

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held in the on Thursday, 25th November, 2021 the following Members were

PRESENT:

Mr A Hamid MBE (Chairperson of the Board)
Paul Corcoran
Melinda Acutt
Elaine Bowker
Professor Jonathan Hague
Gloria Hyatt MBE
Tom O'Brien
Laura Pye
Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
Mayor Joanne Anderson
Angela White OBE
Mark Whitworth

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Basnett, Managing Director LCR LEP
Tony Wade, Finance Director, LCR LEP
Katherine Fairclough, Chief Executive, LCRCA
John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Services, LCRCA
Dr Aileen Jones, Interim Executive Director of Commissioning and Strategic Delivery, LCRCA
Adrian Nolan, Lead Officer – Industrial Strategy, LCRCA
Tony Reeves, CEX Liverpool CC
Mick Allen, BEIS

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Janette Williamson
Professor Dame Janet Beer

490. WELCOME AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (V)

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He welcomed 2 new Board Members to the meeting, Gloria Hyatt and Tom O'Brien. Gloria Hyatt chaired the Racial Equality Business Support Working Group and Tom O'Brien chaired the Freeport Management Board and he invited them to address the Board.

Tom O'Brien introduced himself to the Board and provided a brief summary of his background and connection to the Liverpool City Region. He had grown up in Liverpool and previously worked for the Mersey Partnership but his last quarter of a century or more, he had been working internationally with the World Bank. He had now returned to the Region and was looking forward to working with everyone.

The Chair indicated that Gloria Hyatt was having problems logging into the meeting and he would come back to her once she had joined.

The Chair also reported that Lynn Collins, Trade Union Sector representative had resigned as a Board Member as she had taken up a role with the Combined Authority and he took the opportunity to thank Lynn for her memorable contribution both for the TUC and as a LEP Board Member. The new TUC Northwest appointment had been made so this would now be taken forward.

The Chair reminded Board members to complete their annual return declaration and he invited Tony Wade, Finance Director to update Members on the LGF dashboard return.

Tony Wade advised that Board Members had received an email last Friday detailed the LGF return and a briefing note. The briefing note explained that following the deadline for the LGF spend, the returns would now be a six-monthly cycle rather than quarterly. The focus had now moved to deliverables so it was post investment except for local investment, which could still occur up to 2025. Performance on the return was good, especially considering the backdrop of the pandemic, and particularly so in relation to jobs, which was good news story locally. No queries had been received from any Board Members so unless there were any objections, confirmation would be sent to the Combined Authority that the return would be submitted on 26 November 2021.

As there were no objections, the Chair took that as confirmation of the return.

491. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (P)

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 23 September 2021 were agreed.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE, asked Mark Basnett to provide an update on any matters arising.

(i) COP26;

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LEP reported that the Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham had attended COP26 on behalf of the LEP I think during the update and asked that the Metro Mayor provide his thoughts on the event during his update.

(ii) LEP Review;

Mark Basnett indicated that the most critical issue for the LEP as an organisation was the ongoing review. Some Members would already be aware that there was nothing in the Comprehensive Spending Review around LEPs or Growth Hubs specifically, which were two important funding sources for the organisation. There was still uncertainty around the determination of the LEP review which was linked to the levelling-up agenda and impending Government white paper due before Christmas. As a result, the organisation had had to make some savings. It was still a period of uncertainty which was deeply unhelpful, but it was affecting LEPs right across the Country. Board Members had all agreed and shared previously and appreciation went to Jon Hague, Paul Corcoran and the Chair for helping to shape this principle of whatever the outcome of that review would be and having this board and a suite of boards that we had aligned independence and brought the authentic voice of business to provide insight and input into economic policy for the City

Region. This enabled the LEP to support elected members with a democratic mandate and a structure that added real value which was hoped to continue whatever the outcome of that review. Mark Basnett advised that he would keep Members updated but there were some immediate implications some of which were difficult to share. Mark reported that the Finance Director, Tony Wade, who was in the meeting and also Julie Simons, Personal Assistant to himself and the Chair for the last 10 years were both leaving the organisation by Christmas as part of the restructure of the organisation. He wished to place on record his personal thanks to both of them for the phenomenal work they'd done and the support provided to himself, the Chair and the whole of the Board and the organisation. He hoped it would continue to be the success it had been over the last 10 years.

(iii) Freeport Update;

Mark Basnett confirmed that both Heather Akehurst and Barbara Sanderson had accepted their positions on the Freeport Board, along with Mark Beardwood made up the three private sector members with one vacancy that was agreed to be held over should there be a need for a particular specialism or a particular individual to add value to the Freeport Board. He invited Adrian Nolan to provide a broader update on behalf of Kirsty McLean's behalf.

Adrian Nolan advised the Board that the outline business case had been submitted to Government on 10th September 2021 and comments had been received, a lot of which were presentational and more around strengthening the strategic case of a Freeport particularly for the City Region. A revised outline business case was being submitted the following day. A number of other freeport bids had also received similar comments after their first iterations. Work was ongoing with Local Authorities with their Chief Executives being kept updated on progress. The timescale for submission of the full business case had been delayed until mid-April 2022. The additional time would now be used to work with partners across the City Region to develop and understand the narrative on what a Freeport means for the City Region. In terms of personnel, the Freeport Director, John Lucy was now in post. John's background was in trade logistics so he was really well placed to hit the ground running, making connections to stakeholders across the partnerships. The Freeport bid was in a good space and work would continue on the full business case.

The Chair, Asif Hamid asked if there had been a lot of interaction between Freeport bidders. There was a governance Board in place so it would be interesting for Board Members to know what co-operation was going on behind the scenes.

Adrian Nolan reported that there was a forum, run by Government, which met fortnightly, bringing together all the different Freeport Boards. The Boards share common challenges and opportunities and how we work at a national level as well to understand the aggregated impact of the Freeport nationally. There had been good interaction with the different people across the country with sharing of ideas. The Government also had their own consultancy in place and were very keen on connecting with all those different areas to share the learning.

The Chair thanked Adrian for the update and welcomed the work to date and time and effort being put in. He felt that it would be a strong case to put to Government

492. MEMBERS' FEEDBACK (V)

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE, invited Board Members to provide an update on the current position within their sector.

The Chair welcomed Gloria Hyatt to the meeting and asked her to briefly introduce herself to Board Members.

Gloria Hyatt apologised for being late due to technical issues with her computer. She introduced herself to the Board and provided a brief summary of her background which was in education, training and business consultancy. She explained that she was a former Headteacher so had undertaken a lot of education consultancy but her business focussed more on business consultancy of late. She had recently undertaken a piece of research for Liverpool City Region Combined Authority looking at opportunities and barriers for black businesses and entrepreneurs and helped them to be included in the business ecosystem for the Liverpool City Region. Gloria indicated that she was looking forward to seeing how she could help with the capacity building around BAME businesses.

Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram

Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram provided an update to the Board on his recent activities. In particular:-

- Attendance at the Global Investment Summit;
- The announcement of funding for 'Hynet';
- Discharge Free Mersey project;
- Attendance at COP26 events;
- The disappointing Integrated Rail Plan announcement, the potential impact and the development of a City Region response; and
- The knock-on effects, particularly in relation to net zero targets.

The Metro Mayor suggested that discussions take place with the LEP, Growth Platform, businesses and other partners to collate a response on the impact of the Integrated Rail Plan and the seven years of disruption that would have a detrimental impact on the City Region Economy.

The Chair, Asif Hamid reported that a letter had been submitted to Government objecting to the plans.

Deputy Chair, Paul Corcoran offered support for a response as it was going to affect so many around the table. He felt that there was a need to be vocal and get the best of the City Region's business community to say why the Integrated Rail Plan wasn't good enough and how it went against all of the promises and plans that had been made moving forward. He was happy to assist in creating voice notes and videos to demonstrate the position of the City Region.

Laura Pye also commented on the disastrous impact on the visitor economy with seven years of disruption for no real benefit at the end of it and also offered her support for the response.

Mark Whitworth

Mark Whitworth provided an update to the Board, in particular:-

- It was a positive backdrop with business still trading really strongly translating into progression and new jobs;
- Recent investment in the rail track coming into the port as and the Port continued to grow the Integrated Rail Plan would now create limitations on future growth and he was happy to support a response;
- The Company's net zero ambition as a national group which was a first for the industry had been well received and was a genuine commitment; and
- The Company was in a very strong position and was hoping to share some positive news at the next meeting which could be good news not only for the Peel Group nationally, but for the Group centred in Liverpool.

The Chair, Asif Hamid asked how the business were finding the availability of the workforce and the skills attributed to what was required for the business?

Mark Whitworth responded and stated that it had been a challenge for some time. There were a number of issues going on locally with the College but for some of the more specialist skills they were having to look further afield. There was a concern that it could become a limiting factor for the business. The business was in a really strong place, but the workforce and the skill set needed to drive it forward could actually be an anchor in terms of our outlook.

Laura Pye

Laura Pye provided the Board with an update on the visitor economy sector, in particular:-

- The sector was really fragile;
- There were huge issues with staffing and getting the right skills and the right people into the right posts at the right time;
- There were also huge issues with supply of materials due to Brexit and other things driving up costs significantly which will start to be passed on to customers;
- Numbers were still not back to pre-pandemic levels and in many cases, the spending review was difficult for the visceral economy;
- The Government had published the DMO review just before the Spending Review which was positive but then there was no funding made available;
- The DMO review had now stalled quite significantly and there was no clear idea about whether there would be any money put into tourism;
- All that being said, the hospitality sector was quite busy, particularly in the run up to Christmas; and
- The reality was that it was still quite hard and January, February, March would be difficult months for businesses who were fragile.

The Chair asked if the staycation market was something which is going to be in your favour in the New Year

Laura Pye indicated that the staycation market had been good for the visitor economy in Liverpool particularly and Liverpool had recovered a lot better than some

of the other core cities across the UK. There had been a slight change in the business profile, which for the night-time economy was great, but not for businesses like the Museum. There had been a slight change in that Liverpool was always a big family destination with a really wide range of tourists but there had been more stag and hen parties in the Summer as they were unable to travel abroad, so it was probably more of a short term thing. In relation international tourism, the best guess at the moment was it would be 2025 before the UK were back to pre-pandemic levels. It would be interesting to see what happened in 2022 in terms of domestic and European tourism as the City Region would really benefit from a strong European tourism market

The Chair asked if there was anything the Board could do to help and support the European tourism arena?

Laura Pye indicated that the Board had discussed the strategy previously and SIF funding had been secured for destination marketing. It would focus on domestic tourism this year, it would move the following year to look at flights into Liverpool Airport. Destination marketing was key and anything that promoted brand awareness. The G7 summit in a few weeks would be great for the City Region because it would broadcast pictures of Liverpool across the world.

Angela White OBE

Angela White OBE indicated that she would be covered most of the issues in her upcoming presentation. She also mentioned access into work and getting vacancies through was continuing to be a problem for the sector. They were getting good quality applicants but less in number so it was less competitive. This meant that in some instances, agencies had to be used which was very costly for organisations. The other issue that was starting to worry learning providers was the future and longer term planning in relation to ESF and shared prosperity funds being delayed.

Elaine Bowker

Elaine Bowker provided an update on the Further Education Sector, in particular:-

- Skills and acquisition talent was a major issue so in response to that the College had changed the mode of attendance by loaning 3rd year students out to business;
- It was helping so if any Board Members were aware of any businesses that were struggling to get in contact with the College;
- The College had been successful in winning a bid from Government to provide a Logistics Bootcamp to offer funded training for HGV drivers to get their licence;
- The College had also been asked to set up a test centre to enable it to award the licence; and
- The College had been inundated by businesses who wanted to be part of the bootcamps but space/land was needed to get the HGV vehicles as quickly as possible so urgent help was needed from colleagues on the Board to get the programme up and running the following week.

Tony Reeves offered to provide the assistance of the City Council in relation to land.

Professor Jon Hague

Professor Jon Hague provided the Board with an update on the FMTC sector, in particular:-

- Unilever growth was 4% to date but there were still challenges but it was sector dependent;
- Materials inflation was the worst ever seen and it was likely to be passed onto consumers;
- Price increases were up to five times higher so this situation could continue for another 8 months at least;
- Unilever was main sponsor of the COP26 event and announced that they were part of a Consortium called 'Leaf' aimed at halting deforestation;
- Unilever had already made its Net Zero commitment for 203 and written a climate transition action plan which was publicly available;
- He was leading on a project called 'Clean Future for Home Care' which would be immensely difficult and challenging to deliver net zero; and
- There is a huge amount of work to do following COP26.

Professor Jon Hague offered to circulate Unilever's Climate Transition Action Plan. He also pledged his support on the rail issue, particularly as Unilever had a large facility in Leeds and the commute to Port Sunlight was not an easy one.

Paul Corcoran

The Deputy Chair, Paul Corcoran provided an update on the creative and digital board. In particular:-

- The success of NZNW where regional partners came together for COP26 both in Glasgow and the North West demonstrating one voice;
- Creative and Digital dynamics had changed, as well as supply and demand;
- Skills continued to be an issue as great new talent was emerging in education but there was a shortage of mid-point, people with experience in industry;
- Due to the ability to work anywhere and significant salary changes there was a talent drain which was impacting on indigenous businesses, micro and sme's;
- The importance of being present in the office for coaching;
- How the issues link to transport and the rail plan to be better connected and bring talent from outside the City Region;
- the placemaking element for the City Region and the need to redefine the narrative to make it more attractive to build or start a career in the creative and digital sector;
- Make it affordable and attractive to big businesses to add to the business eco-system;
- Using LCR connect better as a way of bringing in those larger businesses which will help attract talent;
- The success of SciTech Daresbury and how to create business places and spaces for the future to attract firms to the City Region; and
- Mental health in the workplace and work on a mental health first aid programme and it would be good to do more work on it.

Melinda Acutt

Melinda Acutt provided an update on behalf of the Clean Growth Board. In particular:-

- Work on the COP26 event and her role as Chair at one of the roadshows focussing on industry in Halton;
- How LCR was well represented with Katherine Fairclough delivering a keynote speech showcasing the Region;
- There was a real level of potential and commitment to turn ambition into delivery;. The worry that there was a lack of clear policy steer and framework from Central Government;
- There was a positive message from the Region that they would get on with it anyway;
- There was a desire from the private sector to see incentives to make net zero pay;
- The issue of support for the sme community to put net zero policies in place and work was ongoing in the Growth Platform to make that happen;
- There was a clear landing page on the Growth Platform website relating to net zero with newsletters and surveys being circulated as part of the discovery phase to understand the needs of the sme community;
- Work was taking plan with Tony Seasman and Gill Wood to develop a pilot to help sme's understand their emissions and develop action plans to move to net zero;

Mayor Joanne Anderson

Mayor Anderson informed the Board that she had attended COP26, some LCR and North West evening events and the UK Core Cities events. UK Core Cities had worked with catapult to look at a Climate Investment Committee to promote the role of Cities in driving forward the targets to reach net zero. Mayor Anderson had been concentrating on the triple lock included in her election manifesto looking at every decision made by the Council and the impact on the environment, making the most out of social value and the impact on equality, diversity and inclusion. The Council were due to launch a new Social Value Policy which was important in terms of developing the Economic Strategy.

Upcoming G7 visit to Liverpool

The Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram referred to the G7 visit scheduled to take place between 10 and 12 December 2021. He explained that it was being led by Mayor Anderson and the Combined Authority were supporting the event. South East Asian Countries were also being invited for the first time and he was keen to ensure that all delegates went away with an understanding of the culture of the City Centre. The event was an opportunity with the top finance people in whole world and demonstrate some of the initiative in the City Region that fitted in with what they're doing at a geopolitical level.

Mayor Anderson deferred to Tony Reeves regarding the detail of the programme but it was an opportunity to showcase Liverpool and give the G7 the best 'scouse welcome'.

Tony Reeves didn't have the programme to hand but indicated that it wasn't just Ministers attending. The American contingent had booked out a whole hotel for their delegation. There would be individual Ministerial private visits in the area as well as attending the event itself. The programme was still being finalised but it would feature big issues like climate change and the pandemic. It was a great opportunity for Liverpool and the City Region to showcase itself. A lot of work was going on including weekly meetings with the Foreign and Commonwealth Officer. Katherine Fairclough was heavily involved and it was good to see the City Council and the Combined Authority work hand in glove to make it happen.

The Metro Mayor reiterated the significance of the event where a Tory Government were hosting a G7 summit in Liverpool. This demonstrated how much progress had been made which was particularly evident following the recent award of £710 million transport settlement funding. It was also testament of the partnership working in the City Region.

The Chair, Asif Hamid, on behalf of board offered to provide private sector in any way they could.

Katherine Fairclough, Combined Authority Chief Executive echoed the comments and added that colleagues in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were really impressed with the work undertaken so far and she was confident about delivery of the event. She also praised Laura Pye and her Team and the Museum of Liverpool and the great team effort by all involved. It was a great opportunity to showcase the City Region across the World.

The Chair, Asif Hamid reiterated the progress that had been made in a short space of time through collaboration. He had received excellent feedback from Government officials at recent events. He thanked all Board Members for their updates.

493. PLAN FOR PROSPERITY (PR AND P)

The LEP Board considered a paper which provided an overview and summary of the emerging Liverpool City Region *Plan for Prosperity* and due to be reported to the Combined Authority meeting in January 2022.

The report highlighted that the development of the *Plan for Prosperity* was identified as a key priority in the Combined Authority's Corporate Plan published in the summer. The change in Government approach from Industrial Strategy to the *Plan for Growth* at the 2021 Spring Budget meant that the City Region's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) was never formally published. The need for a long term integrated economic and place-based strategy remained, which the Plan for Prosperity would address through "repivoting" the core LIS messages.

Adrian Nolan, Lead Officer for Industrial Strategy at the Combined Authority also provided a presentation which highlighted:-

- The need for a plan for prosperity;
- The change in Government approach;

- The repivoting of the LCR Local Industrial Strategy messages
- Key issues for consideration;
- 'Plan for Prosperity' structure;
- Key point to note;
- Comments and feedback received so far;
- Delivery principles; and
- The suite of 'living' documents which offered different levels of accessibility and detail.

Adrian Nolan thanked Sector Board Chairs for their recent feedback on the plan and indicated that it was still out for comment with partners and stakeholders.

The Chair, Asif Hamid, thanked Adrian Nolan his presentation and sought comments and feedback from Board Members. He invited Tom O'Brien to comment first.

Tom O'Brien praised the content, was generally supportive and felt it was the right approach for the Liverpool City Region. He mentioned 'turning peoples potential into prosperity' and stressed the need for proper emphasis on investing in human capital and potential which was a key driver for the Region's productivity. He referenced maximising roles for all groups including the role of women in the labour market and senior positions and education institutions. Engagement with all parts of the community also needed to be maximised stringing together the mix of community, health and skills. He acknowledged that these factors were mentioned within the plan but could be brought through more powerfully.

Professor Jon Hague was supportive of the plan and its aims and welcomed the inclusion of innovation activities in the right context. He felt that further work could be done on sharpening that content. He referred to the structure diagram and stressed the need for it to be distinctive to the identity of the Liverpool City Region. He felt that the specific elements which the City Region were 'world class' on like being the 'western gateway' and leading energy coast for hydrogen, tidal and wind should be a focus to pull everything else along. Overall he thought the plan could be sharpened for impact and be clear on the things that need to be accelerated to be world class.

Tony Reeves agreed with all of the comments made. He was keen to emphasise that the links between public sector reform and economic growth needed to be right. He referred to a piece of work by Core Cities and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the reasons why the UK core Cities and City Regions under perform on productivity at a national level which were poverty, deprivation and health inequality.

Paul Corcoran, Deputy Chair agreed with Tony Reeves' comments. He felt that in order to engage everyone their needed to be a different sense of spirit about this plan. He commented that it was about individual and organisational behaviours, the common purpose and joint ambition of what prosperity means and embedding those behaviours. He referred to a historic video shared on twitter recently called 'turn of the tide on Merseyside' which promoted the region, demonstrating that the narrative hadn't really changed and how we needed to communicate the Region's global significance and it's role global issues such as net zero and citizenship.

Katherine Fairclough, Combined Authority Chief Executive, welcomed the feedback from the Board. The point regarding human capital and the interrelation of

all the different agencies in order to make an impact was critical. She asked that the Board provide clear steer if that was to be included within the plan as it could be a complex landscape and a strong message from the Board about its expectations would help as the Team navigate the document through a number of different settings. Katherine added that herself and the Metro Mayor had been having conversations with officials in Whitehall and senior politicians respectively around emphasising the uniqueness of the City Region as part of the levelling-up debate and the significance of this new re-vamped plan can aligning with the emerging aspects of the levelling-up white paper.

The Chair, Asif Hamid indicated that comments could be collated through Mark Basnett as a central point and forwarded to Adrian Nolan.

Melinda Acutt thanked Adrian for the opportunity to provide comments following the Sector Board Chairs meeting presentation and reported that the plan would also be considered by the Clean Growth Board. She re-emphasised the need to have clear targets and measures that focus on the structural inequalities which were such a constraint on prosperity, particularly in relation to gender. She also mentioned GVA not just by sector but by segment in order to turn the ambition into delivery, as well as being monitored and held to account. Focus was also needed on the soft infrastructure as well as the hard infrastructure, e.g. childcare. She was delighted to see the mention of the 'green book' and she offered more personal involvement with the development of the plan. She asked about the possibility of co-creating the plan with the wider community, not just the business community and if there was an opportunity to get feedback from focus groups and better understand what prosperity means to them.

The Chair, Asif Hamid endorsed Melinda's idea of involving the wider community and complimented Adrian Nolan and the Team on the way the document was being produced and the consultation taking place on it.

Mayor Joanne Anderson suggested that the existing engagement groups at the Combined Authority be given the opportunity to comment and co-design.

The Chair agreed and asked Mark Basnett to take that forward with Adrian Nolan and Katherine Fairclough.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that the LEP Board **note** and **endorse** the Plan for Prosperity's vision and strategic priorities as outlined in the report; and
- (ii) that feedback and comments from Board Members at the meeting be noted and any additional comments be collated through Mark Basnett.

494. VCFSE SECTOR MANIFESTO (PR)

The Board considered a presentation from Angela White, Sefton CVS, Racheal Jones, One Knowsley and Stuart McGrory, VOLA which outlined the Voluntary, Community Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector manifesto for 2021-2024 and beyond.

Angela White introduced the presentation and indicated that this connected with the Plan for Prosperity item around human capital, inclusive growth and poverty proofing.

The presentation highlighted:-

- Developments in the VCFSE Sector;
- an update on the manifesto;
- the correlation with some of the key themes that had been discussed during the meeting such as environment – environment, learning and skills and inclusive growth;
- what the sector looks like and the GVA contribution to the LCR economy;
- key headlines about the sector in the LCR; and
- the structure of the 11 organisations through VS6.

Racheal Jones continued the presentation and highlighted:-

- how the manifesto had been developed through a series of themed regional assemblies based on sector key priorities across areas such as BAME inequality, mental health and food insecurity;
- The ambition was to nurture a very mature and collaborative sector and working relationships between public and private sector colleagues and within the sector itself;
- VCFSE was a cornerstone between the public and private sector and a reach into communities, especially where parts of the community had real challenges;
- the ultimate ambition of the sector was around resilience, building on the legacy of the volunteering movement during the pandemic, a green and inclusive recovery and contribute to economic recovery;
- how it was also about building conditions for an equal and diverse sector and an approach to supporting communities;
- the equalities assembly identified a gap in specialist infrastructure support for BAME communities and a piece of work was taking place with BAME Leaders, VS6 and the Combined Authority Race Equality Hub to build a reference group to look at it;
- the economic and social value of the sector and referred to a community assets project in Court Hey Park, Knowsley which in year one will deliver £17 million in social value and £8 million in economic value;
- the impact of how money and wealth being retained in a local economy on a fair and inclusive economy in the City Region.

The Chair, Asif Hamid stated how important this issue was in relation to economy recovery and asked what work could be undertaken to see how the business community can help to deliver the manifesto.

Angela White responded and stated that there had been some recent investment in the sector through Kindred, Social Investment and the Chrysalis Fund. She indicated that there was an opportunity for collaboration in relation to:-

- Blending leadership and development programmes through training, particularly for BAME leaders;
- The development of a carbon pathway as the sector required support and tools to meet the COP26 outcomes;
- The Development of an LCR policy in relation to corporate and social responsibility;

- Building on the recognition of volunteering within corporate agencies;
- Voluntary sector supply chains; and
- The Apprenticeship levy and ensuring a specialism within the brokerage hub to maximise use of the levy.

The Chair thanked Angela, Racheal and Stuart for their presentation and indicated that it would be circulated to Board Members following the meeting. He reiterated that there was a lot of work to be undertaken and he asked Mark Basnett to pick this up with Angela and the Team.

495. NATIONAL LOCAL GROWTH ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK (P)

The LEP Board considered a paper which sought approval of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework (NLGAF). This was an important document which describes the Local Government administration arrangements and how they comply with Government requirements.

The report highlighted that confirmation was received from Government in July 2021 that all Departments were largely satisfied with amendments to the framework, save for the Department for Education (DfE) who required further changes reflecting the governance and administration of Adult Education Budget (AEB). As a result, a final version was submitted in early November.

Tony Wade, Finance Director explained that the framework presented a unified and integrated approach between the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Combined Authority which not only provided assurance to Government but the confidence and trust had led to successes mentioned by the Metro Mayor earlier. The framework was kept under constant review particularly in relation to national policy changes. The document had been submitted back to Government and was being considered for approval by the Combined Authority on 26 November 2021. He advised that he had spoken with Mick Allen from BEIS and the Government were happy for the draft version to be published.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the amended version of the NLGAF as detailed at Annexe A to the report be approved;
- (ii) that LEP Executive be mandated to work with the CA Executive to review any further changes arising from the Government review of the changes required for AEB or any other issues and ensure they do not impact the LEP; and
- (iii) That the LEP Chair be authorised to expedite any further minor changes that do impact the LEP as arising from the AEB or any other amendments and publish this as the final version.

496. CHAIR'S UPDATE (V)

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE provided a brief update on his recent activities.

The visit by the German Ambassador, due to take place the following week had been postponed.

The Chair was attending a Sectoral dinner that evening which he was attending, along with Katherine Fairclough from the Combined Authority.

The Chair reported on the Dubai Expo in February 2022 and advised that the 'UK' day was 10 February 2022. He was currently in discussion with the Metro Mayor and other stakeholders on arrangements for attendance and suggested that Laura Pye and Tom O'Brien also be involved to promote tourism and the Freeport.

497. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE indicated that the dates of the Board meetings for 2022 would be circulated shortly and the next meeting of the Board was due to be held on 20 January 2022. He advised that this meeting would be via zoom but Board Members could submit preferences the format of meetings going forward. An email would be circulated shortly

The Chair advised that this was the last Board meeting before Christmas but there was a drinks reception taking place at 4.30pm on 15 December 2021 at the Royal Liver Building.

The Chair reported that Tony Wade, Finance Director was leaving. He thanked Tony for his service to the Liverpool City Region and all the hard work, time and effort put in during his time with the Local Enterprise Partnership and wished him luck for the future.

Finally the Chair wished everyone a very merry Christmas following a very difficult 18 months and he expressed his appreciate for the support and time invested by Board Members.

Minutes 490 to 497 received as a correct record the 20 day of January 2022.

Chairperson of the Board

(The meeting closed at 10.32am)