

**Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Present:** Councillor Steve Parish (Chair), Tracy Walsh, Catherine Barber-Brown, Helen Nellist, Yvette Hastings and Cllr Paul Donovan.

**Also In Attendance:**

- Phillip Cox - Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Ian Brooks – Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Sharon Parker – Warrington Borough Council (secretariat)

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Helen Nellist declared an interest in relation to Local Growth Fund and Cheshire College South & West had been awarded a projects under LGF1 and LGF3.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 20 January 2020 were received as a correct record.

**4. Membership of the Committee**

**Noted:**

- (1) Awaiting confirmation from Cheshire East re Councillor Suzanne Brookfield as their representative.
- (2) Cheshire Business Group has been asked to nominate 2 representatives to the Scrutiny Committee as ex officio members. Yvette was welcomed to the meeting to represent the small business sector.

**5. Presentation of the LEP Governance Structure**

The Committee received a presentation from Phillip Cox on the above. Information was provided on:

- Overview of LEPs across the country
- Strategic information relating to the Cheshire and Warrington LEP including details of the Strategic Economic Plan and the Delivery Plan
- Governance and operations – details of each committee and delegated authority levels

- National Assurance and Local Assurance Frameworks.

The Committee discussed in detail the information provided and asked:

1. Greater understanding of how the money is disaggregated throughout the region.
2. How are meetings of the LEP publicised? Is it enough to just put information on the website? Could twitter be used more?

**6. To Review the Combined Outputs of all LEP Programmes**

Ian Brooks provided a presentation on the following:

- Local Growth Fund – outputs contracted by DBEIS. Percentages achieved against BEIS targets were outlined for the following categories - jobs created, private sector leverage and new homes completed.
- Local Growth Fund – additional benefits such as new commercial floorspace, businesses receiving investment, construction jobs and learners benefitting. Figures were provided by – contracted on projects and achieved to date.
- The Growing Places Fund (£12.1 m), the number of loans made, total GPF lent, total value of the projects supported, jobs created and commercial floorspace created.
- The Enterprise Zone outputs. In addition to this a further 305,000sq ft was currently under construction. The jobs created on Royal London moving to Alderley Park would create an additional 1,200 new jobs but was delayed until July 2020. A further £5m investment had been approved by the EZ Board but had not been deployed.
- The Growth Hub Team had been expanded during Q4. The focus next year had moved to concentrating on more intensive support to businesses with account management. The various outputs such as enquiries, high intensity support and referrals were provided together with the targets and achievements to date.
- Accelerate Programme – outputs and results were provided on the 19,060 participants such as age, ethnicity, disability, basic skills and no of employed females gaining improved labour market status.

The Committee asked questions during the presentation but asked for further details on the following:

1. How is the quality of advice provided by the Growth Hub measured?
2. How many employers are following through with the Pledge?
3. Inclusivity policy on how money is spent?

**7. Public Participation**

To receive questions from members of the public in accordance with Governance Procedure Rule 6. A total period of 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at

Panel meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking.

Nil

**8. Work Programme**

Agreed.

**9. Future Meeting Dates**

Decision – To note the following schedule of meetings, commencing at 2.00pm, at Wyvern House. Pre meeting at 1.30pm.

Dates for 2020/2021:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

**12. Part II – Matters to be discussed in private**

Nil