

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held at the Everton Football Club Boardroom, Royal Liver Building, Pier Head, Liverpool, L3 1HU on Thursday, 18th July, 2019 the following Members were

PRESENT:

Mr A Hamid MBE, Chairperson of the Board
Paul Corcoran
Chris Fry
Councillor P Hackett
Amanda Lyne
Dr L Mear
Laura Pye
Angela White OBE

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR LEP
Tony Reeves, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council
Tony Wade, Finance Director, LCR LEP
Mark Bousfield, Director of Commercial Development and Investment, LCR Combined Authority
Dr Aileen Jones, Head of Research and Investment, LCR Combined Authority
Jill Coule, Monitoring Officer, LCR Combined Authority
Trudy Bedford, LCR Combined Authority
Shelley Lockett, Head of Communications, LCR LEP

APOLOGIES

Mayor J Anderson OBE
Professor Dame J Beer
Elaine Bowker
Dr Jonathan Hague
Mike Hulme
John Syvret CBE
Mark Whitworth
Metro Mayor S Rotheram

365. WELCOME FROM EVERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Richard Kenyon welcomed Board Members to Everton Football Club's new headquarters in the City Centre. He explained that the Club would be unveiling the proposals for a new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock on Tuesday 23 July 2019, which would be accompanied by a consultation process for fans and the public. The Chair, Mr Asif Hamid MBE, thanked Mr Kenyon and wished him good luck with the forthcoming event and the project.

366. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were declared by Board Members.

367. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (P)

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2019 and were received as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Chair, Mr Asif Hamid MBE, welcomed Laura Pye, Dr Liz Mear and Mike Hulme who had recently been appointed to this Board.

The Chair also informed Board Members that Elaine Bowker was unwell and on behalf of the Board wished her a speedy recovery.

368. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY CONFIRMED AND ARISING THROUGH WRITTEN PROCEDURES RULES

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR Local Enterprise Partnership, reported that the last meeting of the LCR LEP Board had been inquorate. A number of matters had required approval and had been circulated to Board Members for approval through written procedure rules. He advised that for completeness they were included with this agenda pack for Members information.

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR Local Enterprise Partnership, referred the Board to Minute 325 Local Growth Fund Return Q4 2017-18 and the Board's request for a local performance dashboard to be developed. Although primarily it is aimed at improving reporting of Local Growth Fund performance, he advised that with the Board's agreement the delivery plan format would be used for the Board to consider performance against the projects identified in the LGF profile and other sources of funding.

Amanda Lyne expressed concern in the time taken to circulate the performance dashboard information and the potential for this to cause further delay in the delivery of projects within the LGF profile.

Mark Basnett re-assured the Board that the delivery of the projects within the LGF profile was being progressed and was not being delayed by the creation of the delivery plan. He reported that those projects which were experiencing delays were being monitored by colleagues at the LCR Combined Authority.

Paul Corcoran sought clarity on how the performance data would be presented to the Board and suggested that the information be provided in a digital format to provide real time data.

Amanda Lyne stressed the importance of actively communicating how the funds within the LGF profile were being progressed, particularly as the projects within the Fund were achieving positive outcomes for the City Region and it was important that this information was communicated across the City Region.

Tony Reeves, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council concurred that the Board required timely performance information to enable them to determine the progress of the LGF, which should be provided in a separate format to the official information which had to be submitted to BEIS.

Mark Basnett further reported that there had been significant change to the LCR LEP Board membership following the outcome of the review of LEP's. An open recruitment process to fill the vacancies in Advanced Manufacturing, Health and Life Sciences and Visitor Economy had been held and the LEP Appointments Committee had recommended the following representation:

Mike Hulme (Advanced Manufacturing)
Dr Liz Mear (Health and Life Sciences)
Laura Pye (Visitor Economy)

Mark Basnett also explained that the public sector representation had been reduced on the Board and the public sector representation was now through the LCR Combined Authority consisting of the Metro Mayor S Rotheram, Mayor J Anderson OBE (Portfolio Holder: Education, Employment and Skills) and Councillor P Hackett (Portfolio Holder: Inclusive Economy and the Third Sector). He reported that all the Local Authority Leaders were kept informed of the Board developments and were welcome to observe the Board's meetings.

With regards to the composition of the Board, Mark reported that there were four possible Board vacancies outstanding and consideration would need to be given to the most appropriate representation for the business community and how SME's were effectively represented by the Board. He also reflected on the work of the Sector Boards and noted that they required further work to ensure diversity within their membership. The Board was also advised that requests were being received to establish a Construction Sub-Board.

Paul Corcoran suggested that if a Construction Sub-Board were to be established that it be called 'Built Environment'. He also referred to the work of the Sub-Boards and welcomed the opportunity to review their membership, purpose and remit and develop a connection between this Board and the Sub-Boards.

The Board welcomed the opportunity to review the work of the Sub-Boards, identifying that the communication mechanisms between the sub-Boards and up to the LEP Board required consideration and development.

Asif Hamid MBE, Chair of the LCR LEP, sought the Board's view on the inclusion of young people at Board meetings. The Board suggested a number of avenues for engaging young people in its work and requested that this be discussed further in advance of the next Board meeting.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) a performance dashboard for LGF be prepared as a matter of urgency and be brought to the next meeting of the Board;
- (ii) role, remit, membership and secretariat support of the Sub-Boards be reviewed; and
- (iii) Angela White and Paul Corcoran present options for engaging young people in the work of the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership to a future meeting of this Board;
- (iv) the recommendations of the LEP Board Appointments Committee to appoint 3 new members to the LEP to fill current vacancies following an open and competitive process be endorsed; and
- (v) the establishment of a LEP Sub Board to support the Construction sector and to reconstitute the current Low Carbon Board as a Clean Growth Board be agreed.

369. LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY POSITION STATEMENT (P/PR)

Dr Aileen Jones, Head of Research and Intelligence, LCR Combined Authority, provided the Board with an update on the development of a Position Statement for the Local Industrial Strategy.

The Board was informed that the development of the Local Industrial Strategy was being undertaken in conjunction with partners, the business community, LCR LEP and Universities across the City Region to provide a clear strategic framework.

Dr Aileen Jones reported that the Local Industrial Strategy would be supported by an evidence base and would sign post emerging priorities. A position statement was being considered by the LCR Combined Authority at their meeting on Friday 26 July 2019, which would provide an initial summary of the City Region's strengths and challenges in relation to the economy. A final Strategy would be presented to Government early in 2020.

The Board was advised that the evidence was beginning to be tested with stakeholders across the City Region as part of a second phase of consultation, which would also include the public and community groups.

In this respect, the Board received a presentation which set out the evidence base to support the Local Industrial Strategy.

Asif Hamid MBE, Chair of the LCR LEP, sought clarity on which other Combined Authorities had already submitted their Local Industrial Strategies.

Dr Aileen Jones reported that the Local Industrial Strategy was being developed in three waves. Greater Manchester and West Midlands had been identified as the pilot trail blazers and had already published their Strategy. Cheshire and Warrington and Tees Valley were part of the second wave and the LCR Combined Authority were part of the third wave and the Strategy had to be submitted by early 2020.

The Board acknowledged that the information contained in the Local Industrial Strategy had to be reflective of the City Region and importantly it had to be presented so that it brought the City Region to life by using film and other media to communicate this.

Paul Corcoran suggested that the evidence supporting the digital, creative and tech sectors would be vastly lower than suggested in the presentation. Highlighting that this particular sector would be embedded within other sectors and so would not necessarily be accurately reflected.

Tony Reeves, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council, reported that there was a clear link between economic growth and public sector reform particularly in the City Region. With evidence suggesting that the City Region was the most economically inactive compared to elsewhere in the North. He advised that a sustainable healthy system was required to support real transformation and drive health inequality.

Dr Liz Mears informed the Board that a great deal of work was being undertaken to change the health system, however, it was imperative that employers supported those employees who were experiencing long term sickness and provided them with a supportive environment in which to return.

Tony Reeves, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council, reflected upon the impact of Brexit on the Local Industrial Strategy and how existing industries would cope within

a different environment. He also advised that a spatial strategy was required to support housing renewal in communities struggling across the City Region.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) the progress made on the development of the LCR Local Industrial Strategy, the emerging themes of the draft position statement and next steps on LIS consultation and engagement be noted; and
- (ii) a separate session for Board Members be arranged to provide feedback on the Local Industrial Strategy.

370. INCREASING DIVERSITY IN CITY REGION LEADERSHIP (P)

The Board considered a report which sought approval to establish a Diversity and Inclusion Task Group to encourage diversity in leadership in the City Region.

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR Local Enterprise Partnership, reported that gender diversity was an important focus for the Board, however broader diversity relating to age, ethnicity and disability also had to be reflected in the Board's composition. He indicated that Board Members should be championing this agenda in the main board, sub-boards and encourage people to promote this in their workforce too.

Angela White, reflected on the recently held LEP Women Leaders Conference held in June 2019 and encouraged the Board to continue the momentum the Conference generated. She emphasised how diversity should not just be a tick box exercise.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) A Diversity and Inclusion Task Group be established; and
- (ii) Amanda Lyne and Angela White along with other Board Members and co-opted individuals be appointed to the Diversity and Inclusion Task Group to develop an Action Plan with the LEP Executive to increase Diversity and Inclusion on LEP and other Boards in the City Region.

371. NATIONAL LOCAL GROWTH ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK (P)

The Board considered a report which presented a new Assurance Framework entitled 'National Local Growth Assurance Framework', which replaced the previous Local Assurance Framework. The new Framework reflects the emerging relationships between the Combined Authorities and LEP's and includes feedback received from the Cities and Local Growth Unit.

It was AGREED that:

- (i) the review of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework by Government and the feedback received as summarised at section 3.2 of the report be noted;
- (ii) the amendments set out at section 4.2 and 4.3 be approved;
- (iii) the LEP Executive be mandated to work with the CA Executive to incorporate the changes into a revised framework alongside changes by the CA to allow its approval by the CA on 26 July 2019; and

- (iv) the LEP Chair be authorised to expedite any further minor changes that impact the LEP as required in the CA approval process.

372. CHAIR'S UPDATE (V)

Mr A Hamid MBE, provided the Board with a verbal update and reported on a successful LEP Mansion House visit which took place in the spring and involved a number of LEP Board Members.

He reported that the Indian High Commissioner would be visiting the City Region for the first time in what would hopefully be an interesting conversation on investment in the City Region. He encouraged Board Members to attend.

A meeting of the 11 northern LEP Chairs was being held in Leeds and the purpose of which was to determine priorities for northern LEPS and the Northern Powerhouse.

Mark Basnett provided an update on Brexit and advised that the Brexit Task Group had met three times to date. The Group had agreed to establish an Executive Group to work intensively with information from Oxford Economics on preparations for a No Deal.

Tony Reeves also reported that in addition to ensuring businesses were appropriately signposted, there were two emerging issues which had to be addressed in preparation for a No Deal Brexit. These included the economic resilience across the City Region and mitigating the economic shock to ensure that businesses were in a good position to recover quickly from the outcome of Brexit.

Mark Bousfield, Director of Commercial Development and Investment, also advised that the LCR Combined Authority had committed £15 million towards a Brexit Support Fund. Mark went on to update the Board about the progress made in the development of the Growth Company, which was now formed and a launch was planned for September 2019.

Asif Hamid sought nominations from the Board for the appointment to the Mersey Dee Alliance. He advised that Neil Sturmey had been the previous representative on the Alliance, however, as Neil was no longer a Board Member a new nomination was required. He also suggested that Paul Corcoran be appointed as his Deputy Portfolio Holder on the LCR Combined Authority.

It was AGREED that:-

- (i) The updates be noted;
- (ii) Mark Basnett in conjunction with Councillor Pat Hackett prepare an explanation note on the role of the Mersey Dee Alliance and identify an appropriate appointment; and
- (iii) Paul Corcoran be appointed as the Deputy Portfolio Holder: Business and Brexit to the LCR Combined Authority.

Minutes 365 to 372 be received as a correct record on the 19th day of September 2019.

Chairperson of the Board

(The meeting closed at 10.42 am)