



**LEP Strategy Committee
MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Wednesday 19th September 2018
Wyvern House, Winsford

Present:

Stephen Kinsey (Acting Chair)	Graeme Bristow	Pete Waterman
Philip Cox	Lisa Harris	Kathryn Carr
Andy Hulme		

Apologies:

Robert Mee	Frank Jordan	Clare Hayward
Gary Steen	Andy Farrall	Charlie Seward
Robert Davis		

Attending:

Mark Livesey (AI 4)

Agenda Item 1: Apologies

Stephen Kinsey, acting Chair, welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Robert Mee, Robert Davis, Clare Heyward, Gary Steen, Andy Farrall, Charlie Seward (represented by Lisa Harris) and Frank Jordan (represented by Kathryn Carr).

Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were declared.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Philip Cox updated on **Growing Places Fund**. It was reported that the Glass House funding agreement has now been signed off. Consideration needs to be given to how additional EZ investments are funding in the shorter term, until EZ business rates income is of sufficient volume.

Agenda Item 4: Strategy Update

The contents of the report were noted.

The Committee noted the amendments made to the **Energy Strategy** following the period of consultation in July / August and approved release of the final version for public use.

Mark Livesey provided a short presentation setting out the key points arising from the **Housing Strategy** work undertaken for the LEP by GL Hearn, including: -

- The sub region has a higher percentage of home ownership than the UK average
- There is a notably lower percentage of Private Rented Stock (possibly a reflection of the less urban / city nature of the sub-region). Half of young people use PRS as a means of getting on the housing ladder
- There are higher levels of older owner-occupiers; there are also higher than average levels of under-occupation which may be a reflection of limited housing offer for this age group
- There is the potential for housing challenges to be a significant drag on economic growth - relevant to the narrative for the Local Industrial Strategy
- The Strategy places emphasis on the need for higher numbers of smaller properties (e.g. 1 and 2-bed flats) in urban centres with good transport links. Housing can have a role in re-vitalising town centres
- Potential for long term partnership with Government / Homes England could be key and transformational.
- GL Hearne is currently producing a summary document for the LEP

It was suggested that the strategy could also highlight the economic benefits of housing construction for jobs and skills and local suppliers.

The Committee thanked Mark for the presentation. [Confirm what we agreed for next steps – Board?]

Progress in developing the **Science and Innovation Strategy** was noted and a discussion considered how we create the right environment for science and innovation to succeed. The Committee supported the approach of considering future areas of need and strength and how we position ourselves as a sub-region.

Question considered of the extent to which the strategy will address the Industrial Strategy Grand Challenges, given the emerging work on the LIS, and the importance of acknowledging Industrial Strategy Sector Deals, including Life Sciences and Nuclear.

It was noted that following a competitive tender exercise, consultancy firm PCSG has been appointed to provide support in the development of the **Digital Strategy**. An initial workshop is being scheduled for 19th October in Warrington.

It was noted that following a competitive tender exercise, the LEP has appointed Metro Dynamics to provide support during the development of the Local Industrial Strategy.

Agenda Item 5: Local Industrial Strategy

Andy Hulme gave a short presentation setting out the key stages in development of the Local Industrial Strategy and outline timetable. A number of points were discussed including the potential involvement of Strategy Committee members in the process.

It was stressed that whilst the formal guidance was still to be issued, there was a clear expectation that there would be high levels of engagement with stakeholders, especially with business throughout

the process. A number of smaller, sector-specific engagements have already been arranged and these will feed in to a number of larger-scale engagement events.

Action: Strategy Committee members to consider what role they wish to play in the development of the LIS, especially in relation to the LEP's stakeholder engagement activity.

Agenda Item 6: Government Announcements

It was noted that the Prime Minister had announced additional long-term funding for the provision of affordable housing through the social housing sector. Further details are awaited.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

There were no matters raised under this item.

Agenda Item 8: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th November 2018, 2pm, Room G5, Wyvern House, Winsford.

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