

**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership**

**Performance and Investment Committee Meeting**

**Held on 24th November 2021 at 1.30 via Teams**

**In attendance:** Nichola Newton (Chair), Ian Traynor, Joe Toward, Ian Brooks, Rebecca Luck, John Adlen, Tim Smith (in part)

**Apologies:** Chris Hindley, Peter Skates, Catherine Walker, Alex Thompson, Loren Jones, Stewart Brown

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| **Item No.** | **ITEM** | | | | | |
| 1. | **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**  NN welcomed attendees and apologies were noted as above.  Due to the Corona Virus meeting held via Teams.  It was noted that this meeting was not quorate, and therefore decisions required of the board would follow via correspondence and subsequent meetings. | | | | | |
| 2 | **Conflicts of Interest**  Declarations of interest: no declarations stated for members present. | | | | | |
| 3 | **Minutes and actions from the last meeting:**  The minutes of the meeting of 27th October were approved.  Actions from the last meeting – all items closed either completed or in the forward plan. | | | | | |
| 4 | **Life Sciences Fund 2**  IB led a presentation, this has been presented to the full LEP board on two previous occasions, and the team has been working through the detail of contracts and the tender documents in readiness for the procurement of a fund manager.  Rationale of creating a second life sciences fund is because we’re no longer able to invest from the first fund with new companies. Fund has been predominantly driven by Greater Manchester and the LEP will look to invest the returns from the first fund into the second fund. Geographic scope for second fund has been broadened, and there will therefore no longer be a singular focus on Alderley Park and GM Science Park. Conditions of the fund have been added with clear KPIs to address board’s input, including diversity. Fund management procurement will soon be initiated with dispatch of ITT, with the intention to still commence the contract 1st February 2022.  Members present support the fund and paper presented. | | | | | |
| **ACTIONS** | | | | **OWNER** | **BY WHEN** |
| **DECISION:** Full board membership, including S151 Officer to review life sciences fund and to ratify. | | | | BOARD MEMBERS | 03/12/21 |
| Board to receive updates of the procurement | | | | IB | 22/12/21 |
| 5 | **Recovery Plan (Growth Corridors)**  JA led a presentation.  Look to start repaying our loans in 2022, but have healthy flow of retained business rates, to facilitate further investment and repayment. The current arrangement with Local Authorities is for additional business rates to be transferred to the LEP for 25 years from 2016 (i.e. 2041).  Income from the business rates has fluctuated in the last 5 years. The fluctuations have been driven for those locations (mainly Alderley Park) where there were existing business rates. There have been periods when the growth of business rates above the pre-existing baseline, has varied depending on which buildings have been undergoing refurbishment or been mothballed.  2 live business cases:   * Vortex, Newport Business Park (9th December Growth Corridors Board) Business case being currently independently reviewed and would come to P&I in January 2022 should the project remain on track. * Enviroo, Protos (early 2022 Growth Corridors Board) Strong alignment from a strategic perspective, it is however important to note that the company is a start-up with a novel technology. Additional due diligence is therefore being applied to this project, including financial, technical and business case itself. Core risk in the LEP investment is during the construction phase. Once completed either the company, or the developer, is liable for business rates.   Pipeline:   * Thornton science park is seeking a development partner and looking to have a shortlist at the end 2021. Within the enterprise zone there are cleared sites, but there is significant complexity arising from a range of legacy covenants including ground pipework and still attached to Stanlow (heating, electricity and wastewater).   IT asked whether the CWLEP were in competition with our city neighbours. JA confirmed that CWLEP is not in competition with Greater Manchester or the Liverpool City Region, as the CWLEP is to focus on activities that would not be preferable for city environment. Future branding and marketing for the full North West region is under discussion for the life sciences area. | | | | | |
| **ACTIONS** | | | | **OWNER** | **BY WHEN** |
| EZ Presentation to be shared with board | | | | JA | 26/11/21 |
| 6 | **Programmes Update / DLUHC Returns**  RL ran through the programme update.  CH, NN, IT and CW provided offline approvals for the central government return, which is due 26th November for both LGF and GBF. | | | | | |
| **ACTIONS** | | | | **OWNER** | **BY WHEN** |
| Further detail on GBF and LGF Skills projects at next meeting. | | | | RL | End Jan |
| Full corporate risk review item to be scheduled as priority item for next meeting. | | | | RL | End Jan |
| 7 | **European Funds Update and Successor (shared prosperity fund)**  TS led a presentation.  **ERDF:** Although there are no new business cases coming forward, there are several live projects (capital and/or revenue funding) that will continue until 2023.  The priority breakdown for the projects are as follows:  Priority 1 research and innovation  Priority 2 digital  Priority 3 business support  Priority 4 low carbon  **EU Social Fund**: Revenue funding for employment and skills. There are no new business cases coming forward, however there are several live projects (revenue funding) that will continue until 2023, with Accelerate as the exception.  No direction from central government on process to close the projects, however there appears to be high degrees of flexibility being utilised by Government to ensure funds are spent in the next few years, with a minimal perceived risk on potential clawbacks.  Accelerate: Project change request in progress, reviewing closure May 2022 and reduction in funds. TS referenced that the change was being driven by the project rather than DWP.  Shared prosperity fund:  Notable likely requirement for Cheshire and Warrington to have to continue to compete effectively for funding allocations and successful bids, with many of the provisional statements captured in the spending review relating to specific geographies. | | | | | |
| 8 | **AOB**  IB advised that although a meeting series would be produced on a monthly basis, that modifications to the TOR could be made to ensure that the board meet at least every 2 months but would not mandate a monthly meeting unless sufficient items for discussion and/or decision. | | | | | |
| **ACTIONS** | | | **OWNER** | | **BY WHEN** |
| Seek view from board on cancellation of December meeting, with subsequent extension to January meeting | | | RL | | 26/11/21 |
| Share updated meeting series proposal, to move the timing to be more convenient for board members (i.e. start at 8am or 4pm) | | | RL | | 26/11/21 |
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| 22nd December 2021 | | *Cancel* | | | | |
| 26th January 2022 | | 1600-1800 | LGF Evaluation Brief  Corporate Risk  GBF Q3 Review  Vortex (Decision) | | | |
| 23rd February 2022 | | 1600-1730 | Marketing Cheshire  Jobs Portal Review  MDC Review | | | |
| 23rd March 2022 | | 1600-1730 | Warrington SmartGrid  Enviroo (Provisional hold) | | | |
| 27th April 2022 | | 1600-1730 | GBF Q4 Review  LGF Q4 Review | | | |
| 25th May 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |
| 22nd June 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |
| 20th July 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |
| 24th August 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |
| 21st September 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |
| 26th October 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |
| 23rd November 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |
| 21st December 2022 | | 1600-1730 |  | | | |