

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held in the Remotely on Thursday, 12th May, 2022 the following Members were

PRESENT:

Asif Hamid MBE - Chairperson of the Board in the Chair.
Paul Corcoran – Deputy Chair
Melinda Acutt
Dame Professor Janet Beer
Elaine Bowker
Dr Jonathan Hague
Tom O'Brien
Laura Pye
Angela White OBE
Councillor Janette Williamson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Basnett – Managing Director LCR LEP
Councillor Graham Morgan – Leader Knowsley Council
Tony Reeves – Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council
Katherine Fairclough - Chief Executive, LCRCA
Dr Aileen Jones – Executive Director LCRCA
Jill Coule – Chief Legal Officer LCRCA
Ste Tant – BEIS
Ellie Stanborough - BEIS
Shelley Lockett – Growth Platform
Lisa Backstrom -Democratic Services, LCRCA

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mick Allen, Mayor Joanne Anderson, Gloria Hyatt MBE and Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram.

505. WELCOME AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

The Chair asked Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP to report any apologies received.

Mark Basnett advised that apologies had been received from Mayor Joanne Anderson and Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram. Mick Allen had also submitted apologies but had sent through some comments/notes on the LEP Review item.

506. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 3 June 2021 were agreed subject to the following:-

The amendment of the title of Jonathan Hague from Professor to Dr throughout the document;

Minute 500 – Feedback from Board Members under the heading:-

Melinda Acutt

The second paragraph, line 1, be amended so as to read:-

“There was a pilot project proposed and funding was being sought to support SME’s on their journeys towards Net Zero and the energy price crisis was raising concerns for business and for households.”

Dr Jonathan Hague

In the second paragraph, line 3, the insertion of the word ‘negative’ in front of ‘impact’ so as to read:-

“With regard to Unilever there had been a global top-down re-organisation but this had no negative impact in the LCR.”

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

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the Local Enterprise Partnership referred to the following matters arising:-

Launch of the Innovation Prospectus

Dr Jonathan Hague explained how impressive the document was and credited John Whaling for his part in putting it together. The document pulled together the assets the City Region already has and the ambition for innovation. The Metro Mayor led the events in London to launch the prospectus which was a landmark event. Jon Hague paid tribute to everybody involved in the creation of the prospectus and it exemplified the collaborate way of working already taking place within the City Region. He added that Lord Heseltine attended the launch, a long-time sponsor and supporter of the City Region.

Dr Jon Hague commented how the document was a statement of serious intent to move to a future economy in full earnest and set the City Region up to be way ahead of the national average in future investment in research and development. There was more to come and more debate needed with the LEP and the Combined Authority to figure out how to maximise impact in the places that matter. He also thanked everyone in the meeting who also went to London to support the launch.

Freeport

Tom O’Brien, Chair of the LCR Freeport updated the Board and recent activity.

Tom O’Brien reported that the Team were still in start-up mode and things were ticking along nicely. In order to secure funding from the Government the business case process was being followed and the full business case had recently been submitted following approval by the Combined Authority on 29 April 2022. Government would now consider the full business case with consultation and

feedback taking place to fine-tune the document over the next few months, but he was feeling optimistic about the outcome.

Tom O'Brien also reported that the Freeport Board had met and affirmed the desire to create good jobs for local residents and to equip them with the right skills and pathways into long-term employment. The Fair Employment Charter and Social Value Policy were going to be key to this aim.

Tom O'Brien added that the role of the Growth Platform and the LCR LEP in marketing the Freeport to grow and attract new businesses was pivotal.

Tom O'Brien also indicated that with the help of the LEP Chair, the Freeport Team had been working with Growth Platform colleagues. They had also been working with Combine Authority and Liverpool City Council at the MIPIM event in Cannes and visited Freeport in the Middle East. There was generally a strong interest in Freeports across England but particularly the City Region which was positive.

Lastly, Tom O'Brien mentioned that capacity in the Team was still being built and he had asked for work to commence on communicating the narrative to make sure that we begin to get the story across local, national and international audiences. He stated that John Lucy, the Freeport Director was willing to provide a briefing to the LEP as a whole or for individual colleagues and suggested that Board Members get in touch with himself or John Lucy to make arrangements.

507. BOARD MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

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

Melinda Acutt provided an update from the 'Clean Growth' perspective. In particular:-

- progress made with the development of the proposal for a pilot project for a funded programme to support SMEs over their net zero journey;
- the upcoming joint meeting with the Built Environment Sector Board and the Combined Authority to discuss the 'Pathway to Net Zero 2040';
- the rising energy prices and how businesses needed support to deal with energy costs with a lack of capital after a difficult two years, particularly in a 'clean growth' way; and
- the progress made on the development of the 'Clean Growth' Sector Board and the production of a specific newsletter for small businesses which now had 500+ sign-ups

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP undertook to pick up the issue of support for businesses with Melinda Acutt and colleagues in the Combined Authority following the meeting.

Laura Pye provided the Board with an update on the visitor economy sector. In particular:-

- Energy costs for businesses and the lack of available funds to invest into energy efficiency;
- The opportunities for support for the Visitor Economy Sector following the departure of Pete Sandman;

- Liverpool were about to go out to ballot for the 'Accommodation Bid', which if secured could generate a significant amount of money to invest in marketing and subvention; and
- Although Liverpool was bouncing back quicker following the pandemic, the cost of living rise would start to impact.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE asked how things were from an employment status point of view.

Laura Pye explained that things had settled down and rates were not at the ridiculous levels in late 2021. Organisations with good jobs and good employment opportunities were more stable, although it was still quite difficult to recruit in lots of areas, primarily due to Brexit issues more than anything else.

Angela White provided an update to the Board on challenges and opportunities for the Third Sector. In particular:-

- A collective of organisations were looking at support organisations in the Sector to be more energy efficient, which was a big issue due to the sizeable estate within the sector;
- The issues around salary squeezes within organisations and the impact of not being able to give cost of living appropriate remuneration;
- Work was taking place with LCR on a commission around sustainable and affordable food to contribute to the Food Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- A commission had been received through VS6 around digital inclusion, digital mapping of community provision, looking at potential innovation, good practice, and upscaling;
- Catalyst grants work was underway with grants about to be awarded on mental health and community wealth building initiatives; and
- A piece of work initiated by the Lord Lieutenant in relation to business to charity mentorship called 'Merseyside Charity Mentors' had recently launched with the Liverpool Professional Advisory Board. Angela asked Board Members if they wanted to be involved in the work on social responsibility.

The Deputy Chair, Paul Corcoran provided an update on the Creative and Digital Board. In particular:-

- Skills and recruitment remained a real issue and work need to increase on positioning the City Region as a really good place to work;
- The great work being undertaken around mental health in the workplace was encouraging, but further work could be done to support employers to improve their support offer for employees;
- Work was being undertaken to attract talent into the industry with various different boot camps being really well attended;
- More work was needed around provision for meaningful work experience placements across City Region and the potential benefit of alignment with 'T' Levels;
- The recruitment of members for the 'Creative and Digital Sector Board' was taking place with a high volume of quality applications;
- Accommodation/office space remained a real issue for the Sector and work was needed from an inward investment perspective; and
- An update on the pan-Northern initiative on support for Ukrainian refugees coming into the City Region called 'United for Ukraine'. Refugees were being placed into employment and provided with wraparound support. He appealed

to Board Members for further support and to make contact with him if they could help.

Board Members congratulated Paul Corcoran on the 16th Anniversary of his business.

Dame Professor Janet Beer provided an update in relation to the Higher Education Sector. In particular:-

- University of Liverpool's recent results in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), an exercise conducted every 6 or 7 years to assess the quality of research in UK higher education institutions;
- 91% of our research is ranked as world leading (4*)
- 9 units feature in the sector top ten for 4* impact and Liverpool has the top Veterinary School for 4* overall research in Agriculture, Food and Veterinary Sciences
- The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine also had good results alongside Liverpool John Moores University; and
- It was excellent news for the City Region.

Board Members congratulated Liverpool University on their success.

The Chair, Asif Hamid asked about the situation with International students.

Dame Professor Janet Beer explained that it was a mixed picture. There was interest from India and Nigeria. The situation in China was still difficult for people wanting to leave.

Professor Jon Hague informed the Board that Unilever's growth numbers were really stellar by their standards with 7.3% underlying sales growth. The figures were driven by pricing 8.3% pricing and we lost 1% volume. There would be a €4.8b increase in raw material costs which was unprecedented due to lots of global economic factors. whatever else it is. That's really the story of the of the year so far. Unilever were expecting to return to a more normal operation in 23/24, but it was also gearing up and bracing for a recessionary cycle.

Elaine Bowker provided an update in relation to the Further Education Sector. In particular:-

- It was an important time with Students undertaking exams for the first time in three years with anxiety levels extremely high;
- The impact on the City Region's young people was enormous due to levels of deprivation and barriers in the way was a real concern;
- Talent attraction was a big issue for all employers and price inflation, with key shortage areas being construction, health and social care and visitor economy;
- T levels had been introduced and there was a need for employers and Universities understand what was involved; and
- Liverpool Community College was going to be the biggest provider of the T Levels in the City Region and 3rd in the Country so it was important that the T Levels were aligned with the technical skills needed by the local economy.

Tony Reeves updated the Board on the following in relation to Liverpool City Council:-

- There would be an exciting opportunity announced shortly regarding a technology business locating to Paddington Village in Liverpool, bringing 750 jobs over three years;
- Demand for Paddington village was growing exponentially with a new development called 'Hemisphere' being consulted upon shortly providing another potential landmark building for the City Region over the next two years;
- He had taken over as the Knowledge Quarter Board Chair and he was keen to get the Council, Universities and NHS to use their land assets really strategically to maximise the potential 3 million square feet of growth potential in the area over the next 10 to 15 years;
- The potential to position the 'Knowledge Quarter' as part of a network of innovation districts across the City Region and discussions were taking place with the Combined Authority to look into that;
- Concern about the cost of living crisis and the impact on residents and businesses who were vulnerable to a downturn in discretionary spend;
- The importance of focusing on building the knowledge economy over the coming years to strengthen our economic resilience, productivity and build supply chains across the City Region; and
- The work being led by University of Liverpool, with the NHS and the City Council in creating a Mental Health Centre of Excellence for research and innovation.

Katherine Fairclough provided an update in relation to the Combined Authority. In particular:-

- The announcement of the 'Regeneration Bill' and the opportunities within it for further devolution;
- There had been positive discussions with Department for Levelling-Up in relation to the deal for the Liverpool City Region;
- Attendance at the upcoming UKREiiF which was is a huge opportunity to showcase the great work around regeneration about growth across the City Region;
- Discussions have re-commenced with the DFT around the Integrated Rail Plan in relation to passenger and freight rail which was a positive step and significant for the potential Freeport;
- A piece of work on the impact of COVID across the City Region was almost in its final stage taking into account the tier restrictions and the benefits that came to the City Region a result; and
- The Evidence and Research Team had been doing some work on the impact of the cost of living crisis across the City Region and it would be useful to discuss it at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Jeanette Williamson updated the Board on the following:-

- The recent Local Government elections had taken place and the annual meeting process was underway;
- A big focus on regeneration , particularly around Birkenhead;
- The lack of coherence or strategy around how 'Levelling-Up' funding was allocated and concerns that Councils were having to compete with each other for funding; and

- Work on the Local Plan was continuing at pace following approval by Wirral Council in March 2022 with submission to the Secretary of State by the Summer.

508. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The LEP Board considered a report which summarised the level of LCR Combined Authority Award for UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the requirements for the development of an implementation plan.

Dr Aileen Jones, Executive Director for Investment and Delivery at the Combined Authority highlighted the following key points:-

- The funding allocation of £52.8 million in UK SPF (which includes a Multiply component of £8.4m) for the funding period 2022-2025;
- This was a lower figure than expected and not at the previous levels of allocation for ERDF and ESF which will result in a gap in funding for a number of programmes, particularly in relation to the skills agenda;
- Work was underway to understand the financial impact and look at ways to support existing programmes to continue;
- Government had been clear on the priorities for the investment plan ahead of the submission; which were initially – ‘Community and Place’ and ‘Supporting Local Businesses’
- Funding under the last strand – ‘People and Skills’ would only be made available in 2024-25
- The challenges as a result of the funding gap;
- The Investment Plan needed to be submitted to Government by 1 August 2022 which was a tight deadline;
- Detailed guidance had been provided by Government on what sort of interventions were expected to be included in the plan;
- The proposed approach in relation to the Local Growth Partnership and consultation on the plan, similar to that used for the Economic Recovery Panel; and
- The proposal to include City Region Members of Parliament as consultees and the establishment of a separate mechanism to do that.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE was keen that Board Members shared their views on some of the priorities for funding to ensure sustainable, inclusive growth in place in the City Region.

The Deputy Chair, Paul Corcoran suggested that use of the existing Sector Boards who represent the wider City Region as a mechanism for consultation and they would be supportive of this work.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE asked what the shortfall in funding was.

Aileen Jones advised that it was a 37% reduction which equated to around £10m per year.

Angela White OBE thanked Aileen Jones and Katherine Fairclough, Chief Executive at the Combined Authority for the opportunity to meet and the discussion around the UKSPF. She asked about the ‘multiply’ element; how would that run concurrently and

would some of the demand of ESF Funding be applicable. Had there been a cross analysis between the two funding programmes. Angela White advised that the Sector was geared up to work with Combined Authority in terms of looking at some of the elements that already fit with the investment framework and our manifesto. Angela referred to an upcoming event and suggested that Combined Authority participation in that event would be great and also enhance the consultation route.

Melinda Acutt asked how the priorities for the funding would be set? Melinda observed that within the papers there were a number of priorities that could be grouped around clean growth which provided an opportunity is to have a real focus on green global growth. Melinda also added that in her experience of being involved in assisting large utilities subject to a reduction in funding, it was helpful not to focus on the current situation what to cut back but think about the funding as fresh and how it could be spent. Focussing on maximising the benefits of the funding available and seeing it from the opposite perspective and a more positive aspect.

Katherine Fairclough provided some broader context and some expectation management regarding the funding. It was going to be very tight and constrained and a lot less money that previously available which was heavily relied upon in some sectors. Katherine suggested that it should be managed not just by the Combined Authority but as a collective. It was going to be a period of instability over the next few months and everything possible was being done to help and support those affected. There were some political issues to consider around how much challenge and lobbying of Government should take place as she had been surprised by some of the responses from some National Politicians in recent weeks around the allocation for the City Region. It was important to understand that the funding had to be distributed across the Country and the allocation was not as generous as previously received through European Funding. She added that it was the collective's responsibility for guiding and supporting front line colleagues in delivering this change but also on the impact that will be felt by many City Region businesses and ongoing dialogue was really important.

Deputy Chair of the LCR LEP, Paul Corcoran stated that communication around this issue was going to be crucial. It was important to ensure that businesses and various different organisations understood the situation with limited funding and the restrictions with decision making. He asked if there was anything that could be done to support organisations who had relied heavily on funding for many years in order to help them to become more sustainable? He felt there was an opportunity for some interesting work as a collective.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE took on point the points raised and agreed with the comments around needing to look at things differently and looking at ways to provide support for organisations to become more self-sustaining. He suggested Paul Corcoran and one or two Board Members meet with Mark Basnett and Aileen Jones to discuss the matter. There were more points that the Chair wanted to add to the actual allocation to ensure that money was being allocated to organisations showing results and measurable outputs.

Mark Basnett explained that the whole process of economic development work that the Combined Authority led on was evidence based share and he had been very impressed by their dedication and commitment to that. He agreed with the points raised and during early discussions around UKSPF it was very clear that there was a focus on what worked and delivered impact in previous programmes, particularly

around the policy priorities set out in the plan for prosperity. There was a commitment across the board for that kind of impact focus.

509. LEP REVIEW AND TRANSITION

The LCR LEP Board considered a report which provided an update on the implications for Liverpool City Region following the Government's completion of the LEP Review and the process under way to effect its recommendations and requirements with colleagues in the Combined Authority against a backdrop of reduced funding from Government.

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP provided a brief overview of the background and following the publication of the 'Levelling-Up' White Paper, the Government's desire to see greater integration of LEPs with Mayoral Combined Authorities with a transition plan requiring submission to Government for approval by 29 July 2022.

Mark Basnett advised that the report detailed the proposed process of information gathering and due diligence by Combined Authority colleagues on the executive roles, funding and structures within the Growth Company (Growth Platform) that currently support the LEP functions and an options appraisal on integration. This would inform a jointly prepared analysis on how the role of business intelligence, insight and advice into City Region Strategy and Delivery could be built upon and strengthened against the backdrop of the review.

Mark Basnett explained that once this analysis had been completed the proposed way forward would be shared for consultation and development with the LEP Board, Local Authorities and businesses, prior to final approval by the Combined Authority at its meeting on 22 July 2022.

The timeline for this process was detailed at section 4.3 of the report.

Mark Basnett advised that the current LEP arrangements in Liverpool City Region were seen as exemplary by Government, providing the basis of mature, constructive and insightful partnership working and brought the insight of the private sector to local economic strategy and delivery, whilst respecting the democratic mandate of locally elected Leaders and Mayors. Its impact in informing and shaping policy interventions to benefit the economy is extensive and, by way of example, much of the City Region's innovation and high growth priorities in the likes of health and digital manufacturing priorities and effective interventions in recent years can be directly attributed to the excellent work undertaken by the Sector Boards of the LCR LEP.

Mark Basnett informed the Board that following discussions with Local Authority Chief Executives it was proposed to broaden the review further and look at what business support investment arrangements were required right across the City Region, particularly given the reduction in Local Authority funding over many years and the reduction in capacity for business support. The review was not only an opportunity for greater integration with Mayoral Combined Authorities but it was also an opportunity to look at the whole business support ecosystem.

Mark Basnett explained that there would be intensive work over the next 6 weeks with an extensive consultation taking place alongside the due-diligence exercise culminating in an options analysis of the various options available. It was an opportunity to develop a business ecosystem that would be properly funded, sustainable and delivered impact for the next three to five years.

Mark Basnett welcomed immediate comments from colleagues, but also engagement in the review process. He asked for feedback over the coming weeks to help shape something fit for purpose for the City Region going forward.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE thanked Mark Basnett for this presentation. He added that it was a key critical time for the City Region to promote and shape something for purpose and welcomed comments and thoughts. The LCR LEP was such a powerful Board and an exemplar on a National level.

Dr Jon Hague suggested using the Sector Boards to help feed into the review. It was important to prioritise and focus on the things that would make the biggest difference to the economic output with the limited resources, which was what the Enterprise Board were about.

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP agree with the comment and explained that there had been increasing focus on what delivered impact and measuring it. He added that a CRM system had been established that tracked business performance against interventions to build a much better understanding of the impact of interventions which then has to align with the City Region priorities.

Katherine Fairclough, Chief Executive of the Combined Authority reiterated the City Region's strong reputation, particularly on strategy and delivery. She stressed that this was a 'transition plan' and would iterate over time. It was about setting the strategic direction and having the collective confidence that plans were in place to get through the intervening six month period and then onwards into the future.

Katherine Fairclough also referred to the uncertainty for the workforce within the LEP, and how the due diligence work and transition plan was important during the period of uncertainty. She pledged to work alongside Mark Basnett and the team and it would be beneficial to have ongoing dialogue and possibly make making it a regular part of the Board Meeting, as well as some separate time for a more detailed look at some of the areas of work. She reminded the Board that it was the transition plan that was required by 29 July 2022, so there was further time to discuss and develop the future model.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE agreed with the comments made, particularly in relation to the transition rather than the full blown plan. Assurances needed to be given to the workforce and also to the business community that collaborative work was ongoing on a long-term plan for the LEP. He welcome involvement in the process and asked Board Members to reach out to Mark Basnett.

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP also agreed with Katherine Fairclough's comments for a broad understanding of the direction of travel. He invited particular input from Local Authority colleagues for a sense of what their aspirations were for a joined up approach. He reiterated that there would be a period of uncertainty for colleagues over the next few months and it wouldn't be easy. He would continue to do his best to help colleagues through this period and he thanked Combined Authority colleagues who had been very supportive.

The Chair, Asif Hamid reported that Tom O'Brien and sent in some observations separately on the report and welcomed his input given his experience on an international level.

Tom O'Brien stated that he would be happy to discuss the points with Mark and provide any help he could.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE referred to the work that went on in the background. He thanked Katherine Fairclough and her team and Tony Reeves and his team. Aileen Jones and everyone who very collaboratively in pulling this together. It had been very last minute despite the length of time taken by the Government on the review.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the detail of the report be noted the process under way to propose effective integration of the LEP with the Combined Authority and determine the future role and structure of the LEP Main Board, Sub Boards and Executive to best support the inclusive and sustainable growth of the City Region economy, be endorsed;
- (ii) That the opportunity for further input over the coming weeks, be noted; and
- (iii) That the proposed approach be discussed and agreed at the LEP Board on 7 July 2022.

(iv)

510. FUTURE IMPACT BOARD

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP Board referred to the discussion at the previous meeting on how to help articulate the voice of young people across key business boards in the City Region. He invited Rachael Patterson from the Future Impact Board (FIB) to address the meeting.

The LCR LEP Board considered a presentation from Rachael Patterson, Policy Manager at Knowledge Quarter Liverpool and Chair of the FIB.

The presentation highlighted:-

- How the Board was formed and the Board Membership;
- The Board's 12 month Strategy with 5 strategic deliverables:-
 - A Thought Leadership Piece
 - Hosting and Attending events;
 - Representation on Boards across the LCR;
 - Representation of External Panels; and
 - Influencing the MIPIM 2023 Programme.
- Development of Board Members to help improve confidence, public speaking and leadership skills; and
- Board governance and internal structure.

Rachael Patterson explained that the Board provided a valued and diverse voice for the younger generation to influence decision making on a local, national and international stage. The aim of the Board was to bring a young professional perspective into the different sectors across the City Region and also to be able to

carry the voice of perhaps the younger generation where it might not be appropriate for them to sit on a particular board.

Rachael Patterson advised that the Board had been identified as a voice and it had been asked to consult on some key policy documents by Liverpool City Council and the LCR Combined Authority.

Rachael Patterson indicated that the Future Impact Board would like to be represented on some of the boards across LCR to carry the young voice right the way through. The

Rachael Patterson added that as they were young professionals they were keen to be developed and mentored and given opportunities to develop and learn from the LCR Leaders, as well as mentor other young people. It was hoped that the FIB would create a foundation then for young professionals to step into to ensure that their voice is at the table.

Rachael Patterson explained that they were currently very Liverpool City focussed would were looking to expand into the wider City Region. They were in the process of contacting organisations and bring people in from different sectors that currently might not be represented. The FIB were keen that it was an inclusive group and that it represents the entire younger generation. She welcomed questions and comments from Board Members.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE thanked Rachael Patterson for her interesting and intriguing presentation. The development of young people, particularly on an international level was one of things he was passionate about.

The Chair indicated that he was in conversation recently with Qatar about the World Cup about bringing the younger generation through on an international level. He offered to put Rachael in touch with the people coordinating it as they were looking for an ambassador from LCR to be involved in it.

Angela White OBE thanked Rachael for her dynamic presentation, it was fantastic and inspirational. She referred to organisations, particularly in the youth sector, who were developing some fantastic links already and inspiring young people like young advisors in youth groups locally who would see the FIB members as role models for disconnected young people. Angela offered to speak with Rachael offline as it would be a great opportunity to link into that area of work with young people.

Melinda Acutt commended Rachael on the fantastic work of the FIB and indicated that a number of members on the Clean Growth Sector Board had retired and the membership was being refreshed. She was keen to work with the FIB, particularly as clean growth was something that was really important to the younger generation and it would be good to have their voice represented.

Tony Reeves commented that he had already has the pleasure of working with Rachael. He added that the FIB was a group of young professionals who could 'punch their weight' in any setting which was important to note. Diverse representation on the Board was hugely important. Looking at issues through a different lens gives diversity real strength and impact. The FIB were not only top professionals, but they also provided a diversity of thought that a different set of life experiences brought.

Elaine Bowker also commended the presentation. She added that mentoring went both ways as well. There were 10,000 young people in her College just about to leave and many of them would want to go into the professions that FIB members work in. She was keen to speak with Rachael outside of the meeting to talk about how the work of the FIB could inspire her students.

Rachael Patterson agreed that young people seeing somebody who is less than 10 years older than them in a career created a more tangible aspiration. She was happy to assist Elaine Bowker and discuss it outside of the meeting.

Tom O'Brien thanked Rachael Patterson for her presentation and appreciated the clarity and precision of it. He mentioned the importance of making good connections, for example the Convention Bureau and Marketing Liverpool. He also mentioned business awards events in the City Region as a mechanism for networking.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE appreciated the feedback from the Board and indicated he would be more than happy to be involved and help to connect the FIB to other businesses/organisations. He commended the mentoring programme which he felt was missing in the City Region. He referenced the many ambassadorial people connected with the LCR LEP and he suggested an engagement piece of work as the next step forward.

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP sensed the strong desire from the Board to work with the FIB, be more embedded across the Sector Boards and involved with the LEP Board. In relation to FIB representation becoming City Region wide, that was perhaps the biggest challenge. There were many other diverse voices, both geographically and by sector that needed to be captured so development work needed to be undertaken over a period of time.

Mark Basnett welcomed input from colleagues input to help the FIB broaden their representation and be properly inclusive and was delighted to work with them in the future.

The LCR LEP Board agreed to work with the Future Impact Board on facilitating representation on the Sector Boards, involvement in the LCR LEP Board and assist with wider engagement and representation across the City Region.

511. INWARD INVESTMENT UPDATE

Mark Basnett, Managing Director of the LCR LEP provided a presentation which updated the Board on the performance of the City Region's Inward Investment Service and the significant plans for the year ahead.

The presentation highlighted:-

- The objectives, process, timeline and targets;
- An overview of the LCR Vaccines Value Proposition project;
- An analysis of project performance since 2019 including:-
 - A breakdown of successful projects by Country, UK Sector and LCR Local Authority,
 - A breakdown of reasons for investment and investment types;
- Project pipeline enquiries;
- Examples of projects;
- An example of project opportunity response; and
- Abandoned leads and projects during April 21 – March 22; and

- Contract targets for 2023 and performance achieved to date.

Mark Basnett outlined how the process that was adopted, working with Combined and Local Authority colleagues and businesses and City Region Investment Board was to ensure that the approach tied into the Strategy for the City Region. By strengthening the key areas and the development of marketing propositions this would raise the profile of the City Region nationally and internationally.

Mark Basnett added that performance was ahead of target. The targets were set pre-pandemic it was remarkable that in some respects steady investment had continued

Advanced manufacturing, digital, health and life sciences and more broadly around innovation were the areas where most project investment had been secured.

A lot of investment came through business expansion but around 60% of the investments secured had been new investments to the City Region. The Science Park offer had been an integral part of the reason for investments.

Mark Basnett also stated that site and land availability was becoming critical to attracting investment. He cited the 'Knowledge Quarter' as an example of a high quality asset to be able to compete nationally and internationally with other areas to provide the infrastructure to attract investment.

Mark Basnett concluded his presentation and stated that despite the pandemic, the Inward Investment Service has managed more enquiries than were targeted and there was the ambition to increase GPA and the proportion of UK investment. He welcomed comments or questions on his presentation at that time or following the meeting.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE thanked Mark Basnett for his presentation. He added that some of the results demonstrated the challenges of the pandemic but the enquiries were coming through not just through this platform but also through the Freeport also. He asked Board Members to provide any feedback direct to Mark Basnett.

512. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE reported that due to time constraints he wasn't able to provide the usual update on his recent activities but would endeavour to provide an update to the next meeting.

The Chair referred to a number of major matters that were ongoing including LEP Funding, the Levelling-Up agenda, lack of clarity from Government about various issues and challenges for businesses around clean growth. He undertook to try to keep everyone updated.

513. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE indicated that the next meeting of the Board was due to be held on 7 July at 8.30am.

The Chair put forward a proposal for a meeting in person at the later start time of 4pm in order to facilitate a social event post meeting. It would be an opportunity to meet again face to face after a long period of remote meetings.

The Chair indicated that the office would contact Board Members and attendees to canvass views on the proposal via e-mail.

There were no other items of business so the Chair thanked everybody for their time, participation and input. He reiterated the importance of submitting views on the direction of travel for the LEP. He stressed the value of coming together, as business representatives and working with Local Authorities and Leaders to create a strong business voice to take the LEP forward over the next three to five years.

Minutes 505 to 513 received as a correct record on the 7 day of July 2022.

Chairperson of the Board

(The meeting closed at 10.30am)