

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

At an inquorate meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held in the Central Teaching Hub, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 7ZJ on Thursday, 22nd March, 2018 the following Members were

PRESENT:

Asif Hamid MBE (Chair)
Professor Dame Janet Beer
Kath Boullen MBE
Dr Laura O'Brien
Dr Jonathan Hague
Mike Houghton
Amanda Lyne
Councillor Rob Polhill
Neil Sturmey
Angela White OBE
Mark Whitworth
Sara Wilde-McKeown

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Joe Anderson OBE
Paul Corcoran
Councillor Phil Davies
Councillor Barrie Grunewald,
Councillor Ian Maher
Councillor Andy Moorhead,
Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
John Syvret OBE
Professor Nigel Weatherill

311. WELCOME

Prior to the start of the meeting, as the host organisation, Dr John Mercer, University of Liverpool, provided the following verbal update on the development of the Materials Innovation Factory, which was situated at the University of Liverpool:-

- Reported that the Factory had been established in 2012 in partnership with Unilever which brought together academia and industry specialists to utilise robotic technology to inform chemistry;
- Outlined that following the success of this partnership, other companies had expressed an interest to develop a similar partnership with the University;
- Explained that this partnership was the largest research and development facility which Unilever had invested in; and
- Highlighted how the collaboration had benefitted the Universities academics and Unilever's scientists by reducing the R&D process from 6 months to 3-4 weeks.

The Chair, thanked Dr John Mercer, Dr Jonathan Hague and Professor Dame Janet Beer for the presentation and hospitality provided and remarked upon the significance of the innovative collaboration.

The Chair also welcomed Mick Allen, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Growth (BEIS) North West, to the meeting. Mick informed the Board that he was the area lead for the Liverpool City Region and provided a short summary of the key activities of the Cities and Local Growth Unit.

312. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Board declared the following situational conflicts in the agenda items shown:-

Member	Minute No.(s)	Nature and Extent of Interest
Angela White OBE	314	Trustee/Director of VOLA Consortium referred to in the LCR Skills Strategy.
Mark Whitworth	318	Represents Peel Ports on the Liverpool John Lennon Airport Board.

313. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The inquorate Board meeting considered the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 18 January 2018 and were received as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Attendance at Board Meetings

The Chairman reflected on the low attendance of Leaders from the Local Authorities and sought the Boards approval to write to each of the Leaders to encourage them to attend future meetings of this Board, as this is a platform for Public/Private Sector Partnership.

Matters Arising and actions from the previous meeting

The Chair referred to the separate note which had been circulated with the agenda papers which provided a summary of the matters arising and actions from the previous meeting. There were no comments made or received on this note and the points were taken as read.

Board Members' attention was additionally drawn to the following:-

Minute 297 – Board/Sub Structure and Composition

The Chair reported that the Appointments Committee had recently confirmed the appointment of Chris Fry who would replace Neil Sturmev on this Board. On behalf of the Board he wished to place on record his thanks to Neil for his contribution to this Board and now welcomes Chris Fry.

It was also reported that Kath Boullen MBE appointment to this Board would come to an end in August 2018 having served the maximum allowable of two three year terms. The Chair paid thanks to the significant contribution Kath had made to the work of the Board.

Minute 296 – Annual Conversation

Mark Basnett referred to previous discussions regarding Board membership which had recognised that representation from the Skills/Further Education sector was required. He reported that the appropriate mechanisms through open competition would be put in place to identify a representative from the Skills/Further Education sector whilst at the same time identifying a suitable replacement for Kath Boullen MBE.

It was further reported, that subject to the Board's approval, Mark Whitworth would be representing the Transport sector on the Board.

Minute 308 – The Liverpool Brand – Taking the Next Steps

Mark Basnett reported that a subsequent presentation on this topic had been provided to the Metro Mayor, Leaders and Mayor and a further update would be brought to a future meeting of this Board.

It was AGREED that the inquorate Board meeting recommend, through written procedures:-

- (i) That the Chair write to the Metro Mayor, Leaders and Mayor to encourage them to attend future meetings of this Board;
- (ii) Chris Fry, KPMG, be appointed as Neil Sturmeys successor on the LEP Board;
- (iii) Recruitment process for the positions of the Skills/Further Education representative and a replacement for Kath Boullen MBE be undertaken; and
- (iv) Mark Whitworth, be appointed as the Transport Sector representative on the LEP Board.

314. SKILLS (P)

The inquorate Board meeting considered a report which provided an update on the implementation of the Skills Strategy.

Sue Jarvis, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, informed the Board that in keeping with previous activity at the International Business Festival (IBF) a Skills Show would be held at IFB 2018 on 18 June 2018. The Skills Show would provide an opportunity for employers to showcase job opportunities available to young people across the City Region. To date, a number of businesses had confirmed they would be attending and Board Members were encouraged to participate in the Skills Show and also encourage other businesses to attend.

The Board was informed that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority approved the Skills Strategy at their meeting on 9 March 2018. The Strategy was a high level strategic framework which set out the vision for skills in the City Region.

The Skills Strategy contained six strategic outcomes and to support the implementation of the outcomes an Action Plan was being developed which would include actions for the LEP. Sector Managers from the LEP were working with the Employment and Skills Team and the respective LEP Sector Boards would be asked to support the development of curriculums which would provide employers with an opportunity to influence the curriculum delivery at Colleges.

Board Members were informed of the Skills for Growth documents which had been produced to inform the current and future skills needs of businesses to schools, colleges, training providers and universities. Accordingly, the first to be produced was the Health and Care Skills for Growth Action Plan.

In considering the report and presentation, Board Members raised the following questions and comments:-

- Amanda Lyne reported that the Skills Show held at the IFB 2016 had been very engaging and interactive for young people and suggested that this should be emphasised in communications circulated to the target audience.
- The Chairman reflected on the importance of the implementation of the Skills Strategy across the City Region and to support its implementation he suggested that a Sub-Board of this Board be established. It was proposed that the Sub Board include representatives from this Board along with the Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Team.
- Professor Dame Janet Beer highlighted the importance of promoting and making available opportunities for existing employees to access high level skills provision.
- There were a number of private sector brokerage services who specialised in providing access to freelance employment and alternative employment styles.
- The work of the Liverpool City Region Skills Brokerage Service was highlighted as being already in operation. However, the funding for the Service would shortly end and an evaluation of the Service would be undertaken to determine alternative funding options to maintain the Service.
- Concern was expressed regarding the associated underspend connected to the apprenticeship levy. The Board was informed that the concerns relating to the underspend were reflected across the other Mayoral Combined Authorities.

It was AGREED that the inquorate Board meeting, recommended, through written procedures:-

- (i) a Sub-Board be established to support the action planning process;
- (ii) Board Members identify appropriate individuals from their respective organisations and provide those nominations to Mark Basnett or Tony Wade;
- (iii) the Skills Strategy actions assigned to the LEP be endorsed; and
- (iv) the Skills Strategy Action Plan be presented to a future meeting of this Board.

315. CITY CENTRE CONNECTIVITY (PR)

The inquorate Board meeting received a presentation from Andy Barr, Assistant Director – Highways and Planning, Liverpool City Council, which set out the following:-

- Summarised the £100m highway investment across the City Centre, which included the:-
 - A565 – Great Howard Street Bridge replacement;
 - North Liverpool key corridors improvement, which incorporated a new carriageway and key works to Regent Road, Leeds Street to Boundary Street, improved access to the Cruise Liner Terminal and to Bank Hall Bridge.
- Outlined the key components of Phase Two of the City Centre Connectivity programme which focused on Leeds Street to Princes Dock and would include the relocation of the Isle of Man Terminal.
- Explained in detail the 8 programmes which formed Phase One of the City Centre Connectivity programme which aimed to improve traffic flow across the City Centre, which included:-
 - Brownlow Hill – improved access to the Knowledge Quarter and creating a gateway into the City Centre;
 - Canning Dock Bridges – improved connection across the waterfront;
 - Lime Street Gateway – creation of a new City Bus Hub by relocating the Bus Terminus from Queens Square to Lime Street.
 - Victoria Street – creation of a new car park with 300 spaces;
 - Moorfields Station – moving the entrance to the station to ground level;
 - Creation of a City Coach Park at Riverside Drive;
 - The Strand Corridor – focus on connecting the City Centre to the Waterfront by relocating road space, reducing bus movement and improving traffic flow; and
 - Improvements to the Crown Plaza junction.
- Highlighted long term plans to improve the M62 Rocket Interchange, the Liverpool John Lennon Airport Eastern Access Road, the Festival Gardens Access Route and the Strand Tunnel.

In making the presentation particular emphasis was given to the Strand component of the programme. This had recently been changed and improvements made to increase capacity and which improved the BCR score of the Full Business Case.

In considering the presentation, Board Members raised the following questions and comments:-

- Clarity was sought on how the co-ordination of traffic lights was managed across the City Centre.

The Board was informed that the Liverpool City Council recognised there was a high proportion of traffic signal controls across the City and work was being undertaken to streamline this where possible. As an example, it was reported that the traffic light signals along The Strand had been amended which had created an improved movement of traffic along this corridor.

- An update was sought on the City Council's position on the Northern Access Road.

The Board was informed that to date the City Council had received very little information from Highway's England on the implications of traffic flow with the introduction of the Northern Access Road.

- Continued promotion of actions pedestrians should be undertaking to keep themselves safe should be considered.
- Connectivity to the northern part of Liverpool was vital to support tourism growth during the next 5 to 10 years and would create future capacity in traffic management.
- Board Members emphasised the importance of communicating the key messages, in particular with regards to The Strand development, with residents, media outlets, businesses and other stakeholders.

It was AGREED that the inquorate Board meeting recommended, through written procedures, to endorse the approval of LGF to support the Full Business Case for the Liverpool City Centre Connectivity scheme. However, in so doing, the LEP Board requested regular updates and in particular for the Strand component which has been the subject of changes.

316. LEP/LGF PERFORMANCE (PR)

The inquorate Board received a presentation which provided an update on the performance of the Liverpool City Regional Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Growth Funds(LGF).

Tony Wade, Finance Director, Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership provided an update on the outcome of Annual Conversation process and the ongoing Ministerial Review of LEP and other relevant and associated matters which included:-

- A summary of the actions required following the LEP Annual Conversation;
- An update on the ongoing Ministerial Review of LEP's;
- The findings of the Public Accounts Committee review of the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP; and
- An update on the recommendations to be implemented following the Ney Review.

Frank Rogers, Interim Head of Paid Service, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, provided a performance update on LGF activity, which included:-

- Outlined the four priorities which LGF1, LGF2 and LGF3 had focused upon, which also aligned with the core priorities contained within the LCR Growth Strategy;
- Summarised the progress of each of the projects contained within the LGF Portfolio mix, which highlighted that £71m of projects were still awaiting approval from the Combined Authority and which had to be completed by 2021;
- Set out the factors which were affecting delivery performance and identified a number of actions to improve this performance through investment in capacity in the Combined Authority;
- Explained the possible risks should LGF1, LGF2 and LGF3 not be committed by 2021.

In conclusion, Board Members were informed that a number of significant appointments had recently been made to the senior management of the LCR Combined Authority which would address some of the factors which were affecting the performance delivery.

In considering the presentation, Board Members raised the following questions and comments:-

- The Chairman requested that the organisational structure of the LCR Combined Authority be circulated to Board Members to provide them with an understanding of how the issue of capacity was being addressed. Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of ensuring that capacity was addressed quickly to ensure key objectives could be delivered.
- The Board was reassured that the current underspend in the LGF monies would be allocated in accordance with Government timelines.
- A Board Member highlighted that Sector Boards should be identifying pipeline projects for consideration by the LCR Combined Authority; and
- It was suggested that a cultural change was required across the LCR Combined Authority to welcome pipeline projects from external sources.

It was AGREED that the inquorate Board meeting recommend, through written procedures:-

- (i) that the activities undertaken by the LCR Combined Authority to address the capacity within the organisation be supported;
- (ii) a presentation on the organisational structure of the LCR Combined Authority be presented to the next meeting of the Board; and
- (iii) the Sector Sub-Boards be asked to identify appropriate pipeline projects to be considered as part of the LGF Funding stream.

317. INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY (P)

The inquorate Board considered a report which provided an update on the progress, findings and timeline to produce the Internationalisation Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Due to time constraints in the consideration of this item, Board Members were informed that the presentation which they were due to consider would be circulated electronically and feedback, particularly from the Universities would be welcome.

It was AGREED that the inquorate Board meeting recommended, through written procedures:-

- (i) that the presentation be circulated to all Board Member and comments on the content of the presentation be provided to Mark Basnett; and
- (ii) an update on the progress of the Internationalisation Strategy be provided to a future meeting of this Board.

318. LJLA (P)

The inquorate Board considered a report which aimed to provide the basis for a continued discussion on how to maximise the opportunity that Liverpool John Lennon Airport presented for the City Region.

Board Members attention was drawn to the six suggestions for joint working which were detailed at page 54 of the report now submitted.

The inquorate Board meeting recommended, through written procedure, that six suggestions for joint working as detailed in the report be approved.

319. CHAIR'S UPDATE (V)

The Chair informed the Board of the following matters:-

- A report would be presented to the next meeting of the Board which would seek approval on the One Front Door approach between the LCR Combined Authority, LCR LEP, Liverpool Vision and Merseytravel.
- The recent attendance at MIPIM by the LEP, LCR Combined Authority and some constituent Local Authorities had attracted positive comment from Central Government. The event had also generated a number of innovative ideas which supported cross collaboration.
- The LEP Conference was taking place on 8 May 2018 and Board Members were encouraged to attend and encourage attendance by other organisations.

320. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Neil Sturmeay requested that in the management of the Board's agenda consideration be given to Data Connectivity Capacity.

The Board was informed that this information was currently being produced and a report could be considered at the next Board meeting.

Minutes 311 to 320 be received as a correct record on the 24th day of May 2018.

Chairperson of the Board

(The meeting closed at 11.20 am)