



**MEETING OF LIVERPOOL CITY REGION
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
BOARD**

AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, 20th September, 2018

TIME: 8.30am – 11.00am

VENUE: IDEA Centre, Cronton Lane, Widnes, WA8 5WA

**LIVERPOOL CITY REGION
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
BOARD**

AGENDA

WELCOME FROM MARY MURPHY, COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages 1 - 10)

3. MANAGING DIRECTORS REPORT (REPORT)

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR Local Enterprise Partnership

(Pages 11 - 16)

4. DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS (PRESENTATION)

Dr Edward Harcourt – Liverpool John Moores University

5. SKILLS UPDATE (VERBAL)

Kirsty Pearce, Director of Strategic Commissioning and Policy, LCR Combined Authority

To include the outcome from the business roundtable session on 17 September 2018.

6. LEP REVIEW (PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION)

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR Local Enterprise Partnership

Presentation and discussion on the requirements of the LEP review and proposed structural changes under consideration to further strengthen the role of the LEP and provide the business growth delivery capability needed to realise the City Region's economic ambitions.

7. ONE FRONT DOOR (DISCUSSION)

Mark Bousfield, Director of Commercial Investment and Development,
LCR Combined Authority

Progress and next steps

8. CHAIR'S UPDATE (VERBAL)

*Convention of the North, Northern Powerhouse LEPs (NP11); Meeting with
Skills Minister*

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of new LEP Board Members

**NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2018, THE ACCELERATOR
BUILDING, 1 DAULBY STREET, LIVERPOOL, L7 8XZ**

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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held in the Sensor City Liverpool, 31 Russell Street, Liverpool , L3 5LJ on Thursday, 19th July, 2018 the following Members were

PRESENT:

Asif Hamid MBE (Chair)
Kath Boullen MBE
Dr Laura O'Brien
Chris Fry
Councillor Phil Davies
Councillor Rob Polhill
Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
Paul Corcoran
Councillor Derek Long
Councillor Graham Morgan

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Joe Anderson OBE
Professor Dame Janet Beer
Dr Jonathan Hague
Mike Houghton
Amanda Lyne
John Syvret CBE
Professor Nigel Weatherill
Angela White OBE
Mark Whitworth
Sara Wilde-McKeown

321. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman highlighted the importance of declaring interests and sought any Declarations of interest from Board Members.

No Declarations of interest were submitted by Board Members.

322. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2018 and were received as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

323. LCR DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION PLAN (P)

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of progress on the development of a Digital Infrastructure Action Plan (DIAP) for the Liverpool City Region and highlighted the proposed way forward.

Mark Basnett thanked John Whaling, who had led on the DIAP for the City Region. The Board was informed that the purpose of the DIAP was to create an extensive fibre network across the City Region and sought to connect the GTT transatlantic

internet fibreoptic cable landing at Southport and the high performance computing capabilities at the STFC Hartee Centre in Daresbury.

The Board was informed that the proposed approach was a holistic one which sought to complement a range of City Region policies and investments including energy, planning, housing, skills strategies and transport. To develop this work, it was reported that a Core Group comprising of representatives from the six Local Authorities, the LEP, Combined Authority Policy Leads and Merseytravel had been established in September 2017.

In conclusion, the Board was informed that the DIAP would comprise of a three-fold approach which would involve an innovative cooperative asset sharing infrastructure development model, the provision of a series of Digital Exchanges, which would aim to have one in each of the six Local Authority areas and a City Region wide 'dig once' policy.

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

- Metro Mayor S Rotheram drew Board Members' attention to paragraph 3.2 and 3.9 within the report which outlined that each Local Authority could benefit from approximately £220 million in savings and economic uplift. Furthermore, this approach would ensure that the City Region was at the forefront of data analytics and provided opportunities to generate economic growth across the City Region.
- The Chairperson, Mr A Hamid MBE, stressed the importance of this development and how it would ensure the City Region was at the forefront for attracting business to the area.
- Kath Boullen MBE sought clarity on paragraph 3.8 of the report which suggested that St Helens and Wirral could be excluded from the programme?

The Board was advised that the intention was to ensure that all six Local Authority areas were included within the Plan as it was recognised that there would be a greater impact for the entire City Region to be digitally connected.

- Paul Corcoran indicated that the Creative and Digital Board should not be used as the only means for stakeholder engagement in the development of the Plan and emphasised the importance of engaging the digital community in the process. He also highlighted that the Plan would have a broader impact than just the digital community and highlighted how by creating the right environment, through the Investment Strategy and the Place Making Strategy businesses could scale up as well as encouraging new start-ups.

It was AGREED that the Board:-

- (i) note the context, significance and positive potential economic impact for the City Region of the proposed delivery of a full fibre spine network;
- (ii) the ambition to become the most digitally connected City Region in the UK be supported;
- (iii) the next steps as outlined in the report now submitted be endorsed; and

- (iv) ensure the maximum impact for the City Region all six Local Authority areas be included.

324. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO DEVELOP STRUCTURES AND EXECUTIVE CAPACITY (P)

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the progress the LCR Combined Authority had made since May 2017 to establish the executive capacity required to deliver the Mayoral, Combined Authority and LEP priorities.

The Chairman, Mr A Hamid MBE, informed the Board that the LEP was responsible and accountable for LGF projects.

Frank Rogers, Interim Head of Paid Service, LCR Combined Authority, reported that the LCR Combined Authority was formally established in April 2014 and at that time it was agreed that the Combined Authority would not directly employ its own staff. Instead staff were deployed on an ad-hoc basis from constituent Local Authorities, Merseytravel and the LEP to deliver and support the Combined Authorities priorities. This position continued until the Mayoral Combined Authority became a statutory body on 8 May 2017 and Steve Rotheram was elected the first Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region.

The Board was informed that following the election it was evident that the Combined Authority required a dedicated executive team. Accordingly the following key appointments had been made:-

- Mark Bousfield – Director of Commercial Development and Investment;
- Kirsty Pearce – Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning;
- John Fogarty – Director of Corporate Services; and
- Jill Coule – Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer.

The Board was advised that the recruitment process was ongoing and it was critical for the Combined Authority to ensure it had the right capacity and talent to maximise the opportunities available to it. This was particularly evidenced following discussions with Central Government which had secured a change in the capital/revenue split from 75/25 to 60/40. This change had provided the Combined Authority with an additional £4.5million revenue to develop projects and was recognition from Central Government that the Combined Authority was making progress.

In conclusion, the Board was informed that recruitment was still ongoing and the direction now for the Combined Authority was to focus on delivery.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram emphasised the importance of the Combined Authority having the required capacity to ensure projects were delivered across the City Region.

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

- The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, sought clarity on the timeframe in which the recruitment process for the Combined Authority would be concluded?

The Board was informed that the structure would continue to be populated to suit the requirements of the Combined Authority. It was reported that the Combined Authority had recently submitted a bid to Homes England, which had been unsuccessful. This had been as a direct consequence of not having the appropriate skilled staff within the organisation to support.

In learning from this experience it was imperative that the Combined Authority recruited the optimal number of staff to generate successful funding bids in the future. Consequently, as part of ongoing discussions with Central Government, they had acknowledged that the Combined Authority was making progress with its recruitment. As such Central Government had indicated that should robust schemes for Homes England be developed in the future then they would consider those submissions.

- The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, reflected upon the previous allocation of SIF monies and reported that a barrier to the timely allocation of funds had been the limited number of staff available to deal with the applications.

Frank Rogers informed the Board that this particular issue had been recognised as part of the review of the SIF process. He informed the Board that future SIF applications would be conducted with greater expediency, in particular noting that the production of the business case and developing the funding agreement would be conducted in parallel to reduce timeframes.

- Paul Cororcan sought clarity on how the structure was being developed, particularly to avoid duplication with what was already in existence within the Local Authorities.

Frank Rogers reported that the development of the Combined Authority structure had been undertaken in conjunction with the Chief Executives of the Local Authorities. It was recognised that the practise of seconding staff from Local Authorities was not sustainable and where appropriate the Combined Authority was looking to transfer those staff. The recruitment to some positions had required candidates to demonstrate different skills and attributes to those which would normally be found from within a Local Authority environment.

- The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, sought an update on when the recruitment to the post of Head of Paid Service to the Combined Authority would be resolved. Noting that Mr Frank Rogers had been the Interim Head of Paid Service to the Combined Authority since May 2017.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram reported that it had been important for the Combined Authority to develop its capacity which it had made significant progress in achieving. He paid tribute to the remarkable job Frank Rogers had undertaken during his time as the Interim Head of Paid Service and recognised that this required addressing in the long term.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the approach being followed with regard to the resourcing of the LCR CA to build executive capacity be endorsed; and

- (iii) updates on the progress of building executive capacity across the LCR CA be brought to future meetings of this Board.

325. LOCAL GROWTH FUND DATA RETURN Q4 2017-18 (PR)

Tony Wade, Finance Director, Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, provided a verbal update on the Local Growth Fund Data Return for Quarter 4 2017-18. He referred to the LGF Data Return Dashboard and accompanying report that were circulated separately and noted that the Dashboard could not be published until it had been cleared by Government. He reported that the overall performance of the Local Growth Fund was rated green in quarter 4, however, this was an aggregate score and there were 4 projects which had been rated as red/amber.

The Board was informed that improved performance continued during Quarter 4 and ensured the award value for 2017-18 was fully utilised. However, an underspend of £49 million would be carried forward, which was created in prior years. In terms of commitment of funds, rather than expenditure incurred, it was noted that there was approximately £40 million of uncommitted funds against the total award value of £279 million. However, there were projects in development which could be allocated from this uncommitted fund and would result in the reduction of the uncommitted funds.

Mick Allen, Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLOG) reported that they were satisfied that there had been continued and significant improvements in this quarter's performance.

In considering the presentation, the Board debated its role in monitoring the LGF Fund and ensuring the funds were delivered in a timely manner. To support the Board in this role, Members were informed that a performance dashboard would be provided at the next meeting.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) the verbal updated be noted; and
- (ii) the performance dashboard be presented to the next meeting of this Board.

326. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY (P/PR)

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the development of the International Strategy and Delivery Plan. The Board was informed that the development of the Plan had been supported by an International Working Group which consisted of representation from business, higher education and public sector.

It was reported that EY had been appointed in March 2018 to work with the LEP, LCR Combined Authority and City Region partners to develop an International Strategy for the City Region. The Strategy sought to utilise the areas of trade, investment, visitors, students and research as these areas were deemed to have a strong baseline for the City Region and also provided an opportunity to capitalise on emerging markets.

Accordingly, the Board received a presentation from representatives from EY and Mickledore which set out the following: -

- Outlined the five key themes of the Strategy which included Foreign Investment, Trade, Visitors, Oversea Students and Research and Development;
- Explained how the key themes had been identified through baseline analysis, available public information, future trends and over 30 stakeholder events involving businesses and other organisations;
- Summarised the five enablers which would support sustainable growth across the City Region and be key factors within the International Strategy, which included: -
 - Network and collaboration – this would utilise existing networks for business development, talents, R&D and knowledge sharing;
 - Skills and capabilities – boosting skills and attracting and retaining talents from across the City Region and in particular the Universities;
 - Physical connectivity – strengthening the supply chains and supporting agglomeration;
 - Digital and smart technology – promoting digital solutions and enhancing digital connectivity; and
 - Low carbon – capitalising on the City Region’s assets and expertise within this sector.

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

- Metro Mayor S Rotheram suggested that in addition to benchmarking against national standards it would be worthwhile to compare the performance of the LCR Combined Authority against the other six Combined Authorities in England;
- The Board was informed that the Strategy recognised the importance of encouraging visitors to extend their stay beyond the City Centre. The Strategy also recognised the importance of creating the right job opportunities for students once they had completed their studies across the City Region. Furthermore, the Strategy also recognised the importance of encouraging and embedding within international students a strong alumnus with the City Region, thus when they left the area they would act as an ambassador to develop strong trade relationships with their home country.
- The Board was informed that the work of the International Strategy had a number of cross cutting themes with the local Industrial Strategy and the Investment Strategy and requested that Kirsty Pearce and Mark Bousfield be invited to join the International Strategy Working Group to ensure these areas of activity were aligned.
- The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, recognised that the creation of the Strategy had removed some of the fragmentation which had previously been experienced.
- Councillor P Davies highlighted that a key factor to the success of the Strategy would be to improve communications, in particular, with the significant companies across the City Region, so they understood the work of the Strategy, what it was trying to achieve and the role they could play within this.

It was AGREED that the presentation given in support of the paper provided in the Board pack be circulated to allow further feedback and comments on the strategy and delivery plan, by Friday 27 July, to allow the draft Strategy to be endorsed. The direction of travel and the development of a business led delivery plan to execute the Strategy be noted.

327. SKILLS (V)

The Board was introduced to Kirsty Pearce, Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning who had recently joined the LCR Combined Authority.

Kirsty informed the Board that she wanted to utilise the knowledge and experience from within the business community to support the skills agenda across the City Region.

Board Members raised the following questions and comments: -

- The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, requested that a separate session focusing on skills be arranged.
- Metro Mayor S Rotheram informed the Board that there were fundamental barriers to attainment across the City Region. He highlighted that the City Region had the poorest rates of NVQ Level 3 in the Country and highlighted how NVQ Level 3 should be the precursor to go on and achieve NVQ Level 6. He explained how, if Central Government devolved the Apprenticeship Levy to the City Region, this would provide an opportunity to address the skills shortage. However, to achieve this the necessary evidence had to be shared with Central Government to demonstrate how the skills base had declined and to also outline how the City Region was best placed to address this.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) the verbal update be noted; and
- (ii) a skills session be arranged.

328. LCR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGY (PR)

The Board received a presentation from Mark Bousfield, Director of Commercial Development and Investment, which provided an update on the development of the LCR Strategic Investment Fund Strategy.

Board Members were informed that the Strategic Investment Fund Strategy had been drafted to guide the Combined Authority's investment activities for the coming 18 months. The Board was informed that the seven LEP Sector Boards had been engaged in the development of the Strategy. The Strategy provided the framework for the Strategic Investment Fund, including its sources of funding, its principles and priorities, approval process and fund recycling model. The Strategy was also built on the following three priorities of the Single Growth Strategy which were: -

- Productivity;
- People; and

- Place.

Mark informed the Board that the significant change for this Strategy was that it was demand led and would be focused on generating economic activity across the City Region. Furthermore, applicants would be asked to demonstrate how they would be able to repay awards from the Strategic Investment Fund. He also outlined how the internal processes within the LCR Combined Authority had been changed to reflect the emphasis of the Strategy which would now be supported by an Investment Team.

The Board were provided with an overview of the four stage process for determining future SIF applications, which included Concept (Strategic Outline Case), Interim (Outline Business Case), Final (Full Business Case) and then approval by the LCR Combined Authority.

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

- Councillor P Davies welcomed the Strategy, in particular the structure it provided in dealing with economic opportunities. However, he sought clarity on whether the Strategy would provide an indication of the length of time the bidding process would take, as a guide for applicants.

The Board was informed that the time frame for each application would vary. However, when dealing with the applicants at the beginning of the process an indication of the timeframe would be provided to them.

- The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, welcomed the simplified process and suggested that discussions should take place with businesses across the City Region to highlight the opportunities available with the Strategic Investment Fund Strategy.
- Paul Corcoran was encouraged by the Strategy, in particular welcoming the approach to encourage submissions which generated sustainable economic growth in the City Region.

In conclusion, Mark Bousfield noted that there was a requirement for the LCR Combined Authority to inform businesses of the opportunities available from the Strategic Investment Fund Strategy.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) the draft LRC Strategic Investment Fund Strategy be supported; and
- (ii) Mark Bousfield and Paul Corcoran devise an approach to communicate to businesses the opportunities available with the LCR Strategic Investment Fund Strategy.

329. ENERGY UPDATE (PR)

Board Members received a verbal update from Mark Knowles, LCR LEP – Head of Low Carbon Sector which provided an update on the two energy challenges of zero carbon by 2040 and Mersey Tidal power.

Mark informed the Board that the Energy Strategy would be finalised in September 2018 and would include a number of proposals explaining how the challenge of achieving zero carbon by 2040 could be achieved. The Board was also informed that a sustainable business case was being developed for the Mersey Tidal Power project and would be presented to the LCR Combined Authority at their next meeting for consideration.

The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, wished to place on record his thanks to Mark Knowles for the work and dedication in developing the proposals for the Mersey Tidal power project.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram echoed those comments and thanked Mark for his incredible leadership and understanding of both projects which were of significant importance to the City Region.

It was AGREED that the Energy Update be noted.

330. CHAIR'S UPDATE (V)

The Chair informed the Board that Kath Boullen MBE had served her maximum term of membership on the LEP Board and as such today was her last meeting. He thanked Kath for the work she had undertaken for the City Region, in particular in shaping the European Regional Development Fund and wished her continued success in her future endeavours.

He also reported that 18 expression of interest forms had been received to identify Kath's replacement on the LEP Board alongside the existing vacancy. He reported that an Executive Summary would be prepared and shared with Board Members and from this a short list of candidates would be identified. He also noted that the position of Vice-Chair of the LEP Board was still vacant. Accordingly, he invited the private sector Board Members to write to him with expressions of interest.

The outcome of the LEP Review would be published on Monday 23 July 2018. A summary of the findings would be circulated to all Board Members.

Minutes 321 to 330 be received as a correct record on the 20th day of September 2018.

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Chairperson of the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership

(The meeting closed at 11.09 am)

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Managing Director's Report

LEP Board Meeting 20 September 2018

Author:
Mark Basnett
LCR LEP

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Board Members on the headline activity that has been undertaken by the LEP during the first half of the financial year and significant events planned over the coming months.
- 1.2 It is also provided to prompt a discussion as to the format, content and frequency of reports preferred by the Board.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that LEP Board Members note this report and advise as to the report frequency, format and content they would prefer in future Board meetings.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The report is structured into the 5 primary activity areas of the LEP namely:

- Business Growth
- Education and Skills
- Sector Development
- Trade and Investment
- Partnership Working

- 3.2 The objective of this delivery activity is to fulfil the City Region's Growth Strategy, particularly in the productivity and people components of that strategy and to help deliver the ultimate objective of inclusive growth.

4. Main Report

Business Growth

Growth Hub

- The City Region Growth Hub has now handled over 12,000 business enquiries since its inception directing businesses to the most appropriate support available and is expected to handle a further 3,000 during 2018/19.
- A new Account Management service has been introduced this year for 300 high growth potential and scale up businesses across the City Region to provide more intensive support
- The Growth Hub CRM system managed by the LEP now has 160 users from 32 partner organisations across the City Region including LAs, Chambers, Growth Hub, ESIF projects, Skills for Growth and the Apprenticeship Hub
- There are over 20,000 businesses on the system – a mix of companies and individuals seeking to start a business – making it a highly valuable resource
- The LEP is represented on national government Boards for Growth Hub development, the Ministerial Scale up Task Force and it Chairs the National Growth Hub Data and Impact Board

New Markets

- The LEP provides a New Markets service for high growth businesses by part funding company growth projects using commercially procured professional advice. To date 130 businesses have been supported and 40 jobs created as a result. The target to the end of the programme in December 2018 is 160 businesses.

- A bid for ESIF funding to contribute 50% to support a further 2 years of this programme has been submitted. This would support a further 140 businesses and create over 100 new jobs.

Education and Skills

- Schools Enterprise Network: Through 50% funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company the LEP has established a network of 5 Enterprise Coordinators, recruiting 80 volunteer Enterprise Advisers from the business community to provide support to the leadership teams in 100 senior schools right across the City Region.
- As a result of this excellent performance it has just been awarded a further 2 year contract to 50% support the extension of this network to 110 schools with an equivalent number of volunteer advisers – helping schools to embed and coordinate enterprise and business in the school year.
- Careers Hub: The LEP, with CA support, has been successful in securing funding for a Careers Hub for 34 schools across the City Region to help them accelerate and enhance their business engagement, careers and enterprise work and deliver significant progress on 8 Gatsby Benchmarks within each school. A Careers Hub Manager has been appointed by the LEP and will start at the end of September.

Sector Development

Advanced Manufacturing

- Digital Manufacturing Week: The UK's leading manufacturing industry publication, The Manufacturer, brought its Digital Manufacturing Week to the Liverpool City Region (from its long-term home in Birmingham) for the first time in November 2017 as a result of the significant support of the local partners co-ordinated by the LEP. This was a huge success and produced a doubling in size of both the Leaders Conference and the Smart Factory Expo, and with 4,500 visitors across the events has created Europe's biggest digital manufacturing show.
- It returns to Liverpool in 2018 and is doubling in both size (now involving the whole of Exhibition Centre Liverpool) and number of visitors, currently on course to attract 8,000 across the two days. In light of this growth and with the support of Place Marketing funding, Liverpool City Region will have a greater presence at the expo this year, with both a stand for investment purposes and a Solutions Theatre designed to showcase the very best manufacturing expertise and technologies on offer in the Liverpool City Region.
- Made Smarter NW Pilot: Phillip Hammond announced the award of £20m for the NW to administer the regional pilot of a National Adoption Programme regarding Industry 4.0 technologies as articulated in the Made Smarter Review. The UK leading LCR 4.0 project was instrumental in securing this for the region and the LCR 4.0 partners (the LEP and the Virtual Engineering Centre) were instrumental in writing the business justification that was presented to BEIS.
- The pilot, in conjunction with LCR 4.0, has unquestionably made the Liverpool City Region the leading UK player in the adoption of the 4th Industrial Revolution. As such we are hopeful of capturing the launch of the NW pilot for Digital Manufacturing Week in November.

Digital and Creative

- Digital Infrastructure Action Plan: The LEP has managed the initial phase of development of the LCR Digital Infrastructure Action Plan for the CA (access point mapping, 263km "Superspine" indicative route and £22million costs, plus wider delivery approaches, governance, economic benefits, potential Digital Exchange locations) which was signed off by the CA on 21 August 2018. Our focus now is on detailed development/specification as a precursor to delivery, and we are already in discussion with DCMS re LFFN funding.

- Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund: The LCR has a direct interest in 2 of the 18 submissions shortlisted from over 250 nationwide under Wave 3 of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, both intended to put the UK at the forefront of respective industrial R&D: (a) industry-led Glass Futures project intended to revolutionise practices and productivity in the UK glass industry with its primary hub at NSG/Pilkington in St.Helens; (b) Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging, for which Unilever is the lead industrial partner, and which we are pitching to host the Challenge HQ for. The LEPs role has been primary strategic advocacy and pan-LCR stakeholder support coordination role through the Innovation Board in conjunction with the CA.
- Strength in Places Fund: Two LCR bids have been submitted to the highly competitive UKRI £115m funding competition directly linked to Science & Innovation Audits seeking to catalyse cluster development in areas of demonstrable existing excellence around the UK. LCR projects are AI for materials led by STFC and UoL (with wider NW links to Royce/Manchester) and infectious disease led by LSTM (with wider NW links to Alderley Park). The LEP role has been through the Innovation Board seeking to secure strategic prioritisation to minimise the number of bids & intensive LCR stakeholder engagement and support, in conjunction with the CA.
- Digital Summit: The LEP is co-leading and developing the 2nd Digital (& Createch) Summit to be held in November at Hinterlands sponsored by the LCR Activate project. The event seeks to build on the huge success of last year's event and will be SME-focused but with direct involvement of national bodies

Health and Life Sciences

- Science Industry Partnership: Working with the LCR CA to develop a local Science Industry Partnership to support skills developments in the pharma and med-tech sectors
- Funding Bids: Supporting applications for the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, including AI and healthy ageing (aligned to NHS investment). Infectious diseases Strength in Places bid (£18m bid/£78m total - 420 direct/350 indirect jobs).
- Supporting further company investment in the region including new 70 job investment in Knowledge Quarter and several others in development in Sefton and Halton. Helped organise "Maximising the economic and social value" event in Halton to support NHS colleagues leading regional transformation activities understand economic priorities
- Supporting public health colleagues to engage with the CA and with relevant companies as they develop the LCR Wealth and Wellbeing Plan.
- ERDF Health Innovation Exchange – project on target with 60 SMEs supported
- Helium Project: Interreg Helium project to showcase health innovation is progressing well. Showcasing LCR Health Innovation Expertise at Dutch Design Week in October. ERDF Place Marketing - supporting Health and Life Sciences investment visit to Denmark/Sweden at the end of September.
- EPIC: Applicant on new, regional health-focussed ERDF bid under consideration (Proposed £2m/45 SMEs supported)

Low Carbon Energy

- NW Energy Hub: Recruitment for the new NW Energy Hub team, based at and managed by the LEP, will be completed by the end of September. The new team of three energy specialists will provide advice and leadership to energy projects across the North West from their base at the LEP. There is a network of five Energy Hubs being established across England as partnerships between BEIS and the host LEPs.
- Power from the Mersey: Phase 2 of the Mersey Tidal project commenced in September. The recruitment process for a dedicated project director is underway. A procurement process is underway to recruit a set of principal advisors for the technical, commercial and environmental aspects of Phase 2. Subject to approval by the CA in July, Phase 2 will deliver a full business case for the project by December 2019.

- Hydrogen transport System: Bids are being prepared to the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund and Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to deliver a significant hydrogen transport system for the City Region. This will initially comprise of hydrogen vehicle refuelling stations in Halton and St Helens, alongside a fleet of up to 40 vehicles forming a mixed fleet of buses, municipal vehicles such as refuse trucks and commercial vans. In addition, hydrogen provision will be secured to support new hydrogen train fleets and the Mersey Ferry. Project partners include the LEP, CA, Merseytravel, Halton Council, Inovyn, BOC Linde, Alstom, Ulemco and the University of Liverpool and LJMU.

Port and Logistics

- Global Logistics Hub: The Port has actively contributed to the development of the City Region Internationalisation Strategy which seeks to use the City Region's status as a Global Logistics Hub to attract investment in industry sectors that benefit from proximity to the Hub.
- The LEP is in ongoing discussions on how to maximise this with regard to key sectors of activity including manufacturing, construction and food and drink.

Professional and Business Services

- Baseline and Strategic Priorities Report: The PBS [baseline review](#) and Strategic Priorities was published setting out the structure of the sector and the key priorities for growth. Copies will be available at the LEP Board and it can be downloaded from the LEP website.
- A Comms plan is in place to share and discuss these finding widely across the City Region, both directly and through partners inc Chambers of Commerce, Universities and a simple and clear set of sector infographics have been developed for widespread use.
- Property sub-group: Procurement brief for a CBD Strategic Regeneration Framework is live working with Liverpool City Council and the Liverpool Bid team. A consultant will be appointed by end of October to complete the consultation, LCR office demand analysis and SRF and CBD vision by May 2019.
- Skills: Pilot underway to improve aspiration and confidence in year 9s through an emotional intelligence and resilience programme run by QVC. University of Liverpool management School (ULMS) shadowing programme underway, Hope University student mentors to school year 9s and Insight to Business awards work placements.
- Events - Valuations event at KPMG with ICAEW had 40 attendees and was well received. In the pipeline: AI event in early 2019 with PwC, Blockchain event with ULMS in January 2019 and another ICEAW event.

Visitor Economy

- Destination Marketing: The VE team have recently completed Liverpool's new destination marketing strategy that will run to 2021/22. The strategy has been developed in conjunction with the Liverpool Visitor Economy Network which includes Liverpool ONE, NML, Liverpool Airport and the ACCL, and aims to generate an additional £171 million in visitor spend over the next 3 years. The team has also been commissioned to write Wirral's destination marketing strategy which will be completed in late 2018.
- Funding: The team are progressing the MMIAH Interreg project that has committed €375K to developing the tourism opportunities from the area's maritime and industrial heritage. It is also progressing SIF opportunities to support business tourism and destination marketing through the creation of a new agency that will support the CA approach to One Front Door approach. The team are also working with City Region partners to explore potential options for a visitor levy to support further growth in the sector.
- Commercial Performance: The team is on track to reach its commercial income targets for 2018/19 having generated £129K income against target of £140K. Key contracts include NML, Sefton Council, Culture Liverpool and the Albert Dock/Gower Street Estates.

- Destination Performance – Liverpool City Region as a whole for 2017 generated a 2.7% increase in visitors of all types, to 73.2m. This is comprised of 59m day visitors (up 2.8%) and 14.3m staying visitor days (up 2.6%). Those staying in paid accommodation rose by 3.6% to 2.63m, with the economic impact resulting from this alone growing by 8.9% to a value of £0.95m. The region has consequently enjoyed increased employment in the sector, equal to 53,547 FTE jobs in total – an increase of 3.5% in total and reflected in job growth in accommodation, food and drink, recreation and retail. The overall economic impact of tourism in the region has grown by 6% in the last year, rising to 4.53bn (4.28bn in 2016).

Trade and Investment

- Internationalisation Strategy: The LEP has managed the development of the City Region’s Internationalisation Strategy and Delivery Plan over the last 6 months on behalf of the Combined Authority. Through this process it has engaged directly and through appointed consultants EY, with a wide range of City Region partners and stakeholders and established a robust evidence base on which the Strategy is based. The Delivery Plan is in the final stages of development.
- Investment Enquiries: The LEP has handled 25 new Inward investment enquiries for the City Region through DIT working with LA partners and have recorded 13 successes from April to August. Two major projects with LCR potential are at advanced stages - a Spanish Rail project for St Helens a Spanish Manufacturing project with potential for 150 jobs.
- Visits over the next few weeks from data analytics company looking at SciTech Daresbury for their base with interaction around LCR 4.0, Sensor City etc. and a new project plastic injection and blow molder specialist considering an operation in Wirral.
- Account Management: The LEP is working with DIT and the City Region’s 6 Local Authorities to provide a coordinated account management service to a key list of 60 foreign owned companies. So far, 50 of these companies have been visited and 12 investment projects generated.
- Cross Border Collaboration: The LEP is actively engaged with Northern Powerhouse partners and DIT sector specialists to promote the City Region’s assets. Collaborative Trade missions planned for Nordics/Baltics in October/November, France in December and Health Life Science just completed for NY/Boston. India in the pipeline together with BioJapan, Money2020 and Slush in Helsinki.

Partnership Working

- The LEP established a City Region “Insights Programme” to provide LCR business with insight into key business trends, sector developments and opportunities through briefings, events and roundtables, organised with partners, which culminated in May with the inaugural LEP Annual Conference. Available to all businesses in the City Region these events attracted over 800 local business delegates through 8 events over 6 months
- The 2018/19 Insights Programme is now under way and will run to May 2019 with the Annual Conference with an aim to attract over 1000 local business delegates. The LEP website has details of the emerging programme.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Further to the feedback from LEP Board Members, a report on significant activity across these delivery areas will be provided to LEP Board on a regular basis in an agreed format.

5.2 Suggestions for improvement and clarity are welcomed as are requests for further information and involvement in any of these initiatives and activities