

Dynamo Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 9th October 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Location: NGI Office

ATTENDEES:

Bob Paton, Charlie Hault, Chris Wade, Matt Oakley, Becky Strachan, Simon Roberson, Allan King, Jen Hartley, Alan English, Siobhan Fenton, Ant Hall, Giselle Stewart, Robert Bing, John Marrin, David Baggaley

Minute taking:

Sarah Thackray, Clare Nicholson

Apologies:

Graeme Fletcher, Stu Lynn, Anthony McMenzie, Graham Jordan, Jane Turner, Phil Jackman, Deni Chambers, Mike O'Brien, Janet Ross, Alastair Irons, Mark Larsen, Keith Dickson, Rob Hamilton, Alison Shaw, David Carroll, John Hunt, Lindsay Phillips, Neil Hemming, Richard Waterhouse

Board Updates

Funding:

Prospect of finance from Europe. SuperNetwork – match funding opportunities. SuperNetwork - Number of outcomes that come with the funding bid.

Potential to match £120k of revenue against it to double up. Other funding streams coming up. Another potential £180k funding in 2018. Helped by Accenture funding. Paid staff for Dynamo. What governance would we have? How to recruit, how to sign off salaries, budgets. Will come back to advisory board. Directors – only Bob & Charlie. Heavily on shoulders. Will produce update and will present for all the board to sign off on.

Dynamo is a CIC – got to have a community purpose. Propose a business strategy and governance structure. By end October.

Finance

- Overview and update – good place. On track for being ahead. Not much more to come in this year. £38k in bank, looking healthy.
- Accenture digital clusters funding update
- Meeting with the accounts team – changing to one annual renewal in January 2018. Members who have already paid will be back dated/credited
- Additional funding applications – organizations to offer objectives to meet funding criteria. Need to deliver. Sub-contracting to deliver a portion of their bid. Evidencing of outputs

Clusters & Special Interest groups

CYBER

The cyber resilience theme has met following the involvement of Accenture:

- A new core group has been formed, Alastair, David, Anthony, Graham, Anne and Phil
- The first meeting was held and agreed to work on:
 - Objectives of the cluster
 - Map of cyber across the region
 - SWOT analysis
- All of these are under way and will be brought back to the group.

- Anthony and Phil met with John Baxter from Accenture and Michael Davison who is their new cyber lead. He is likely to join the core group.
- Others will be asked to get involved once the work above is completed.
- Next meeting 16 October

Will be growing the cluster from the initial group – following the model from the BIM cluster.

SKILLS

Core group: Bob Paton, Giselle Stewart, Graham Jordan, Sue Ormerod.

- Skills Gap
 - Vacancies have risen from Dynamo's original survey (2,000) to Geek Talent's latest work (3,300).
 - Had hoped for some resource to help with research but this fell through.
 - Giselle has joined the Regional Skills Chairs Board.
- Primary schools
 - Number of coding and maker clubs significantly increased since Dynamo started its skills work. NE1+20miles = 19 code clubs, NE66 + 20 miles = 3 code clubs, DH1+20 miles = 15 code clubs
 - Digital schoolhouse bid unsuccessful
- Secondary schools / Sector awareness
 - Schools tech careers talks as part of Building my Skills – 4 schools – all in November -planning progressing.
- Dynamo Careers events
 - Feedback from June event circulated (attached)
 - In discussions with North Tyneside Learning Trust about running a Careers event similar to that in Sunderland in June.
 - Next Summer's will be held at UTC
 - Early-stage discussions about making a 'tech careers insight' video.
- Vocational Schools
 - Northern Futures UTC Launch event held 27th September. Very successful evening. Standing room only.
 - Idea is to make this the best UTC in the World.
- Adult Illiteracy
 - We have discussed adult digital illiteracy and whether Dynamo could partner with an organisation offering a good course, we could add the Dynamo label to kitemark it and signpost people towards it, maybe get some comms around it etc.
- Universities and Colleges
 - Giselle making progress at Durham – Comp Sci Eng Board
- Apprenticeships
 - Apprentice Hub. Bob is meeting with Baltic Training soon to discuss.
 - Has lost some momentum since Louise Ball left.
 - Apprenticeship Clearing. "Talent Matching" project. Two meetings held. Decided against a Dynamo bid to the ESF Digital Skills fund. Plans being developed for a pilot which will be brought back to the Board.
 - 500 applicants to Accenture and only 35 taken on. Idea is not to lose the skills/talent from that strong applicant pool.
 - Sending a survey to members' w/c 16th October to gauge the market and interest
- Future Workforce
 - Discussions to be arranged to discuss the cross over between the two work streams.

Action: All - Let Anne know if you want to be involved in the pilot

Action: All members - Complete the survey being circulated to members w/c 16th October

Bob - Challenge we face, getting people to write skills. Increased number of coding clubs in primary schools.

UTC event – Sept 18. Very well attended. Sign up as many young people as poss. Create best sci & tech school in the world. Most expensive UTC building in country. Please talk up UTC.

Apprentices – ran Dynamo App hub with Baltic Training. Louise now left. Nothing happened since. Bob meeting with Baltic – what’s happening? If not, will get someone else. 12-week apprentice scheme. Just want to get going again.

Clearing System – Gradvert taking the lead on this, in kind. Graduate clearing system, we want to set up an apprentice clearing system. 500 applied to Accenture. Not every good person will get job. Help these people with other opportunities in the region. Dynamo members, questionnaire for interest etc. Keep them in the region and in the industry. **Talent Matching** pilot running in new year.

Summary – all these things above - all about getting more people in to our sector, more we win, the more people we need.

BIM

Refer to Anne’s PowerPoint.

Unique skills set in the NE. world leaders of this in the NE. raise profile, more momentum to grow.

Submitted to government for IC3. Showcase centre. Need to put together fully costed business plan. Key experts involved with this. Dynamo being the glue. House of Lords event on 29th Jan. Opportunity to launch IC3 and flag up the NE as tech hotspot. Working with LEP to pull business plan together over next couple of months.

FINTECH (Pete Murphy)

Peter working with Anne on how to set up cluster, scope out need etc. reach out to organisations. Someone from Sage? Linking to Atom Bank.

ACTION: Chris Wade to liaise with Anne so they can link in with Peter Murphy.

ACTION: Chris Wade to send FD details of Scott Logic to Anne

ACTION: Chris Wade to suggest someone at Sage to join

ACTION: Anyone interested in coming into the group, email Anne

DIGITAL MANUFACTURING (Robert Bing)

Past 30 years in manufacturing. Consultant. MBA course teaching at Northumbria Uni. Manufacturing experience. Just in the start up phase with this cluster

SHARED SERVICE CENTRES (Simon Roberson has two volunteers – Rachel Hancock and Angela Howe)

Simon: Could we get members together to see who else is interested?

Action: Simon and Anne to get together to discuss how to build the group

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Meeting with Ant Hall and John Marin

‘Northshoring’ our expertise – pull together a report which would north shoring the tech sector. Could launch that on the afternoon of 29th Jan at House of Lords – a seed idea.

Now getting the momentum going with the group. From previous survey, gap in knowledge. Big tech businesses – weren’t using opportunities across accounting, R&D and legal.

Plan is to run a series of workshops – targeted at start up, scale up SMEs.

Many scale ups are still using the same structures and services that they used when they started up. Risk profile changes as the business grows, businesses don't realise.

EVENTS

DynamoNets

- **9th October** – NGI – Great Exhibition of the North presentation
- **13th November** – host TBC. Potentially Bede Gaming
- **Xmas social** – is this just a normal DynamoNet?

ACTION: Clare to contact members for hosts for Dec and 2018 onwards

Think Tanks

- Next Think tank will focus on Cyber, Accenture are sponsoring. Date/venue TBC
- Think Tank on Shared service centres? When?

Dynamites 17 Awards

Taking place on 19th October at Civic Centre, Newcastle.

Judging

Judging meeting took place on Tuesday 26th September 2pm-5pm, hosted by Sage. Winners, shortlistees and highly commended chosen.

Sponsorship:

BT headline

Capgemini - category (innovator) and table

Sage - category and table

Baltic training – Programme sponsor

Accenture - category and table

NRG – category only

Orchard category only

NE Futures UTC - category only

Gateshead College - category only

Harvey Nash - category only

£29,300 + VAT confirmed - Total sponsorship incl. table upgrades.

Categories

- Innovator of the Year (sponsored by Capgemini)
- Collaborator of the Year (sponsored by Accenture)
- Skills Developer (sponsored by Gateshead College)
- New Business of the year (sponsored by Sage)
- Growth Explosion - High Growth (2-5yrs), Established (5 years+) (sponsored by NRG)
- Project of the year – Corporate and Public Sector/Academic (sponsored by Harvey Nash)
- International Success Story (sponsored by Orchard)
- Rising Star (sponsored by NE Futures UTC)
- Outstanding Achievement (sponsored by BT)

Bookings

21 x tables

43 x individual tickets

Total £21,445

Dynamo Board dinner

Researching venues and speakers. Possibly Sunderland glass centre.

Dynamo 18

Hosted by Newcastle University at the Urban Sciences Building on Science Central.

Dynamo 18 – careers event

North and South of the river Dynamo careers event

MEMBERSHIP

➤ **New members:**

DRS LLP (£40)

Keystone Law (£40)

Agile Business Consortium (£200)

TOTAL £280

➤ **Lost members:**

NONE

140 members, overall total **£58,320.00**

Action: For cluster groups, share the member directory with leads. Clare to share with the board pre-next meeting.

AOB

➤ Northumbria University is planning another running of its Executive Women Leaders programme. The numbers/price (£1,800 last time)/format will be similar to last time. Dr. Amy Stabler is waiting for confirmation from colleagues about the exact costings. Dates for the sessions are:

- 23rd November
- 14th December
- 11th January
- 8th February
- 8th March
- 19th April

Dynamo members are requested to consider if they have colleagues that they would be interested participating in the programme. Board members are requested to consider acting as mentors to the programme.

➤ From Graham Jordan/David Dunn

Dynamo is being asked to put its name to the Expression of Interest; no financial contribution is

required. If successful, Dynamo members (and other employers) would be able to reclaim 40% of spend

on training courses from providers they would source themselves – possibly including those they're already working with. There is also a possibility of Dynamo members providing training on IT/digital content to other sectors. An Expression of Interest, which David Dunn is writing, needs to be in by 23rd October. Due to holiday, David needs this complete by 11th October. I have attended planning meetings (co-ordinated by Gren Irving of South Tyneside Council on behalf of the councils) as did David Dunn, Jim Mawdsley and Jason Legget. Giselle was invited to the meetings but was unable to attend.

"Through this scheme employers can augment their training budgets by up to 65%"

Action: Giselle happy to input organisations' training budgets into one pot to put into the ESIF SSC bid.