



BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting held on 13th July 2016, Council Chamber, Warrington Town Hall, Warrington, WA1 1UH

Present:

Christine Gaskell (Chair)	Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cllr Terry O'Neill
Prof. Tim Wheeler	Pete Waterman	Robert Mee
Robert Davis	Ged Barlow	Meredydd David
Jamie Christon	Louise Morrissey	

Apologies:

Cllr Rachel Bailey	Martin Ashcroft	Clare Hayward
Nigel Schofield	Howard Hopwood	Ged Barlow
Philip Cox (LEP Chief Executive)		

Attending / Observing:

Andy Farrall	Andrew Round	Charlie Seward
Mark Livesey	Andy Hulme (Minutes)	

Agenda Item 1: Apologies and Introductions

1.1 Christine Gaskell welcomed Mark Livesey, the LEP's new Deputy Chief Executive to his inaugural Board meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Rachel Bailey, Dr Martin Ashcroft, Clare Hayward, Nigel Schofield, Ged Barlow, Howard Hopwood and Philip Cox (LEP Chief Executive).

Agenda Item 2: Conflicts of Interest

2.1 No conflicts of interest were declared in relation to Agenda Items on the open section of the meeting.

2.2 Meredydd David, Professor Tim Wheeler and Robert Davis declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 and left the meeting prior to this item being discussed.

Agenda Item 3: Public Presentation

3.1 No request from a member of the public had been received seven days before the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2016

4.1 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4.2 *Action 1*: A report is to be tabled at a forthcoming meeting of the Performance and Investment Committee.

4.3 *Action 2*: It was reported that the session with the CWaC development Boards had been successful and that the event could be repeated in the autumn.

Agenda Item 5: Chief Executive's report

5.1 The Board noted the report and the following additional comments from the Deputy Chief Executive:

- The new Deputy Chief Executive is to lead on a review of the Board and how well the LEP meets Government expectations in terms of governance and transparency. This is especially pertinent as the Public Accounts Committee has recently published a report on Cities and Local Growth which makes a number of recommendations in this area
- The LEP Network is funding a study to explore the experience of Devolution in each LEP area
- The LEP and Bank of England hosted a successful dinner with a number of local business leaders in June
- A launch event had been held in July for the LGF-funded Birchwood Pinchpoint Scheme. Initial reports are that the scheme is having a very positive impact
- The LEP is hosting a Breakfast Briefing on 20th July focussed on the importance of Quality of Place. Principal guest is Dame Helen Ghosh, Director General of the National Trust

Agenda Item 6: Enterprise Zone Growth Manager Proposal

6.1 The Board noted and agreed the content of the report presented by Robert Mee, Chair of the Enterprise Zone Programme Board proposing the appointment of a Growth Director.

6.3 Mark Livesey confirmed that the s.151 Officer was happy with the proposal.

6.4 The Board approved the recommendation that subject to confirmation that the Finance Committee is content, the LEP should adopt a pro-active approach to the development of the Cheshire Science Corridor and start the recruitment of the Growth Director role.

Agenda Item 7: Implications for Cheshire and Warrington of the EU Referendum Decision.

7.1 The Board noted the content of the report but agreed that it is still too early to understand what the implications of the decision to leave the EU may be. It was noted that the LEP and Local Authorities were maintaining regular contact with key Business Representative organisations and would feed any relevant intelligence up to Government.

7.2 Jamie Christon noted that the decision may have benefits for the Visitor Economy as UK holidays become more affordable due to changes in the exchange rate.

Agenda Item 8: Board Sub-committee Updates

8.1 The papers provided in support of Agenda Item 8 were noted.

8.2 Robert Davis provided a further verbal update on the LEP Strategy Board, noting that in his view the process being followed in respect of developing the LGF 3 proposals was rigorous and robust.

8.3 Robert Mee updated on the progress of the Enterprise Zone Programme Board. He noted that to date six new entrant companies had been secured so far.

Item 9: Local Growth Fund Round 3

9.1 This item was discussed as Confidential Business. A separate note of the discussion has been made for the benefit of Board members.

Item 10: Any other business

10.1 Agenda Item 10 was taken out of sequence to enable all Board Members to participate as a number were planning to absent themselves from the confidential session due to conflicts of interest.

10.2 Andrew Round provided a brief update on activity linked to the Northern Gateway Development Zone. Leaders from across NGDZ had met in Keele in June and a further meeting was planned for August, diaries permitting. Two major pieces of strategy work are being progressed which will feed into the main NGDZ Growth Strategy later in the year.

10.3 Robert Davis recorded his thanks to Robert Mee for his assistance in creating new private sector links into the Cheshire Energy Hub. He suggested that the Energy Hub model may have application in other sectors such as Automotive.

10.4 Meredydd David reported that the final meeting in connection with the Area Based Review is scheduled for w/c 25th July.

10.5 Jamie Christon advised that Katrina Michel (Marketing Cheshire) had hosted a 'Visitor Economy' Dinner last week at the University of Chester. She will provide feedback at the next Board.

10.6 Cllr Sam Dixon provided an update on the ongoing joint work with authorities in North Wales including the launch of the Rail Modernisation Study and a recent meeting with Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Minister with responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure in the Welsh Government. Meredydd David requested further information on any specific skills issues arising from the cross-border work that might be of relevance to the LEP Employer Skills Board.

Action: Charlie Seward to share relevant material with Meredydd David and Clare Heyward.

10.7 Mark Livesey confirmed his intention to arrange a Board Away Day in September as part of his review of Board functions.

Action: Mark Livesey / Alison Harkness to circulate dates for Friday evening / Saturday morning Board session in September.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 14th September 2016, 4.30pm

LEP Board Actions	
1.	Charlie Seward to share relevant material on cross-border skills issues with Meredydd David and Clare Heyward.
2.	Mark Livesey / Alison Harkness to circulate dates for Friday evening / Saturday morning Board session in September.