

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

**Performance and Investment Committee Meeting**

**held on 18th March 2020 at 1.30 by phone**

**In attendance:**  Chris Hindley (Chairman), Ged Barlow, Paul Goodwin, Lisa Harris, Ian Brooks

Rachel Laver

**Apologies:** Nichola Newton, Lisa Harris, Ian Brooks, Alex Thompson, Stewart Brown, Peter Skates

Presentations on n/a

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| Item No. | Item | To be Actioned by | By When |
| 1. | Welcome, Introductions and Apologies  Apologies from NN, SB, PS and AT.  Due to the Corona Virus meeting held by conference call and therefore only matters that required a decision were discussed. |  |  |
| 2 | **Conflicts of Interest**  CH asked for any conflicts to be declared.  CH declared an interest in the Skills fund discussion as the Youthfed has received some funding. |  |  |
| 3 | **Minutes from the last meeting:**  Ran through the actions:  LH will be leaving CWAC on the 24th April. She will confirm who the CWAC representative will be on P&I moving forward including a deputy.  Discussions held about the remaining skills funding. Committee felt transparent process had not been followed despite UTC being able to deliver a version of the ELLUC bid and that didn’t consider it appropriate for funding to be allocated to the LEP to buy equipment.  CH to raise issue with LEP chair and Philip Co (PC) and put forward objection to receiving paper from the Employer, Skills and Education for the current proposals for allocation of the remaining £360k. PG confirmed as S151 representative his agreement to this position.  POST MEETING note – Agreed to have open call for remaining funds.  Carried forward actions:  IB not yet arranged Assurance framework training for Committee members but will as soon as time allows.  RL has issued some of the offer letters for recently approved projects and will issue all the outstanding ones by the end of March. | LH  CH  IB  RL | March  March  April  March |
| 4 | **Blue Beck**  Committee considered the proposal, but thought it was difficult to fully consider the proposal without the details of their charging model and cash flow forecast. Concern that the output projections may be over optimistic and if they’re not realised how viable the project was. Also concern about how long Blue Beck as a private sector company would continue to support the project if the income stream wasn’t realised. V little information about the project would be managed had been provided. Kit list hadn’t yet been reviewed.  Committee agreed to defer a decision until the outstanding information was provided but were then happy to consider by correspondence rather than wait until the next P&I meeting.  RL to send information through when available for consideration by the committee. | RL | March |
| 5 | **Aviator**  Enterprise Zone proposal to grant £1.024m to build a speculative industrial unit. The Unit once occupied will generate £143k of business rates, proving a payback period of 7.1 years.  Committee agreed the proposal with the conditions set out in the paper. |  |  |
| 6 | **Programme Manager update**  RL ran through project by exception:  **Ellesmere Port One Public Estate**  RL reported that she had received a phone call that day, to say that the £886k that CWAC had confirmed on the 7th February would be spent that quarter now wouldn’t and the figure was likely to be £350k. This means that over £500k would have to slip into next year on top of the £870k slippage already reported by CWAC in February.  RL explained the LEP doesn’t have any flexibility to carry forward any funding not spent this year but will see if this further underspend can be absorbed within the programme. Committee requested that PC write to Andrew Lewis to express concern about the slippage on the project, the late notification and to confirm that whilst every effort will be made to carry forward the funding, it cannot be guaranteed and will be lost not only to CWAC but to the LEP to causing reputational damage to both.  LH to look at the comms and see if they can be improved.  **Crewe Heat Network**  PG declared an interest.  CEC were unsuccessful in securing funding from HNIP in the first round but could still secure funding in the June round. CEC have asked if the bid can be considered for approval on a revised project costs which now excludes the courthouse being linked to the network. This would provide them with enough funding to still compete a demonstrator project. They have stated that BCR will now fall to 0.9. This is below the level, which is usually acceptable to the LEP, but the committee agreed that as the project is a demonstrator an exception could be made.  The project is the first of it’s kind in Cheshire and Warrington it was important to support the project so that the concept can be demonstrated in the hope that other parts of the sub-region will also adopt similar low carbon technology, especially given that the system could be converted to hydrogen at a later date.  RL to issue a revised offer letter.  **Waste2Tricity**  Project having some success with securing additional £17m required for project. Company has now been bought by Peel holdings and a subsidiary formed. They have requested more time to secure the project finance but not specified how long. Committee agreed that they would be given until the 17th April to confirm all the required funding to deliver the project is in place.  Committee felt it was important that PC wrote to Wate2tricity to explain that the funding would be reallocated if the funding wasn’t in place by the 17th April. | RL/PC  LH  RL  PC | March  March  March  March |
| 9 | AOB –  April meeting to be rescheduled to the 29th April due to Easter holidays and to allow time for year-end figures to be collated.  CH thanks GB for all his experience and input to P&I as it was his last meeting. GB thanked the committee and executive for their support and wished them continued success. |  |  |