

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held in the Liverpool John Moores University, Roscoe Room, Egerton Court, 2 Rodney Street, Liverpool, L1 2UA on Thursday, 23rd January, 2020 the following Members were

PRESENT:

Mr A Hamid MBE, Chairperson of the Board
Professor Dame J Beer
Elaine Bowker
Paul Corcoran
Chris Fry
Councillor P Hackett
Dr Jonathan Hague
Dr Liz Mear
Laura Pye
Mark Whitworth
Metro Mayor S Rotheram

APOLOGIES

Mayor J Anderson OBE
Mike Hulme
Angela White OBE

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Stephen Fogg, Chair of the Lancashire LEP
Professor Ian Campbell, Vice Chancellor, Liverpool John Moore's University
Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR LEP
Tony Wade, Finance Director, LCR LEP
Tony Reeves, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council
Mark Bousfield, Director of Commercial Development and Investment, LCR Combined Authority
Jill Coule, Monitoring Officer, LCR Combined Authority
Lorna Rogers, Head of Mayoral Programme Delivery, LCR Combined Authority
Mick Allen, Cities and Local Growth Fund
Trudy Bedford, Committee Services Manager, LCR Combined Authority

390. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman highlighted the importance of declaring interests and reminded Board Members to keep their Register of Interest up to date before asking for any Declarations of interest, associated with today's business, to be declared by Board Members now or as they arose.

No Declarations of interest were submitted by Board Members.

391. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2019 and were received as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to

Minute No. 384 and the sixth paragraph be amended to 'The development of a National Packaging Innovation Centre was an ambition of Unilever's'.

In relation to Minute 389 and in respect of the LEP Annual Conference it be amended to 'Jon Hague fully endorsed this last point and was impressed that we got a contribution from Apeejay Surrendra (owners of Typhoo).'

392. WELCOME FROM PROFESSOR IAN CAMPBELL, VICE CHANCELLOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, introduced Steve Fogg, Chair of the Lancashire LEP, who was observing the Board's proceedings. He went on to thank Professor Ian Campbell, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Liverpool John Moores University, for hosting the Board meeting.

Professor Ian Campbell explained to the Board that he had been appointed to the position of Vice Chancellor just over three months ago. He summarised how positive his first three months in post had been with people demonstrating a great deal of passion for the University, City and Region. He went on to explain that the University had a very strong desire to collaborate and connect with business and key stakeholders across the region and welcomed the opportunity to meet the Board members and host its meeting. Professor Campbell concluded that the University was committed to the City and wanted to support the growth of the City Region.

Professor Dame Janet Beer informed the Board that The University of Liverpool welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively with Liverpool John Moores University. She referred to the audit undertaken by the two Universities in Nottingham which had assessed the work they both had conducted and sought to avoid a duplication of effort and provide a sensible distribution of resources.

393. MATTERS ARISING

Paul Corcoran informed Board Members that the review of the terms of reference for the LEP Sub-Boards had been completed. He explained that the review of the terms of reference had been informed by the revised terms of reference developed for the newly created Digital and Creative Sub Board. He reported that in reviewing the terms of reference he had engaged with the Chairs and Board Members of the Sub-Boards. As a consequence of this, four of the Sub Boards were recruiting new Board Members and there was a focus on securing a diverse representation as well as demonstrating the opportunities Sub-Board membership provided. Paul informed Board Members that social media would be used to promote the recruitment of Sub Board Members and the information would also be shared with Chambers of Commerce, Universities, Local Authorities, the Community and Voluntary Sector and Blackburne House.

Board Members were also informed that Paul Corcoran and Angela White were making progress on the development of a Youth Board. Information gathered as part of the LCR Listens campaign would be used to inform the development of the Youth Board and also devise a plan to support the Board. It was reported that the Board would represent young people under the age of 30 from various growth sectors, with the Chair of the Youth Board being appointed to the LEP Board.

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR LEP, reminded Board Members of the invitation from Councillor R McCauley for a Board Member to attend the St Helens Towns Deal Board and that to date no nomination had been forthcoming. He

encouraged Board Members to attend, however, he advised that if no expression was received then consideration would be given to asking a member of the appropriate Sub-Board to attend.

In relation to Minute 384, the Board was advised that work was ongoing to promote the Growth Platform, which involved a lot of promotional material including a short explainer video. With regards to Minute 387, it was noted that further updates on the development of the Good Business Festival would be presented at timely intervals to the Board.

394. LEP ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (V)

The Board received a presentation from Tony Wade, Finance Director, LCR LEP, which provided an update on the Annual Performance Review of the LEP which was undertaken by the Cities and Local Growth Unit.

Board Members were informed that all LEPs were subject to an Annual Performance Review which sought to monitor the performance of LEPs, against the use of best guidance, its adherence to an assurance framework and how it set its strategy and the delivery of it. In addition to the Annual Performance Review, a mid year review was also conducted.

The Annual Performance Review focused on three areas, which were Governance, Strategic Impact and Delivery. The Review submission was provided to the Cities and Local Growth Unit on 16 December 2019 and an indicative score on the evidence submitted had been provided. A further evidence session with the Cities and Local Growth Unit would be held on 31 January 2020, which provided an opportunity to provide further evidence. The final outcome of the Review would be published in April 2020.

Tony Wade reported that the initial feedback from the Cities and Local Growth Unit indicated that we had received indicative scores and these would be confirmed after the Annual Performance Review meeting and the subsequent moderation exercises, local and national. As such the scores could be improved providing mitigation of further evidence is provided.

Mr A Hamid MBE, Chair of the Board, sought clarity on how the indicative performance compared to that of the last Annual Performance Review. Board Members were advised that the indicative performance had declined in comparison to last year and this was specifically in relation to the Delivery score.

Paul Corcoran, sought clarity on what behaviours and triggers would improve performance. The Board was advised that a significant amount of effort would have to be focused on achieving tangible outputs and spend levels in relation to the Local Growth Fund (LGF).

Tony Reeves, Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council, suggested in order to be able to compare performance it would be helpful to review each quarter and then compare this performance against other LEPs.

Mr A Hamid MBE, advised Board Members that he would be writing to the national LEP Network to encourage all LEPs to publish their performance data.

Mark Bousfield, Director of Commercial Development and Investment, LCR Combined Authority, advised Board Members that positive progress was being made

on Quarter 3 performance and provided assurance that the final scores for the Annual Performance Review would be significantly improved. He reported that the commitment of funding projects was now not a problem for the LCR Combined Authority as all funding had been committed and there was now an over commitment of projects. He went on to explain that in some cases there was a delay between a scheme being approved and the funding being disbursed and work was ongoing to reduce this delay. He explained how the Investment Team had initially concentrated on identifying suitable projects and now that the funds had been allocated, the Investment Team was working to ensure the delivery of the projects. In conclusion, he explained how the impact of Local Authorities being subject to extensive budgetary cuts from Central Government had impeded on delivery as Local Authorities had limited resources in which to support the delivery of the projects.

Tony Reeves, Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council, explained to the Board, that there had been a optimism bias when the project delivery timescales for Liverpool City Council's projects had been devised. He explained that with some of the large scale projects, such as City Centre Connectivity, there had been slippage. However, the LCR Combined Authority were providing Performance Management capacity to support the delivery of projects and this would improve the delivery of projects.

Elaine Bowker indicated that the poor performance in Quarter 2 reflected some of the historical issues the LCR Combined Authority had encountered. She welcomed the positive changes which had recently been implemented which would ensure an improvement in performance.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram assured the Board lessons had been learnt and explained that some of the projects were significant Local Authority projects with allocated funding in the region of £25million.

Councillor P Hackett explained that in his role as Portfolio Holder: Inclusive Economy and Third Sector for the LCR Combined Authority, he had visited each of the Local Authorities to understand the issues some of the projects had incurred and identify what support was required to deliver progress.

The Board recognised how individually they all had opportunities to lobby Government Ministers and Officials on behalf of the City Region on the effectiveness and success of its investment strategy but the need for continued support, particularly in funding. To undertake this effectively and ensure a consistent and correct message was being shared the Board requested that targets in Government along with the 'asks' be shared with them.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (i) The Annual Performance Review update be noted; and
- (ii) Board Members be provided with key information/messages from the LCR Combined Authority.

395. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY (PR)

The Board received a presentation from Lorna Rogers, Head of Mayoral Programme Delivery, which explained the digital connectivity programme and how it aimed to improve digital connectivity across the City Region. It was reported that there were three work streams to the programme which included:-

- Backhaul Network;
- Dig Once; and
- Digital Inclusion

Board Members received a detailed explanation of each of the three work streams. It was reported that the market study would be completed by February 2020 and following this it would take a further three years to build the backhaul network once the partnership had been established. The delivery of the backhaul network would then support digital inclusion and enable the enhanced digital connectivity in the city region to improve smart systems for skills and health.

The Board welcomed the report and recognised the significant improvements such a scheme could bring to the City Region. It was requested that the presentation be shared with the Innovation Sub Board.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted and shared with Board Members.

396. GROWTH PLATFORM MANAGING DIRECTOR'S UPDATE (P)

Prior to taking the Board Members through the previously circulated report on Growth Platform Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR LEP, provided the Board with a verbal update on the outcome of the review of the LCR LEP undertaken by the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The draft report that was not yet approved by the Combined Authority had been circulated to the Board Members. He informed Board Members that the participation in the review had been welcomed and Elected Members had undertaken a rigorous review, in which evidence had been provided by Tony Reeves, Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council, David Parr OBE, Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council and Mick Allen, BEIS.

Board Members were informed that the Committee had produced a report which set out their findings and included a number of recommendations. Unfortunately, as the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was inquorate the report and recommendations had yet to be approved. Mark drew the Board's attention to the recommendations and highlighted a number of suggestions which included improved communications and visibility, continued engagement with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Annual Performance Review and members of the Committee being invited to observe the proceedings of this Board.

Mr A Hamid MBE, welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Review, particularly as it provided an opportunity to explain the role of the LCR LEP. In conclusion, he offered to engage with constituent Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Mark Basnett reported to the Board on Growth Platform. He explained how it was a joint venture between the LCR LEP and the LCR Combined Authority and provided a summary of the governance arrangements of Growth Platform. He reported that the purpose of Growth Platform was to provide a strategic approach for business growth across the City Region.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram explained how he had set out the vision for Growth Platform in his manifesto. A team had been appointed to support Growth Platform and they were currently developing a detailed delivery plan and would lead on

identifying a pipeline of investment projects across the City Region funded from non-local sources.

Mark Basnett also informed Board Members that the LCR Combined Authority had commissioned the LEP to deliver a skills brokerage service. He reported that 9 skills brokers will be appointed, who would work across the City Region. In conclusion, he advised that the key activity for Growth Platform would be the development of a detailed delivery plan and to promote Growth Platform so businesses understand how it can support them.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The report be noted; and
- (ii) The proposed actions and priorities as set out in the report be endorsed.

397. TOWN CENTRES (PR)

Mark Bousfield, Director of Commercial Development and Investment, LCR Combined Authority, provided the Board with a presentation which provided an overview of what activity was being undertaken to improve Towns across the City Region.

The Board was advised that CA and constituent Local Authorities had been successful in securing funding from the Government's National Town Centre Fund for Birkenhead, St Helens, Runcorn and Southport town centres. The purpose of the fund was not to regenerate retail but to allow work on re-imagining and re-purposing town centres. In addition to this, the LCR Combined Authority had established a Town Centre Fund and Commission which was aimed at benefiting 10 Town Centres across the City Region. The role of the Town Centre Commission was critical in identifying a sustainable future for Town Centres, which involved exploring a wide range of models and learning and understanding whether successful models, such as the Baltic Creative could be replicated elsewhere.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

398. CHAIR'S UPDATE (V)

The Chair, Mr Asif Hamid MBE, invited Metro Mayor S Rotheram to speak about the launch event for the Good Business Festival.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram reported that the launch for the Good Business Festival had been excellent and had attracted a good attendance. Board Members noted that the launch event had had good energy. However, it would have been helpful to have background information on the key stakeholders. It was agreed that going forward 'targets' would be identified that Board members could assist in engaging with the festival.

The Chair, Mr A Hamid MBE, reported that the Convention for the North would be taking place at St Georges Hall on 11 September 2020. From the 3 – 7 February 2020 an exhibition on the careers available in the visitor economy was being held. A Digital Summit was being held at Camp and Furnace on 27 February 2020.

In conclusion, the Chair reported on the Dubai 2020 Expo and highlighted that there would be a number of opportunities for Board Members to participate.

Minutes 383 to 398 be received as a correct record on the ?? day of ?? 2020.

Chairperson of the Board

(The meeting closed at 11.05 am)