

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held remotely on Friday, 24th February, 2023 the following Members were

PRESENT:

Asif Hamid MBE, Chairperson
Paul Corcoran
Rachael Patterson
Mayor Joanne Anderson
Professor Tim Jones
Elaine Bowker
Angela White OBE
Tom O'Brien
Steve Stuart
John McDonald
Faye Dyer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Dave Anderson, Interim Assistant Director – Investment, LCRCA
Mick Allen – BEIS
Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR LEP
Dr Aileen Jones, Executive Director Investment and Delivery, LCRCA
Shelley Lockett, Growth Platform
Louise Outram, Interim Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer
Simon Reid, Growth Platform
Lisa Smith – Liverpool City Council

APOLOGIES

Ben Osu
Melinda Acutt
Dr Jonathan Hague
Mark Whitworth
Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
Councillor Janette Williamson

522 WELCOME AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

523 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Board meeting held on the 17 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

524 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Mark Basnett, Managing Director – LCR LEP, advised the Board that the LCR LEP had undergone its Annual Performance review with Government. As a consequence of the LCR LEP going through the integration process into the LCR Combined Authority the annual performance review had been 'light touch'. However, in keeping with previous years, the LCR LEP had met all the criteria set as part of the review

process. It was reported that the review had identified some residual underspend with the 'Getting Building Fund', however this was an issue for the LCR Combined Authority to address.

Board Members were also reminded that as part of the Annual Performance Review they were required to complete a Register of Interest Form, which would be circulated shortly.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

525 LEP & GROWTH COMPANY INTEGRATION WITH THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Asif Hamid MBE advised the Board, that given the importance of this item, the Chairs of each of the Sector Boards had been invited to attend and participation in the discussion.

Aileen Jones, Executive Director Investment and Delivery and Dave Anderson, Interim Assistant Director – Investment, provided a presentation to the Board which summarised the progress of the integration of the LCR LEP into the LCR Combined Authority.

The presentation set out the following:

- Summarised the context for integration, which had been a requirement of Government for all LEPs in Combined Authority (CA) areas to be integrated into those CAs.
- The LCR Combined Authority had undertaken to complete the integration by the end of June 2023.
- It was recognised that the LCR LEP Board structure had represented LEP best practice and had played a major role in the City Region.
- Integration provided an opportunity to tie in the 'business voice' more effectively into the work and priorities of the CA.
- Proposed changes to Sector Boards could transition over the next few months.
- The integration of the LEP and any future proposed changes to the Growth Platform had to be considered against a backdrop of a significantly constrained funding environment.
- Recognised the importance of the board structure and the need to integrate the business voice;
- Explained the proposed structure, which was:
 - Prioritisation of LCR Growth clusters into the following Cluster Boards-
 - Health and Life Sciences
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Digital and Creative
 - Use existing CA Innovation and Social Economy Boards;
 - Creation of a Professional and Business Services Advisory Board;
 - Future Visitor Economy Board would be informed by the work on Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) bid.
- Explained how the Boards could establish Task and Finish Groups, looking at areas such as Skills, Net zero, Trade and investment, Digitalisation, Equalities, diversity and inclusion.
- Outlined the opportunities to align the work of the Boards more closely with the work of the CA.
- Set out the next steps for the engagement on the proposed model.

Board Members considered the presentation and provided the following feedback:

- Imperative to continue to have a clear, independent business voice involved in the decision-making process. Particularly when the City Region's business economy required support to attract investment and scale-up existing businesses, it was important that the business community were listened to and able to shape the support. Furthermore, clarity was sought on how the Sector Boards had been engaged in this process, noting that the Board Members gave their time to participate in the Sector Boards.
- The Board was advised that the proposals presented today, have been developed in conjunction with the Growth Platform and were presented today for discussion.
- A Board Member welcomed the proposed Clusters Boards and sought clarity on how the proposals would result in growth across sectors such as life sciences. The inclusion of social economy was also welcomed.
- It was noted that the integration between the LCR CA and LEP provided an opportunity to enhance the partnership and ensure that the business voice was used to provide opinion in the CA's decision-making processes. It was also suggested that the Chair of the Business and Enterprise Board should provide updates to the LCR CA, possible with an annual statement which summarised how the region's business sector was performing.
- The Board was advised that they would have a further opportunity to comment on the proposals at the next Board meeting on 30 March 2023. The importance of retaining a genuine, independent business voice was also recognised.
- It would be preferable to have an opportunity to reflect on the proposals and provide further feedback. Furthermore, it was suggested that the existing Boards should be engaged in the design for the new proposals.
- The proposals had the potential to be powerful and drive a growing economy and welcomed the inclusion of skills as part of a Boards focus.
- Concern was experienced regarding the uncertainty surrounding the Board make-up for the Visitor Economy sector and the importance of having a successful bid to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) was stressed.
- Social Value was intrinsic and should be the golden thread which runs through all of the Cluster Boards, rather than being one distinct Board.
- The integration provided an opportunity to be clear on the role of the LCR CA and the LEP, as there was still uncertainty about the roles and purpose of both organisations.
- Discussions on age diversity and the inclusion of the next generations voice within the proposed structures would be welcome.
- The proposed structure should be articulating the benefits of what they are seeking to achieve.

- Stressed the importance of retaining the authentic and independent business voice within the new proposals. It was also suggested that common themes should cut across all Cluster Boards, rather than being the domain of one.
- It was highlighted that within the proposed structure there was no reference to the maritime sector.
- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of engagement with Sector Boards in the development of the structure proposals and had not made approaches to understand the priorities of the Sector Boards or that some, such as the Professional and Business Services Board underpinned the majority of business activity across the City Region.
- It was recognised that improvements were required across the City Region in terms of business growth, which was why the voice of business was critical.
- Tribute was paid to the dedication and commitment of Board Members.
- It was noted that the Built Environment did not feature within the proposed structure.
- In response to the comments raised, it was stressed that this was the first part in the engagement process, and further engagement with Sector Boards would be undertaken. Furthermore, it was imperative that the integration with the LCR CA and structure proposals better integrated the business voice into the LCR CA.
- The proposed structures should facilitate the opportunity for Cluster Boards to work collectively and move away from some of the silo Board working which was currently taking place.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE, thanked Board Members for their valuable and honest contributions from across the sectors.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The presentation and comments raised be noted;
- (ii) Engagement sessions with each Sector Board be undertaken to inform the structure proposals.

Chairperson of the Board

(The meeting closed at 11.07 am)