

Dynamo Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 13th March, 16.30 – 17.30

Location: Newcastle University, School of Computing Science, The Core, Science Central NE4 5TF

Attendees:

Alan English, Anne MacDonald, Deni Chambers, Graham Jordan, Keith Dickson, Mark Larsen, Mike O'Brien, Paul Watson, Becky Strachan, Chris Wade, Bob Paton (Chair), Alison Shaw, Janet Ross, Graeme Fletcher

Minute taking:

Sarah Thackray, Clare Nicholson

Apologies:

Lindsay Phillips, David Carroll, Matt Oakley, Phil Jackman, Stu Lynn, Simon Roberson, Alastair Irons, Charlie Houl, Giselle Stewart, Anthony McMenzie, Jen Hartley, John Hunt, Neil Hemming, Richard Waterhouse

Board Updates

- Digital Alliance – Umbrella organisation to be created. Joining up in one big tent. Still momentum behind it, keep pushing.
- ERDF Funding – NE LEP have some funding available for innovation, to ERDF. Min funding is £1m projects over 3 years. Use the funding to build tech clusters through workstreams. Demonstrating through the BIM cluster that we can make something happen – growth, profile for region.
 - Aim is to have engagement managers for each cluster. There will be outputs and outcomes. We are delivering things on the ground. We need to achieve funding from the IT & tech sector to be matched by European funding
 - Anne needs to submit outline proposal by end of April
 - Need funding from individual companies to match the ERDF monies – some in kind contribution can be considered, alongside cash
 - Funding is needed to push forward.
 - Bob called for expressions of interest from the board members. Can anyone support the organisation? Will send this out electronically.
 - Dynamo will follow up
 - Alison Shaw – could we consider new sector clusters i.e. EdTech, FinTech etc. Anne confirmed that we could.
 - Graham wants to have a model/structure so that organisations know how they can donate.
 - Chris Wade was asking what the ask would be for sponsors and what the opportunities are

Action: Anne has circulated a paper round the board explaining what the targeted outcomes are.

Finance

Provided the update on figures.

On track for surplus in 2017 which would also allow for additional spend in 2017 on website and marketing.

Workstreams

➤ **BIM**

Presentation from Anne MacDonald around Digital Alliance and BIM update.

Overview:

- Decent response rate from the Digital Alliance event in January.
- Asked the community what they want from Dynamo and Digital Alliance
- Lobbying at government level
- Sharing best practice and case studies – regions and nationally, internationally
- Research into clusters i.e. BIM, sector mapping, key players, market dynamics
- Job growth opps and build the sector
- The effectiveness of clusters – clear benefits; productivity, more rapid innovation, new business formation
- Engagement manager – focused on BIM cluster as well as comms with the LEP and the Digital Alliance case. BIM cluster is hidden in the region. Real case to growth the sector in the North East.
- BIM cluster - Key players involved. Scoping out the gaps – missing out the construction sector, need them involved going forward. BIM Show Live took place in Feb in Newcastle. Great showcase for the cluster internationally. Chance to pitch for national Centre of excellence – national BIM centre. Held a think tank, funding from Sunderland Software City secured for research analysis.

Paul updated – there is £2 billion new funding pot from the government through the Industrial Strategy – bids need to be coordinated and collaborative with industry and academia so the North East could work through BIM academy, SMEs to apply for some funding for the BIM workstream.

Action: Paul to share a link with everyone. Details are here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-a-2-billion-investment-in-research-and-development>

Action: Graham – there is now crossover with Cyber in BIM. Graham will send the link.

Any queries please refer back to Anne.

➤ **CYBER**

Update attached

➤ **SKILLS**

Graham Jordan – Skills newsletter update. Draft attached

Events

➤ **DynamoNets**

- **13th March** – hosted by Newcastle University – NISDI
- **10th April** – Dynamo update event? – showcase the pilot scheme for BIM, future plans for Dynamo
- **8th May** – Ryder Architecture – topic TBC
- **12th June** – Nigel Wright – topic TBC
- **10th July** – Accenture – Innovation workshop

Clare contacting other IT & Tech members for future hosts

➤ **Board Dinner 2017**

Confirmed for Thursday 23rd March 2017 at BALTIC. KPMG & Mincoffs confirmed as sponsors. 73 booked on. Aiming for 95. VIP guests have been invited as per suggestions from Board. 2 x press invited. Richard Waterhouse confirmed as speaker.

➤ **Dynamo 17**

Monday 3rd July. Hosted by Durham University.

Fringe events:

Possible VIP reception to be held on the night of the conference. Need to discuss timings and location for a pre-event careers event for teachers and careers advisors. Maybe hold this in Newcastle or Sunderland the week prior?

Sponsorship:

Sage have confirmed as headline sponsors.

Durham County Council will also be sponsoring as host city, and Durham University are hosting in kind by donating the room hire FOC.

Sponsorship pack has been circulated to all previous Dynamo sponsors.

Target is another £20k in sponsorship and a surplus of £16.5k is targeted.

Programme:

Title is '**Tech Boom North East: Spotlight on the opportunity**'

Local keynote speakers being sought, and a good compere for the day.

Workshop sessions outline:

- Dynamo Build and Smart Cities (Dynamo Build group/BIM cluster)
- Shared service centres (North tyneside, cobalt, Quorum, Sky, Accenture)
- Automotive and advanced manufacturing (Automotive alliance, Business Durham, Netpark and IAMP)
- Finance and accounting (KPMG, Sage, DoW and Pensions)
- Energy: Smartgrid & Engineering (urban sciences building, Siemens, Engineering employers federation, Engie)
- Government (DCMS – Matthew Gould, GDS - Gov digital service)
- Digital transformation and innovation (Colin Willis – hotspur, Northstar, 5G, Sunderland SC, Urban foresight, Adplus)
- Games, Apps, Digital and creative (Digital City, Creative Fuse, Digital Union, GXN, tombola, Ubisoft, Bede, CCP)
- Skills (Skills workstream, Gatsby, LEP, UKIE interactive entertainment association, Reece group)
- Cyber and infrastructure (BT, Cyber North, Onyx, Cobalt)
- Data (Data workstream, NISDI, Red Hat, Digital Catapult)
- Diversity in Tech (Teesside Uni Jane Turner, Future workforce Dynamo group, DevAcademy, Accenture Stemettes group)
- Be part of the North East Tech Boom (workshop afternoon targeted at juniors developing here in the North East and how they can be part of the North East's growth)

Keynote speakers: Bob - be good to get some good ones so please send any suggestions.

Action: Kriti Sharm – Chris Wade to approach her about speaking (and other Sage Summit speakers) and update Sarah Thackray.

Tickets:

Ticket prices will be held from last year. We are considering offering a group booking discount for companies to bring several of their team.

Perhaps offer a specific lunchtime session/afternoon workshop stream targeted at more junior staff in tech companies to come and learn more about the sector, and how they can contribute to the growth of the sector in the North East. Panel with those who have been there done that from the North East tech scene to encourage them.

Membership

- New members:
 - Dylan McKee
 - KF Training
 - Tangent
 - NBS
 - Quicksilver Web
 - Steve Attwell
 - Vytech Solutions
 - City Web Consultants

TOTAL

- Lost members:
£0.00

Action: Charlie/Anne to put together a 'This is what we're working on in 2017' email to go out to our paying members. Dynamo has been heavily BIM focused recently and members need to know it is for a pilot to hopefully bring on Engagement Manager for additional workstreams so we retain their membership.

AOB

- LEP are coordinating a response to the Government's Industrial Strategy Green paper and will engage through the Board, sub-Boards and key partners. They would like to invite input from key partner networks alongside. Attached is a paper which briefly reviews the main purpose and questions within their document and provides an outline response from page 3 onwards from the LEP for comment.
- Chris Wade to raise - Atlanta Mayor London fintech P20 conference and Newcastle visit – Oct 2017
- Sage Summit 5th & 6th April at Excel in London
- Venturefest proposal
Approach from the team to pitch for ERDF funding. Could be part of their bid. Sub-contracting opportunity. Board don't know if it would be wise to collaborate on the bid.

- Deni updated on the regional Institute of Technology – Government call for expressions of interest. Newcastle College interested but needs to be collaborative. Host an event at the college. Friday afternoon in Spring time. Deni will confirm the date once agreed.
- Jen Hartley's – baby boy – announced.