blenheim-%E2%80%93s>
- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/one-day-go-till-ooawards2022-finalist-feature-priory-cast-products-creating-something>

- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxfordshire%E2%80%99s-apprenticeship-stars-celebrate-their-big-moment-major-county-awards-led>
- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/star-apprentices-and-businesses-gather-williams-racing-celebrate-success-oxlep-announce>

All Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards films can be viewed via the below link:

- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/oaawards2022>

Spring statement reaction from Nigel Tipple, OxLEP chief executive:

- <https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/spring-statement-reaction-nigel-tipple-oxlep-chief-executive>

Item 10 CEO Update Report – Annex 2 Oxfordshire Growth Hub

Enhanced Growth Hub support

Throughout 2021/22 we were able to continue to sign post businesses/individuals through to the online triage tool introduced in July 2020. We continued to issue bespoke personal business support plans to all Oxfordshire Business who complete the triage tool.

Business captured as a result of individuals and SME's completed online triage tool:



From April 2021:

- 1294 businesses triaged with 2540 triaged since launch of business support tool in July 2020
- 734 light touch support plans
- 560 personal support plans with 1806 since launch in July 2020
- We introduced and delivered Non-Exec Director for a Day (8 hours of focussed support)
- Piloted and delivered a formal mentor scheme for a select number of Growth Hub clients
- Delivered 14 national Peer Networks groups -149 Oxfordshire SME's, delivering 120 Action Learning Sessions and 180 1:1's
- Delivered a pre Start Up book camp for 34 individuals
- Delivered 4 Foundations to Growth groups (31 SME's)
- Delivered 2 Growth Hub Peers Networks (21 SME's)
- 181 individuals attended Start Up Club webinars
- Delivered one to one support to 90 West Oxfordshire District ARG grant applicants.

Business Investment Fund (BIF)

Business Investment Fund (BIF) was a £2.1m capital grant fund to support businesses to accelerate investment into their operations to strengthen business performance, drive technology and innovation adoption and increase sales and market share.

BIF offers co-investment grants ranging from £25k-£100k, with businesses required to cash match, for capital projects that deliver tangible outcomes aligned to driving economic recovery, growth, and job creation. Outputs from BIF:

Output	Target	Actual
Businesses Assisted	45	38
Jobs Created	27	45
Jobs Safeguarded	225	215

ERDF programmes

In addition to the enhanced support outlined above we continue to support Oxfordshire Businesses through our two ERDF funded programmes - Innovation Support for Business and eScalate. Support delivered. To date through the ERDF programmes, we have delivered:

eScalate

Grant scheme	Fully committed - £611,275 (52 SME's)
SME's sign up to programme	328 - self-identify as a social enterprise 221 - growth/scale up business
Oxfordshire Women Leaders peer network activity	37 attendees
Pitch to the Panel - pitch to a panel of investors from Oxfordshire and Berkshire and our British Business Bank area account manager. Case studies can be found here .	10 SME's
Investor Pitching Fast Track	20 SME's (240 hours of support per SME)

Future activity

An extension has been approved, allowing the programme to run through to April 2023 from the current September 2022. Planning will commence for delivery extension and increased funding.

ISfB

Grant scheme	Approved grants £683,545 (58 SME's)
SME's sign up to programme	632
Businesses received 1:1 support	328
Research and Development – procured TheHill to manage a programme of small grant research collaborations.	We are now well on track to deliver R & D contract commitment

A request for an extension has been submitted. We are waiting for a decision. This would extend the programme through to April 2023 with an increase of funding.