



**Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership  
Performance and Investment Committee**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 1.30-3.30

**By teams meeting:**

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Conference ID: 349 973 303#

Attending: Chris Hindley (Chair)  
Stewart Brown, Sean Traynor, Paul Goodwin,  
Ian Brooks, Rachel Laver

Apologies: Pete Skates, Nichola Newton, Alex Thompson,

**AGENDA**

Agenda Item		Lead	Timings
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair	2 mins
2	Conflicts of Interest	Chair	5 mins
3	(i) Minutes from the meeting of 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Chair	5 mins
	(ii) Actions Arising	Chair	5 mins
4	ESIF update	Tim Smith	10 mins
5	Blue Beck project	Sarah Williams	10 mins
6	Crewe High Speed Ready Heart	RL	10 mins
7	P&I TORs	RL	5 mins
8	Delivery Plan update - Infrastructure	Roy Newton/RL	10 mins
9	LGF quarterly report	RL	5 mins
10	Delivery Plan review	RL	10 mins
11	Programme manager update Energy Fund – Waste2tricity and Crewe Heat Network	RL	15mins
12	AOB	All	5 Mins
Dates of next meetings, time 1.30 pm and Venue Wyvern House, unless otherwise specified:			
20 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Omega Local Highways Scheme Phase 1 Final Approval Delivery Plan update EZ		

		Skills bids
	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	
	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	
	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	
	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	
	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	
	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	
	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	



**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership  
Performance and Investment Committee Meeting  
held on 18<sup>th</sup> 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

Item No.	Item	To be Actioned by	By When
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies from NN, SB, PS and AT.</p> <p>Due to the Corona Virus meeting held by conference call and therefore only matters that required a decision were discussed.</p>		
2	<p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>CH asked for any conflicts to be declared.</p> <p>CH declared an interest in the Skills fund discussion as the Youthfed has received some funding.</p>		
3	<p><b>Minutes from the last meeting:</b></p> <p>Ran through the actions:</p> <p>LH will be leaving CWAC on the 24<sup>th</sup> April. She will confirm who the CWAC representative will be on P&amp;I moving forward including a deputy.</p> <p>Discussions held about the remaining skills funding. Committee felt a transparent open process needed to be followed to allocate remaining funds.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>POST MEETING note – Agreed to have open call for remaining funds.</p> <p>Carried forward actions:</p>	<p>LH</p> <p>CH</p>	<p>March</p> <p>March</p>

	<p>IB not yet arranged Assurance framework training for Committee members but will as soon as time allows.</p> <p>RL has issued some of the offer letters for recently approved projects and will issue all the outstanding ones by the end of March.</p>	<p>IB</p> <p>RL</p>	<p>April</p> <p>March</p>
4	<p><b>Blue Beck</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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&amp;I meeting.</p> <p>RL to send information through when available for consideration by the committee.</p>	<p>RL</p>	<p>March</p>
5	<p><b>Aviator</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Committee agreed the proposal with the conditions set out in the paper.</p>		
6	<p><b>Programme Manager update</b></p> <p>RL ran through project by exception:</p> <p><b>Ellesmere Port One Public Estate</b></p> <p>RL reported that she had received a phone call that day, to say that the £886k that CWAC had confirmed on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>LH to look at the comms and see if they can be improved.</p> <p><b>Crewe Heat Network</b></p>	<p>RL/PC</p> <p>LH</p>	<p>March</p> <p>March</p>

	<p>PG declared an interest.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RL to issue a revised offer letter.</p> <p><b>Waste2Tricity</b>  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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>PC</p>	<p>March</p> <p>March</p>
9	<p>AOB –</p> <p>April meeting to be rescheduled to the 29<sup>th</sup> April due to Easter holidays and to allow time for year-end figures to be collated.</p> <p>CH thanks GB for all his experience and input to P&amp;I as it was his last meeting. GB thanked the committee and executive for their support and wished them continued success.</p>		

**Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership  
Performance and Investment Committee**

**Title: ESIF Update  
Prepared by: Tim Smith**

**Agenda Item: xx  
Date of Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**1. ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)**

Cheshire and Warrington Final Round of Calls

The following Outline Applications were received by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

<i>priority</i>		<i>applications received</i>	<i>ERDF requested</i>
1	Research and Innovation	Alderley Park Accelerator (extension) C&W 4.0	£0.421m £2.006m
2	Digital	Digital Cheshire	£2.999m
3	Business Support	C&W Health Matters (extension) C&W Business Growth Programme (Phase 3) Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance (extension) St James Business Centre Support and Space: The Port in Focus Support and Space: Winsford in Focus	£0.207m £1.022m £0.164m £2.595m £1.269m £1.854m
4	Low Carbon	ECO-I North West (pan-LEP project)	£3.460m
	total		£15.997m

The Outline Applications were considered in terms of strategic fit at ESIF Committee in November 2019. Bids for extensions to existing activity would be progressed as Project Change Requests. The remaining bidders were invited to submit Full Applications by late February / early March 2020. They would then go through MHCLG's usual appraisal process. However, it was agreed that the following projects would come back to ESIF Committee for further consideration:

St James Business Centre  
Support and Space: The Port in Focus  
Support and Space: Winsford in Focus

} for further consideration of strategic fit and responses to issues raised at initial appraisal; also bearing in mind that this priority might be oversubscribed

ECO-I North West: for clarity on the level of spend and outputs to be achieved in Cheshire and Warrington

It had been intended that the next ESIF Committee meeting would be in late April 2020. However, the COVID19 lockdown has led to the postponement of that meeting, and has also had an impact on MHCLG's and project applicants' capacity to progress these bids through the full appraisal process and on to contracting stage. The current position is still, therefore, as described above.

## National Reserve Fund

Shortly before the COVID19 lockdown, provisional information was circulated regarding the ERDF National Reserve Fund, which had been intended to run up to a bid deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

There was a total of £69m ERDF to be available, of which £33m would be allocated for More Developed Areas, which include Cheshire and Warrington. The indicative breakdown by Priority Axis of that £33m was

PA1 (Research and Innovation)	£10m
PA3 (SME Support)	£10m
PA4 (Low Carbon)	£10m
PA6 (Environment / Resource Efficiency)	£3m

There would be one call for each priority, and it would be a single stage application and appraisal process. These would be the final calls under the ERDF programme.

Note that bids totalling £16m were received for the final round of Cheshire and Warrington calls, so a Reserve Fund allocation of £33m nationally would be very competitive. Draft priorities indicated a strong preference for projects with pan-LEP coverage and impact.

## **2. ESF (European Social Fund)**

The final round of calls under the Cheshire and Warrington programme closed on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Only one application was received against each call, as detailed below.

<i>IP</i>	<i>call title</i>	<i>details</i>	<i>ESF available</i>	<i>applications received</i>
1.1 / 1.2 / 1.4	Inclusive Labour Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Support for parents of young children who take up the free childcare entitlement, and for parents of young children who have not engaged with those services</li><li>- A range of activities to support digital inclusion for unemployed and economically inactive people</li></ul>	£3.49m	The three Local Authorities have bid for £0.97m for Parents First: a new project addressing the “support for parents” priority, running with a similar partnership approach to the recently approved Journey First project.
2.1	Enhancing Equal Access to Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Workforce development</li><li>- Support to address in-work poverty</li><li>- Redundancy support</li></ul>	£1.97m	University of Chester has led a bid, in partnership with the third sector. The offer includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- digitised learning and digital skills developed and delivered by specialists in digital curriculum</li><li>- workplace wellbeing and resilience skills</li><li>- support to up/re-skill skills deliverers</li></ul> with a particular focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- individuals facing in-work poverty and/or redundancy</li></ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trainers/skills providers</li> <li>- volunteers with the potential to move into paid employment</li> </ul>
2.2	Supporting Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting career opportunities in key sectors</li> <li>- Articulating the needs of SMEs and helping to ensure that local skills delivery meets those needs</li> <li>- Strengthening digital skills</li> </ul>	£0.5m	The Pledge partnership has bid to support SME's, not only to promote their sectors and articulate their needs, but to also help with recruitment practices resulting in increased take up of young people into those opportunities.

Project applicants have started to receive questions from DWP about their bids and are now working their way through the usual appraisal process.

### 3. RDPE (Rural) Growth Programme

The National Reserve Fund for the Rural Growth Programme invited Expressions of Interest from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Cheshire and Warrington's original allocation had been over-subscribed, so this allowed one final opportunity for our rural businesses to bid for funding. There were three priorities: Business Development, Food Processing, and Rural Tourism Infrastructure. Grants could be from £25k to £175k, and for up to 40% of total project costs.

An approximation of the latest position is given below.

18 EOIs that were received before the deadline were circulated to ESIF Committee for comments on strategic fit. However, responses were only received from one ESIF Committee member.

In total, 79 EOIs have been received from Cheshire and Warrington businesses, broken down as follows:

- 18 have been sent to ESIF Committee and either comments received back or "no response indicates support"
- 8 have been rejected as no national or local fit with the programme
- 1 has been withdrawn by the applicant
- 52 are working their way through the system

The Rural Payments Agency, who administrate this fund, have liaised with MHCLG and the LEP to discuss next steps. It has been agreed that those 52 EOIs still in the system will not be sent to ESIF Committee for comments on strategic fit, given:

- the impact of COVID19 on people's priorities and responsibilities
- the lack of comments received previously
- not sending them to ESIF Committee cuts at least 10 days out of the process and helps to get decisions for applicants more quickly

It has also been agreed that a full list of EOIs received, including those rejected or withdrawn, will be circulated to members. This should help with communication. For example if any ESIF Committee members, or their working colleagues, receive an enquiry from an applicant, they should be able to confirm, at least, that the application has been received and is in the system. The latest update received from RPA on 20th April 2020 said that they were working

on a methodology to provide identical reports to LEPs to ensure consistency across the Programme.

#### **4. COVID19 Implications**

Government has been publishing regular ESIF Programme COVID-19 Notification Bulletins, with the latest Q and A updated on 21st April 2020. Headlines include

- National Reserve Fund calls have been deferred until further notice.
- The Managing Authorities will work with projects, on a case by case basis, to reprofile and possibly extend end dates to allow for catch up (of both finances and outputs). However, the requirement that all projects must be completed by 31st December 2023 remains.
- The Managing Authorities will work with grant recipients to discuss repurposing their projects if they can better support businesses and individuals in the current economic crisis, where activity remains in line with the Operational Programme and associated eligibility rules
- The Temporary State Aid Framework, adopted on 3rd April 2020, allows undertakings that are experiencing difficulties as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak to receive ERDF funded support (subject to certain conditions).
- There are flexibilities regarding some operational practices, e.g. supporting remote ways of working, digital signatures and evidence trails, allowances for purchase of IT equipment or software etc.



## Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Performance and Investment Committee

**Title: LGF Skills Fund Investment – Blue Beck Project**

**Prepared by Sarah Williams and Pat Jackson**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### **1. Executive Summary**

The purpose of this paper is to seek ratification for the Blue Beck Growth Fund Skills investment that was reviewed by the Performance and Investments Committee meeting on 26 February 2020 and 18 March 2020. This paper provides the responses to information that has been requested as part of the five-case business review and the outcome of the review of equipment by the LEP's IT Consultant.

There have been 15 Local Growth Fund Skills applications received in total. If the project included in this report is approved along with 13 projects already approved, there will be £385k left to allocate.

There are currently two live invitations to bid for the remaining £385k, one on digitalisation in construction and a second to support wider access by local businesses, local schools and colleges and local communities to digital and other new technologies including the technology and expertise in the 13 Local Growth Fund investments that have already been made. These investments will significantly boost digital skills and provide a step change in access to the new technologies and business processes that will be critical over the coming months as we start to recover from the Coronavirus and in the longer term.

### **2. Background**

The LEP has £5 million from Local Growth Fund round 3 of capital funding available to help deliver the skills and education priorities identified in Cheshire and Warrington's Strategic Economic Plan and the Skills and Education Plan.

Following advice from the Employers' Skills and Education (ESE) Board, the LEP issued three invitations to bid for the funds last summer:

- A maximum of five investments of up to £20,000
- A maximum of two investments of up to £250,000
- A maximum of five investments between £500,000 and £1,000,000

To date thirteen projects have been approved and ratified and are in the process of being established, mainly through the purchase of equipment and the refurbishment of space. Some of the expenditure has been delayed because of Covid-19, but we expect the majority of the expenditure associated with these investments to be completed within the next 6 months.

The ratified projects have been through a five-case approval process as set out in the Local Assurance Framework. Each project has been considered individually, rather than collectively for approval however, the Employers' Skills and Education Board has maintained a strategic overview of the investments to ensure that we invest in the most appropriate equipment that will encourage innovation in the delivery of the curriculum and as wide an access as possible to all our residents and local businesses.

Two planning and synergies meetings have taken place in January and February involving all the projects that have been approved by the Employers' Skills and Education Board. This is ensuring the projects work together to achieve the maximum impact. In addition, each Member of the Employers' Skills and Education Board has decided to 'sponsor' one of the investment projects to ensure we maximise our investment and share good practice where appropriate.

### **3. Blue Beck – Games\_Hubb**

#### **3.1 Project Overview**

The project investment will create a leading gaming hub to engage and grow the independent gaming community through fully resourced development, experience, and events facility with on-site access to industry expertise.

The gaming hub, based in Macclesfield with accessible transport links, will enable independent (indie) gamers to be able to publish their work on international platforms including, but not limited to, mobile platforms, Playstation, Xbox, Nintendo and upcoming VR/AR platforms such as Oculus. This hub will include a range of high-powered gaming devices, tools and equipment for developing, demonstrating and hosting gaming projects and events across the region.

The gaming hub will also be used to support schools and colleges in the Cheshire and Warrington area for work experience placements and experience days to gain insight into games development, games industry as a whole and learn about new technologies. In addition, the gaming hub will be working with the eSports community to drive national and international growth of competitive eGaming through events, competitions and workshops. Some of the equipment will be mobile so that it can be used in local schools, colleges and libraries.

### **3.2 Information requested and responses to the five-case business review**

A paper outlining the results of the five-case business review was considered at the Performance and Investments Committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020. At the time some of the additional information requested as part of the five-case business review had not been received.

The areas requiring further clarification were:

- Clarification regarding the 3 graduate role jobs
- Clarification on the rationale for additional potential job roles created per month
- Clarification on how the service will create revenue
- Clarification on the level of financial contingency
- Clarification on how the project will be marketed
- Details of when the service will be up and running
- Clarification on Blue Beck's procurement rules
- Details of any public consultation
- Details of previous experience managing other Grant Programmes

#### **3.2.1 Clarification regarding the 3 graduate role jobs**

More information was requested on whether the graduate job roles would be 1 job with 3 different people in post over the 5 years or 3 separate jobs?

#### **Response**

The 3 job roles created are 3 separate graduate level jobs that will build a team as the project grows:

- The first will be a more generalist role for a person with an IT background, someone who can support the day to day running of the Games Hub, onboarding new students, and facilitating eSports groups. This person will oversee induction including health and safety and ensuring that students have the equipment they need. This person will also need to have the technical knowledge to set the equipment up and the knowledge and ability to troubleshoot.
- The second job will be for a candidate with a games background to help specifically with eSports, indie gamers and games subjects in schools and colleges. Ideally this would be someone with a Games degree with good interpersonal skills.
- The third job role will be for a staff member to assist with administration to take the load off the Blue Beck team and Blue Beck's Co-Founder. They would also deal with social media and managing the timetable of events.

### **3.2.2 Clarification on the rationale for additional potential job roles created per month**

More detail was requested on how the potential additional job roles per month had been calculated.

#### **Response**

The project outcome to create approximately 1 new job per month has been calculated based on the intention to enable indie games developers to broaden their skills base and demonstrate their skills in the Games Hub. Blue Beck will then introduce them to other games and apps companies who are seeking new employees.

The job creation calculation is based on creating an average of 1 job per month over the 5 years, effectively delivering a talent pipeline.

### **3.2.3 Clarification on how the service will create revenue**

More information was requested on the multiple routes to secure revenue mentioned in the business case.

#### **Response**

Key revenue streams will include, hosting of eSports events in the Games Hub, hosting Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality workshops and providing a paid space for digital learning (programming etc).

Blue Beck have an established working relationship with Maria Stukoff, who is co-chair of the National eSports Industry Collaboration Programme. Maria has been advising on how to monetise eSports. This includes paying to join an eSports event or paying to watch the events live.

With the correct hardware Universities and research companies want access to good Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality equipment, to both teach these technologies and to undertake research in the application of these technologies.

### **3.2.4 Clarification on the level of financial contingency**

More information was requested on the level of financial contingency mentioned in the business case and if this could be expressed as a %.

### **Response**

Pete Scott has confirmed that Blue Beck will cover the cost of any deficits that are incurred until the project is viable. The contingency relates to cost of renting the space for the Games Hub and support by the two Digital Hive staff in social marketing, events organisation and general admin until the 3 graduates level staff are employed full time in these roles. Pete Scott, Co-Founder of Blue Beck Ltd, will also personally be involved in overseeing these activities.

### **3.2.5 Clarification on how the project will be marketed**

More information was requested on how the project would be marketed and who will engage with schools, colleges and businesses.

### **Response**

Pete Scott, Blue Beck's Co-Founder will strategically manage the marketing relationships with schools, colleges and businesses with assistance from Blue Beck's management team, Johanna Vuorela and Clair Jones. Blue Beck's development team will help with the Games Hub, providing information, problem solving and training.

Pete Scott has also engaged with the Pledge and agreed to join their local Macclesfield Board, this will help to support the project through engagements with schools, colleges and businesses.

Operational marketing will also be provided by the staff working in the Digital Hive.

Volker Hirsch who is Pete Scott's business partner will also advise on marketing. Volker has been a key influencer in Cheshire East businesses, schools and colleges. Volker organised and spoke at the first ever TEDx talk at the Fallibroome Academy, is on the board of the governors at Fallibroome Academy, was active with the Weave project and other local programmes and is an angel investor and advisor to start-ups.

### **3.2.6 Details of when the service will be up and running**

The project milestones did not include a date for when the service would be up and running.

### **Response**

Revised project milestones have been provided on the assumption that the project is ratified by the end of April 2020:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>
Obtain up to date quotes, evaluate and purchase once funds confirmed	May 2020	May 2020
Setup and fit out	May 2020	June 2020
Start recruitment process	July 2020	August 2020
Initial testing of systems	August 2020	August 2020
Service up and running	September 2020	September 2025

These timeframes are caveated based on government guidelines and social distancing rules. In the event that the current lockdown is extended, Blue Beck will explore ways to deliver their service remotely.

### **3.2.7 Clarification on Blue Beck's procurement rules**

Detail was requested on Blue Beck's procurement rules.

#### **Response**

For any purchases above £500 Blue Beck will seek a minimum of 3 quotes. For hardware such as laptops and screens Blue Beck will use a mainstream provider like Alienware (Dell) or Hewlett Packard. Blue Beck will also explore UK based providers that produce bespoke hardware and take the best price based on similar parts (processor, graphics cards etc). Blue Beck's policy is to take the most competitive from a reputable provider.

For any purchases under £500 Blue Beck will still seek 3 providers and take the best deal they can get.

### **3.2.8 Details of any public consultation**

More information was requested on who Blue Beck had consulted in order to gauge demand for the project.

#### **Response**

Blue Beck has consulted with a range of stakeholders:

- E-mail correspondence has taken place between Blue Beck and Dr Maria Stukoff who is co-chair of the eSports Industry Collaboration Programme. These have involved discussions on opportunities to collaborate with the British eSports Association.
- Blue Beck have spoken to the chair of the board of governors at Macclesfield College and their apprenticeships team to help build the right courses for businesses in the region. This includes a potential bespoke course that is curated by Blue Beck for people wanting to come into the apps or games business.
- Blue Beck have also consulted with Macclesfield College and Warrington Vale Royal College to help advise them on their IT curriculum and will work with them to develop a programme for student placements.
- Pete Scott, Blue Beck's Co-Founder has recently become one of the Pledge's Enterprise Advisors, this will provide other routes to market for the project.
- Local businesses within Blue Beck's extensive local business network have been consulted on the potential of Blue Beck growing a talent pipeline for people wanting to get into the games or apps industry, or to take bright students onto apprenticeship schemes with very positive outcomes.

### **3.2.9 Details of previous experience managing other Grant Programmes Blue Beck has previous**

Information was been requested on previous experience of managing other grant programmes.

#### **Response**

Blue Beck does not have experience of managing grant programmes in the last 10 years. Previously Pete Scott, Blue Beck's Co-Founder has managed grant programmes with previous companies he has created. In previous examples this style of funding has been used in a start-up situation or where funding is required to enable business growth.

### **3.3 Outcomes of review of equipment by the LEP's IT Consultant**

The LEP's IT consultant has reviewed the project and equipment list. The summary report is provided below along with responses to the observations raised.

#### **3.3.1 Summary of equipment review**

The consultant advised that:

- Blue Beck has an equipment list which is designed for use in the gaming industry, with specific development technologies aimed at creation and design of marketable gaming and entertainment products.
- The equipment and software in this bid are of professional industry standards, and would allow for the claims within the bid of "...enable independent gamers to be able to publish their work on international platforms..."
- The equipment in many cases is that used by many companies in the industry for this purpose.
- Dell's Alienware laptops are recognised as competent gaming platforms, directly competing with dedicated gaming consoles such as PlayStation and Xbox.
- Skills being developed are directly related to industry standard employee skills sets, both technical skills (industry recognised programming coding languages, and editing tools) and leadership skills.

There were 2 observations raised that needed a response:

- More specific information on the model of laptop chosen
- More clarity on the cost of leased line rental

### **3.3.2 Responses to queries from the equipment review**

More information was requested on the specific model of laptop chosen as from the equipment list provided the laptop listed has models that range from £2,300 to £3,600

#### **Response**

The prices of the laptops will have changed since costs were originally investigated. The model now recommended would be an ALIENWARE AREA 51M costing £2,698.99 including VAT. The rationale for this choice is that it is a good example of a laptop that is suitable for high end Virtual Reality / Augmented Reality as well as high performance gaming. Blue Beck have advised that they will look at competitive suppliers and make sure they get the best performance for the lowest cost. Their criteria are the power of the hardware, the quality of the support package and the manufacturer's ability to deliver well made goods

Clarity was requested on the cost of the line rental as this had changed from the initial bid application where a dedicated line costing £23k was requested followed by a lower amount in the business case of £10k for internet service and some software.

#### **Response**

The line requirements have been adjusted since the original bid application. The internet line into the Digital Hive is currently a 500-megabit line, it is not currently a leased line, this will initially be more than enough for the project requirements.

In the original bid Blue Beck had planned for a 500-megabit leased line as it is 500-megabit bidirectional (both up and down links) this would particularly appeal to eSports players. The intention now is to purchase a leased line when the eSports usage is starting to get popular. The current line is more than sufficient to cope with the planned delivery with schools, colleges and businesses. Blue Beck has a leased line which they will consider diverting to the Games Hub if a line is needed earlier.

### **3.4. Conclusion and Recommendation:**

The project's key aims to nurture and retain local talent, upskill learners from schools, colleges and local business and help drive business growth and expertise in the local region have a good strategic fit to the LEP's Skills and Education priorities.

The Games Hub needs to generate revenue in order to be viable. There is a risk that the income projections are not accurate, and the Games Hub becomes unviable during the proposed duration of the project. Full contingency plans to cover this are outlined above in paragraph 3.2.4.

It is recommended that the project is ratified subject to the following conditions:

- Blue Beck confirms that grant is state-aid compliant. (This requirement will be included in the offer letter).
- The outputs related to eSports competitions and coaching events should also be added to the outputs table. (These will be added once the project is ratified).
- Blue Beck commit to doing a mid-term and end of term evaluation of the project. The reports should be shared with the LEP and the findings disseminated as appropriate. (This requirement will be included in the offer letter).
- Provision of a detailed project plan by the end of April 2020. (This requirement will be included in the offer letter).



## **LEP PERFORMANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **PURPOSE**

To act as the operational arm of the LEP Board on the delivery of the growth agenda, ensuring that the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) are effectively monitored, delivered and implemented, and that all the funding and programmes under management by the LEP are delivered on time, on budget and deliver the contracted outcomes and results.

The committee will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the actions from the Annual Delivery plan as well as the SEP and LIS. It will also be responsible for monitoring programme and corporate risks, adherence with the Local Assurance Framework and escalating issues where appropriate to the LEP board for resolution.

The Performance and Investment Committee is a review committee, which ensures spending decisions made at other sub-committees of the board are implemented following due process and no investments can be made without such assurance from P&I. It will review all financial decisions being made by other sub-committees and following consideration will either ratify the investment and approach taken, or else revert the decision back to the full LEP Board depending on the delegated authority of the sub-committee, whose decision it is reviewing.

#### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Performance and Investment Committee will:

##### ***Investment***

1. Scrutinise and ensure effective implementation of the LEP's investment strategy and Annual Delivery Plan, ensuring that funded projects retain strong strategic alignment through delivery.
2. Receive, consider and ratify detailed appraisal information for pipeline projects prioritised for funding. Provide feedback to project sponsors for any projects that fail to pass the investment gateway stage.
3. Maximise the uptake of further investment sources to achieve the aims of the growth agenda.
4. Oversee the work programme of the Programme Management team, to ensure that all investments are delivered in line with regulations and propriety requirements.

##### ***Performance Management***

5. Provide oversight and assurance of all LEP funded programmes and projects to ensure that these comply with all regulatory, statutory and financial requirements; and deliver to outcome and financial targets in line with the Local Assurance Framework and evaluation strategies.



6. Develop and maintain appropriate robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure that individual programmes of activities and projects deliver on all expected outcomes; and that clear contract management and monitoring arrangements are in place for each project and programme.
7. Ensure that under-performing projects and programmes are identified and effective mitigation measures are identified and actioned, where possible, to restore performance. Where projects can no longer deliver against agreed targets, the committee shall report its' concerns to the relevant sub-committee of the Board and may propose remedial measures, including recommending the withdrawal or reduction of under-performing projects.

### ***Delivery***

8. Ensure that all delivery teams have clear leadership arrangements, a tasking framework and expected outcomes, and are fully equipped to support the LEP's governance arrangements.
9. Ensure that resourcing requirements are clearly identified for each delivery priority and that this is subject to regular and ongoing monitoring and review to ensure that this remains in line with evolving business priorities.
10. Provide appropriate challenge and support to the delivery teams and committees to ensure that they are focused on the issues most critical to delivery.

### ***Risk***

11. Ensure the development of the LEP's risk strategy and review and update this at each meeting, providing feedback to the LEP Board as necessary.
12. Ensure that programme level risks are being properly managed and that mitigation strategies are in place to address these or that these are escalated to the LEP Board as required.

### ***Evaluation***

13. Ensure that programmes and projects are periodically evaluated to give assurance that objectives and targets are still relevant and achievable.
14. To receive monitoring and evaluation reports on completed projects and programmes to highlight key successes and failures and to share best practice.

### ***Audit***

15. Effective records of minutes, decisions and actions are recorded and maintained for the purposes of a clear audit trail.

### **Conflicts of Interest**



Where a member of a committee has a personal or professional interest in an agenda item they are asked to declare that interest at the start of the meeting. The person can remain in the meeting while the item is discussed but they are only allowed to answer direct questions about that item and should refrain from promoting the item in any way. In this way it is hoped that the committee can benefit from that members knowledge without being unduly influenced by the interest.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Members of the committee are:

- Chris Hindley, Chairman
- TBC, Deputy Chairman
- Nichola Newton, LEP Board Member
- Stewart Brown representing Warrington Borough Council
- Sean Traynor, representing Cheshire West and Cheshire Council
- Peter Skates, representing Cheshire East Borough Council
- Accountable Body S.151 Officer
- Ian Brooks, Finance and Commercial Director, CWLEP

For the meeting to be quorate, there needs to be a minimum of three members present, of which at least one should be a LEP board member.

The Group will invite LEP and LA lead officers to support its work programme, as and when necessary.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Board will be accountable to the LEP Board. It will also provide reassurance reports to the Combined Sub-Regional Leadership Board to enable it to discharge its democratic and financial viability functions.

## **MEETINGS**

Meetings will take place on a monthly basis and the minutes of the meeting and papers will be published on the LEP website.

## **REVIEW**

Last reviewed: March 20

# Delivery Plan key action monitoring

Skills		Rag Rating	latest Position
1. Establish a Virtual Institute of Technology (subject to funding agreement)	Q3	→	Governance Board meetings have been held for Accelerate (our virtual institute of technology) and we aim to start delivering training by 18th May. In response to the Covid-19 crisis LEP has identified £600K to enable 100% grant funding to be offered to a targeted group of small businesses - this needs a change control from DWP but we should then be able to market widely. Expression of interest in bidding for funding from DfE for an institutes of technology was developed by the LEP and submitted on behalf of local partners on 16 March. Waiting for formal invitation to bid - DfE currently uncertain when this will happen.
2. Evolve the Employers' Skills and Education Board so that it takes on the additional functionalities of a Skills Advisory Panel (including Local Authority representation) that works with local training and education providers to deliver the Skills and Education Plan priorities and to ensure training and education reflects the needs of employers in Cheshire and Warrington and the wider economy	Q3	→	Skills Advisory Panel functions fully absorbed into role of Employers' Skills and Education Board and DfE funding of £75K received and allocated. Data and Labour Market Steering Group now overseeing spend of £75K to ensure it informs and influences curriculum offer in Cheshire and Warrington. First report published in December and second phase of work agreed and started. Additional funding (£75K) for 2020/21 confirmed by DfE.

<p>3. As a Digital Skills Partnership, ensure that digital skills are a key priority as the skills and education priorities of the Employers' Skills and Education Board (the Pledge network and the Virtual Institute of Technology) are delivered. Recruit a Digital Skills Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Q1</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>Digital skills coordinator appointed and in post for 2019/20 and additional funding (£75K) from DCMS for 2020/21 confirmed. Already benefitting from national programmes being offered into C&amp;W as a result of digital skills partnership e.g. Google delivered workshop to 700 young people during summer holidays. Working extensively with Pledge network to ensure digital programme is fully coordinated with Pledge delivery. Partnership Board meetings now held and scheduled with regular reports back to the Employers' Skills and Education Board.</p>
<p>4. Agree priority investments to invest £5m of Skills Capital funding</p>	<p>Q2</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>14 investments approved (total value £4.53m) and contracts issued. Further one investment (total value of bids (£110K) to be finalised in next week for ratification to April P&amp;I. Spend of approved projects delayed by Covid-19 but all ready to purchase equipment as soon as lockdown ends. Members of the Employers' Skills and Education Board are sponsoring each investment. All investments have strong strategic fit with LEP's skills and education priorities and all are focused on digital or STEM related learning. Invitations to bid for allocation of remaining funding £385K are currently live.</p>

<p>5. Develop and implement a skills and education stakeholder engagement plan</p>	<p>Q3</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>A Data and Labour Market Steering Group has been established with all the colleges, local authorities, the University, representatives for secondary head teachers and Jobcentre Plus to develop a shared understanding of the labour market and any mismatches between the supply and demand for skills and education. Initial report published December 2019 and further funding (£75K) received from DfE for 2020/21. Work is also underway to develop a marketing and branding programme for all skills investments.</p>
<p>6. Recruit Pledge Facilitators to establish and support 9 local Pledge Partnership Boards</p>	<p>Q4</p>	<p>↗</p>	<p>13 staff now employed. 96% of all secondary schools engaged and progress on Gatsby benchmarks means that Cheshire and Warrington has moved from performing below national average to on-line with national average with strong trajectory for improved performance going forward. Now developing coherent plan of activities across Cheshire and Warrington. Some delays as a result of school closures during Covid-19 crisis but many schools now working remotely with the Pledge. Pledge has responded to Covid-19 by developing a series of on-line offers.</p>

7. The Skills and Education priorities to be reviewed and evaluated and a Future Strategy for Skills developed from it.	Q4	→	Next phase of data and labour market intelligence work has started with regular meetings of Data and Labour Market Intelligence Group planned to oversee work. This will start to highlight key issues that need to be addressed during the review of the skills and education priorities.
<b>Strategy</b>			
1. Develop and publish the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) for Cheshire & Warrington	Q4	→	LIS complete. No clear indication of when LIS will be published although now likely to be related to any post-Coronavirus recovery plan
2. Develop and publish a delivery and investment plan for the LIS. Delivery of early projects to commence in Q3	Q4	→	Initial work underway in conjunction with the Director of Transport & Investment. Will only go ahead if the LIS is published.
3. Complete the development and publication of a Digital Strategy, including a Digital Infrastructure Plan	Q1 & Q3	→	Digital Strategy Complete. Appointment made in early March of consultancy team to develop the DIP. Expecting interim report in June 2020
4. Complete the development and publication of the LEP's Science and Innovation Strategy and Delivery Plan.	Q1	→	Completed and to be uploaded to the LEP website.
5. Develop a strategic partnership with Homes England and the LAs to deliver our Housing Strategy in conjunction with the Sub Regional Leaders Board	Q4	→	Ongoing. Sub Regional Housing Board has been established, supported by the LEP, and Chaired by the CEO of Warrington BC. Prioritised sub regional project pipeline is now complete
<b>Business Development</b>			

<p><b>1. Specific Outputs to be achieved by end of 2019/20:</b></p>			<p><b>Funding of £1.5m for additional support has been offered by BEIS. All the outputs below are to be reviewed and updated by the end of October.</b></p>
<p>1,350 Enquiries from individuals and businesses require support to start up and with growth (150 businesses are scale-ups with the aspiration and potential to deliver significant turnover growth over the next 3 year period of at least 50%):</p>	<p>Q4</p>	<p>↗</p>	<p>We end the year @ 1045 a deficit of 305. During the period recruitment of new Growth Hub team members has been challenging. The result of Coronavirus is that we saw a surge in volume in Q4. Contract support has stopped during the pandemic at request of contracting organisation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 450 businesses and individuals supported – low intensity support (circa 1 hour support)</li> </ul>		<p>↗</p>	<p>Complete. We have achieved 793.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 800 businesses – medium intensity support (Information Diagnostic and Brokerage)</li> </ul>		<p>↗</p>	<p>We end the year @245. Enquiries are Dynamic and we expect a significant proportion of the Low intensity to convert although this will be in the next Financial Year now. The reorganisation of the team pre Coronavirus was set up to focus on higher intensity intervention but the focus in Q4 has reverted to satisfying all enquiries.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 businesses – high intensity support (Over 12 hours)</li> </ul>		<p>→</p>	<p>As mentioned above we reorganised the team and commissioned contracts to address this, we had resource defined to specific target audiences. We have seen the work with the FDI delivering the high intensity support. The Team and Q4 has been about satisfying volume.</p>
<p>660 Businesses being signposted and referred to a business support programme/s</p>		<p>↗</p>	<p>627 referrals for 343 businesses. From the volume in Q4 we will see an increase in the businesses being referred although our approach during the pandemic has been to assist directly.</p>

330 of the referrals made successfully progressing onto a business support programme/s		↗	Subject to ongoing review with partners. Difficult to capture data as the Growth Hub does not directly deliver. All partners have been asked for an update at year end.
2. Establish the Business Growth Committee to oversee the Growth & Skills Hub	Q1	→	Q2 Complete. Was dependent on Board appointments. Schedule of regular meetings.
3. Develop and launch a new website, alongside a refreshed LEP website	Q2	↗	Tender has closed. Working on website structure and content with MarComs Director and Marketing Cheshire. Hoping for a 'go live' date of June 2020.
4. Deliver Account Management for Foreign Owned businesses landing 6 projects during 2019/20 and trade/investment advice to 50 companies	Q4	→	Ongoing, on track to achieve target.
5. Develop a CRM system to support the day to day operation of the Growth Hub and inform the LEP's policy development work	Q1	↗	CRM is live with and being fully utilised by Growth Hub. Interim contract extended with current supplier. Working with Technical Specialist on CRM implementation plan.
6. Develop an inspirational programme of events engaging 82 SMEs, with Enterprise Co-ordinators working with 40 schools and engaging 3,050 young people	Q4	→	Pledge team is now recruited and integrated into Growth Hub, development of programme has commenced and SMEs have started to be engaged. Enterprise Coordinators on target. Over 50 schools engaged and more than 2000 young people engage. 250 employers engaged.
7. Aggregate demand for skills and education from x businesses to ensure they receive the training their businesses need.	Q4		Virtual Institute will not commence until Q3 at earliest, work has begun with pledge team but further work required. Need VIOT to be established
<b>Infrastructure</b>			

<p>1. Work with partners to produce initial business cases for the key infrastructure projects identified in the Strategic Transport Plan to include, transport, broadband/IT and services (e.g. water and electricity)</p>	<p>Q3</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>List of key projects collated. Work to prioritise schemes ongoing. The process for prioritising studies and/or business case development for potential LEP funding contributions has been agreed by Strategy Committee, who have allocated £400k in 2019/20 and a further £300k for 2020/21 to support business case development for the following projects: Crewe Hub Access Package, Winnington Hill/Bridge Corridor Study, Chester City Gateway Masterplan, Warrington Last Mile, Warrington LCWIP, Vauxhall Options Study (non-transport), Ellesmere Port Masterplan; and Warrington Bus Strategy. Strategy Committee will consider further proposals later in the year for the remaining</p>
<p>2. Develop a Bus Strategy which fits in with Local Authority Transport Plans</p>	<p>Q2</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>Initial meeting held with CWAC to review their work on the Bus strategy. Workshop was undertaken in December 2019 with operators to identify key issues. Next step is to create working group(s) to develop options for the identified issues. Timing for delivery will be impacted on by central government developing a national bus strategy which we will need to take into account. Likely to be complete by end of Q3.</p>
<p>3. Develop a strategic outline business case for re-opening Middlewich rail Line</p>	<p>Q1</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>Feasibility study complete. Consultants working on SOBC. Scheduled to be complete by end of Q4.</p>

4. Work with CEC and other sub-regional partners to ensure Crewe operates as a genuine HS2 hub station, enabling easy, quick connections to the rest of C&W and beyond.	Q3	↘	Working with CEC to develop draft business case. Discussions ongoing. Government has announced its commitment to delivering HS2 in full, though there will be a review of the later phases, which will consider them within a wider context including NPR and the existing rail network.
5. Influence Transport for the North to reflect the sub-regional priorities	ongoing	→	Ongoing. LEP and LAs feeding in on a regular basis and have representation of all the TfN groups.
6. Ensure continued successful delivery of projects in the LGF programme, achieving spend of at least £16 million	Q4	→	£25.6m spent. Fully met profile and spend all funding carried forward from previous years.
7. Put in place a £4m investment programme to develop the region's energy infrastructure	Q2	→	Complete. Funding now fully allocated against 6 projects.
8. Ensure Growing Places Loan Fund is fully deployed to support the development of the C&W economy	ongoing	→	£19.4m has now invested from the £12.1m fund. Funding currently fully committed, following commitment of £1.4m to fund business case development. Further funding will be available when additional funding secured for EZ.
9. Secure an extra £20 million of Evergreen funding	Q2	→	Complete. CBRE now appointed as fund manager and fund launched.
<b>Enterprise Zone</b>			
1. Develop a long-term strategy for the development of the Cheshire Science Corridor linked to the Local Industrial Strategy	Q1	→	Discussion paper on long-term strategy for Science Corridor taken to Sep EZ Board
2. Develop a business case for the Crewe Hub EZ to support the delivery of the new HS2 station at Crewe and maximise the benefits of HS2 for the wider sub-region	Q2	→	Developing combined strategic case for Crewe Hub and TIF. Meeting with BEIS, DFT, MCHCLG and Treasury officials 21 Feb.

3. Develop and actively manage the investment pipeline for the Cheshire Science Corridor EZ	Q4	→	Active discussions with landowners developers about prospective investors at Alderley Park, Birchwood Park, Hooton Park, Protos, Newport Business Park and Thornton Science Park
4. Invest £12.8m in 8 new schemes in the Cheshire Science Corridor EZ	Q4	→	Business case for £4m investment at Alderley Park approved by Sep EZ Board. £1m investment in Aviator Phase 2 approved by Janaury EZ Board. In discussions with Birchwood about two investments and with two prospective investors at Protos.
5. Attract 55 new businesses into the Cheshire Science Corridor EZ	Q4	→	20 new businesses at end Q2.
6. Attract 1,200 new jobs onto the Cheshire Science Corridor EZ	Q4	→	112 new jobs at end Q2. Target is premised on Royal London landing at Alderley Park in early 2020.
7. Create 580,000 sq ft of new floorspace in the Cheshire Science Corridor EZ	Q4	→	560,000 sq ft new floorspace currently under construction. In discussions regarding a further 250,000 sq ft of development in the EZ
8. Leverage £72m of new public and private sector investment in the Cheshire Science Corridor EZ	Q4	→	£9.3m private sector investment in Q2. £50m investment in existing projects under construction that will complete this year.
9. Generate £1.7m in retained business rates from the Cheshire Science Corridor EZ	Q4	↓	£1.53m forecast retained business rates in local authority NNDR1 forms
10. Support University of Chester to secure a JV partner for the development of Thornton Science Park	Q4	↓	Finalising due diligence around outstanding legal issues. Aiming to publish OJEU in April 2020.
11. Promote the wider science corridor in conjunction with neighbouring LEPS.	Q4	↓	Not started - waiting for rebrand/updated marketing material for Science Corridor
12. Develop business cases for Enterprise Zones elsewhere in Cheshire and Warrington to be deployed when the opportunity arises.	Q4	→	Business case for the creation of a Crewe HS2 Growth Corridor under development.

In the process of securing £30m loan facility from the three local authorities	Additional	↗	Draft legal agreement agreed between parties. Borrowing facility being considered by the March LEP Board.
<b>Marketing and Comms</b>			
1. Establish Marketing Cheshire Board's leading governance role on Marcomms for LEP; working in partnership with local authority partners and other sub-committees as appropriate.	Q1	→	Complete. Sub-committee is now meeting monthly with key projects underway.
2. Develop and implement a multi-channel corporate communications and marketing plan, including delivery of campaign activity	Q1	↗	Comms ongoing. Focus on strategic comms, and in Q4 of the year diversion of comms to covid response
3. Development of a place marketing and inward investment strategy (including future appearances at MIPIM) for Cheshire and Warrington	Q2	↗	External perceptions underway. Inward Investment research procured and consultant appointed. Both projects will run together and are ongoing.
4. Deliver a programme of events and associated communications activity to support the work of the Growth Hub, to support increased stakeholder engagement activity	Ongoing	→	Q4 activity ongoing. Diversion of activity to covid response
5. Developing a comprehensive database of stakeholders and businesses, to support effective and increased engagement (captured and maintained within the LEP's CRM system)	Ongoing	→	Stakeholder database complete. Data acquisition underway to support business engagement.
6. Review the LEP Brand and that of its sub-brands (Growth Hub, Science Corridor, Skills/Pledge/loT)	Q2	→	LEP family brand not to progress until place narrative clearer, making some small changes to existing family branding as an interim measure
7. Redevelopment of the LEP website including the site for the Growth Hub, Science Corridor and Invest in Cheshire, to support increased stakeholder and business engagement activity	Q2	↗	Supplier appointed. Inception meeting completed and weekly project meetings set to meet a 12-16 week build schedule
8. Implementation (and ongoing evaluation) of plans	Q4	→	ongoing
<b>Governance and Transparency</b>			

Appointment of Finance Director and incorporation of Marketing Cheshire into LEP's governance structure	Q1	→	Completed
Commence recruitment of a new Chair to ensure a timely handover	Q2	→	Complete. The new chair and deputy chair appointments have been announced and both individuals have begun induction meetings.
Formulating membership of LEP sub-committees to enable them to take delegated financial decisions, including open recruitment of private sector members	Q1	→	Completed, Q2
Establishment of:	Q1		
➤ Business Growth Committee		→	Complete Q2. The business growth committee has been formed with a chair and deputy chair appointed from the board.
➤ Inward investment Strategy Group		→	The Inward Investment Strategy Group has met twice and is developing a draft for consultation with Local Authorities. This may begin at Growth Directors' late August.
Publish Annual Review	Q2	→	Complete. The annual review was published alongside the AGM held on October 17th
Hold an Annual General Meeting	Q2	→	Complete. 17/10 afternoon at Alderley Park.
Review and update the Local Assurance Framework	Q4	→	National Guidance not issued. Updated with new committee members details. Wider requote to be completed during q1.
Establish a Junior LEP Board	Q4	↗	Recruitment campaign closed on 13th March with 19 applications from across the sub region. Shortlisted candidates are being interviewed (virtually) in late April 2020.

↗
→
↘
Complete



**Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership  
Performance and Investment Committee**

**Title: Programme Manager Update Report**

**Agenda item: 11**

**Prepared by Rachel Laver**

**Date of Report: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### **1. Executive Summary**

The great news is that the full LGF allocation including funding carried forward from 16/17 has now been fully spent as required by DBEIS bringing the total LGF spend to date to over £100m.

COVID has inevitably had an impact on some projects, such as Crewe High Speed Ready Heart, Congleton Link Road and several of the skills projects. Other projects have adjusted their working practices and work on site has continued examples include Centre Park Link and Sutton Way Boulevard.

The skills projects are looking at moving to an online offer to enable them to still deliver some training and it is recognised that output achievement on these projects will be behind profile. It was pleasing though to see the progress the Youthfed, Culture Warrington and Astra Zeneca made in establishing their projects so quickly and efficiently, meaning that these projects are ready to go as soon as lockdown eases with some of them having already completed some training sessions.

There are currently two lives calls for skills applications to allocate the last remaining LGF. Once this has been allocated, it would mean the full £127m of LGF awarded to the LEP had been contracted, however there are issues with some of the Energy fund projects which have been issued grant offers and this is discussed more fully later in this report.

We have received the results of the Annual Performance Review process and been given the highest rating of Exceptional for delivery which is an improvement on last year's "Good". The LEP maintained the rating of "exceptional" on "Governance" and a "requirements met" on Strategy and therefore got the highest possible rating overall.

Officially there is no extension to the LGF programme, so we are still working hard to ensure all the LGF is spent by March 21. Currently the programme looks in pretty good shape to achieve this but there may have to be some varying of contracts and moving money between projects.

There is a continuing issue with submission of claims and monitoring forms which has an impact on the ability to complete quarterly returns on time. All

For updates on each of the LGF funded projects please see the appended summary sheet. Projects below are reported by exception.

### **1.1. Congleton Link Road**

All work has now stopped on Congleton Link Road bar the Earthworks which can continue as social distancing can be maintained. The project was due to be completed by September. This is expected to be pushed back with an expected increase in costs of circa £2m. DfT has said that CEC should look to the LEP to fund the difference. The LEP doesn't currently have the resources to do this so the council is looking at funding options and the LEP will help if it can. This will be explored further in the meeting.

### **1.2. Ellesmere Port One Public Estate**

The project hasn't yet started on site as permission was needed from Port Arcades to move the Bus Station which led to delays. The bus station contractors are expected to be on towards the end of May and if they work to the revised programme the main hub works will now start in September. The project finished £1.4m behind profile for the year which we've agreed to carry forward. Close monitoring of the project is required to ensure that the full grant of £8.3m is spent by the end of March. Funding of other related elements of the project may need to be considered.

### **1.3. Crewe High Speed Ready Heart**

Market Hall works have been delayed to due to COVID as has the tender process to appoint a market operator.

The project finished the year very close to profile.

A further update on the wider development of the scheme and funding will be given at the meeting due to commercial sensitivity

### **1.4. Energy Fund**

The Business Energy and Efficiency programme is attempting to do virtual energy audits which has seen some interest from businesses. The launch of the project was delayed due to COVID but already several surveys have been completed with business from Blue Orchid's and Groundwork's networks.

The Network visibility project encountered issues with State-aid, that SPEN could not get comfortable with. It has now been agreed that the lead applicant can be EA Technology and that the project will be reported on for a three year rather than a 5-year period.

At the request of CEC an extension to signing the offer letter for Crewe Heat Network has been extended to the 6<sup>th</sup> May, to enable the deferred cabinet meeting to take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> May where the Carbon Neutral Action Plan is due to be considered. The offer letter cannot be accepted by CEC until this plan is approved.

A conditional offer letter was issued for the Waste2Tricity scheme, which was extended to enable the funding package to be secured. While PEEL, who is now the lead applicant is confident that the funding can be secured and work can start by September, they accept there is uncertainty around this. The grant offer for £1.25m of LGF has therefore been withdrawn to allow the funding to be reallocated to a project/s that can spend the money by March 21. This will be challenging within the timescales and therefore an efficient approval route needs to be agreed to give prospective applicants the best chance of utilising the money.

**Options to be discussed in the meeting for referral on to Strategy Committee and or the Board.**

**2. Growing Places Fund (GPF) Update**

There has been a further repayment of the loan for Cheshire Green and there continues to be a reasonable level of interest in the site.

Remaining unallocated funding will be used to fund business case development, enabling Enterprise Zone funds to be freed up for COVID response.

**3. Evergreen**

The first board meeting with CBRE has now been held. CBRE have been very diligent in following up the leads provided by the LEP. Deployment of the fund is likely to be impacted by COVID. The implication for the LEP is that funding might be required to meet the initial running costs of the company for longer than anticipated.

**4. Finance**

For the first time since LGF was awarded to the LEP, no surplus is being carried forward. A total of £25.7m was spent in 19/20 against a budget of £24.98m. Payment of the Poynton Relief Road claim has been put on hold until this year's allocation from BEIS has been received.

A summary of spend against profile is below. It shows that despite over-profiling if we hadn't been able to bring spend forward on projects such as Centre Park Link and package projects into programmes like Warrington West we would have underspent and risked losing the money. We won't have this flexibility in this, the final year of the programme and therefore we may have to make earlier and more difficult decisions to reallocate funding to projects that can spend.

Project	Profiled spend 19/20	19/20 spend actual	Underspend against profile	% underspend
Sydney Road Bridge	585,154	585,154	-	0.0
GM & Cheshire Life Science Investment Programme	1,369,017	1,369,011	6	0.0
Warrington Waterfront (Centre Park Link)	-	530,000	- 530,000	spending bought fwd

Ellesmere Port Central Development Zone	3,112,000	1,704,207	1,407,793	-45.2
Poynton Relief Road	-	560,000	- 560,000	spending bought fwd
Crewe High Speed-ready Heart Town Centre Regeneration Programme	2,360,000	2,772,851	- 412,851	17.5
Crewe High Growth City – Congleton Link Road	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	0.0
Unlocking Winsford Industrial expansion Land	2,000,000	2,226,039	- 226,039	11.3
Tarvin Road	1,199,223	1,302,601	- 103,378	8.6
Warrington East Highways Improvements	3,369,868	3,369,868	-	0.0
<b>WW programme payment</b>	4,320,000	4,320,000	-	0.0
<b>Skills</b>				
Macclesfield Stem Centre (Astra Zeneca)	200,420	147,496	52,924	-26.4
Reaseheath College - automatic dairy	45,000	29,245	15,755	-35.0
Livewire Warrington- Made digital	19,992	15,074	4,918	-24.6
Warrington and Vale Royal college - community digital Hubs	39,100	39,038	62	-0.2
Youthfed - C&W Security Operations Centre (SOC) Training Academy	17,398	17,398	-	0.0
UTC Warrington	13,000	13,000	-	0.0
The Digital Hub - Digital Doorstep (CCSW)	18,235	8,362	9,873	-54.1
Digital Hub - Project 4.0 (CCSW)	124,702	124,526	176	-0.1
Macclesfield College - Chef's Whites Academy	10,573	10,573	0	0.0
Reaseheath College - Controlled Env. Food production Centre	20,000	-	20,000	-100.0
UOC- High Performance Private Cloud	400,000	-	400,000	-100.0
Carpe Diem - IOTA	118,800	118,800	-	0.0
AMET Centres - Warrington Campus and Vale Royal Campus	-	-	-	n/a
Macclesfield College - Specialist digital and advanced manufacturing equip	321,615	-	321,615	-100.0
Blue Beck - gaming support and development	-	-	-	n/a
<b>Sub total</b>	1,372,595	523,513		-61.9

<b>Energy Innovation</b>				
C&W Business Energy & Efficiency Programme	-	53,607	- 53,607	spending bought fwd
Storengy - Project Vanguard	20,000	26,512	- 6,512	32.6
EA Technology - Netzero Cheshire	-	-	-	n/a
Waste2tricity - Protos Hydrogen production facility	550,000	-	550,000	-100.0
EA Tech - Delivering network visibility in Cheshire's Energy Innovation district	-	-	-	n/a
Crewe Town Centre Heat Network	-	-	-	n/a
Energy Fund video	-	986	489,881	n/a
<b>Sub-total</b>	570,000	81,105		-85.8
<b>Sustainable access programme</b>				
Chester Road (WBC)	-	64,185	- 64,185	spending bought fwd
TPT Upgrade (WBC)	-	22,892	- 22,892	spending bought fwd
Wilmslow Strategic Cycle and Walking route (CEC)	150,000	70,063	79,937	-53.3
Northwest Crewe Cycling and Walking Link (CEC)	150,000	163,870	- 13,870	9.2
A5117 Cycle Route, Ellesmere Port (CWAC)	100,000	15,533	84,467	-84.5
Station View and Canal Towpath (CWAC)	200,000	180,885	19,115	-9.6
Management Charge (1%)	321,699	321,699	916,634	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,666,556</b>	<b>25,727,148</b>		<b>-3.5</b>

## 1. Risks

The top corporate and programme risks are shown below.

The potential risks and impacts of Coronavirus have been added to this risk register. The mitigation measures are subject to a separate paper to the board.

### Corporate

RISK SCENARIO		RISK RESPONSE	CURRENT CONTROLS / MITIGATION MEASURES	Controlled risk rating		
As a result of....there is a risk that...	the impact of which could result in....			IMPACT {1-5}	LIKELIHOOD {1-5}	TOTAL
As a result of the high degree of volatility regarding EZ income arising from forecast accuracy, potential VOA revaluations, there is a risk of failure to exceed baseline on EZ sites meaning less or no income would be due to the LEP. Also, future changes to Business rates may impact funding available	Unable to undertake the necessary EZ investments, repay loans and develop other areas of LEP activity.	REDUCE	Meet with business rate function staff to improve forecast accuracy and determine contingencies. Establish a reserve within EZ funds. Manage expectations about availability of finance and reduce investment programme accordingly if need be.	3	4	12

Corona Virus: internal staffing internal delivery External delivery Local economy	Difficult to deliver some projects and programmes. Need to potentially redirect funding and staff resources to meet changing economy.	REDUCE	Continue to operate remotely as much as is viable. Lobby for extra funding if significant staff shortages. Develop new support products and businesses, may need to update the LIS to meet the new economic challenges.	5	4	20
As a result of uncertain economic conditions, or onerous programme deliverables, there is a risk of a lack of suitable projects, or demand for LEP funds.	Failure to deliver economic growth, skills or the quality of place aspired to in the Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy.	REDUCE	The LEP continues to market support to local authorities, businesses and colleges for programmes commitment with the various programme funds initiated by Government departments.	3	3	9
Policy change within government may mean that LEPs are disbanded	The LEP needs to ensure it maintains adequate budget to wind up the LEP including staff redundancies and the legal costs of transferring contracts, winding up all the services etc.	ACCEPT	The work that the LEP does can perhaps largely be transferred to other bodies. The reason for holding the reserves should continue to be made clear in the accounts.	3	3	9
As a result of uncertain economic conditions, or onerous programme deliverables, there is a risk of a lack of suitable projects, or demand for LEP funds.	Failure to deliver economic growth, skills or the quality of place aspired to in the Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy.	REDUCE	The LEP continues to market support to local authorities, businesses and colleges for programmes commitment with the various programme funds initiated by Government departments.	3	3	9

Policy change within government may mean that LEPs are disbanded	The LEP needs to ensure it maintains adequate budget to wind up the LEP including staff redundancies and the legal costs of transferring contracts, winding up all the services etc.	ACCEPT	The work that the LEP does can perhaps largely be transferred to other bodies. The reason for holding the reserves should continue to be made clear in the accounts.	3	3	9
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**Programme Risks**

RISK SCENARIO		EXISTING CONTROLS / MITIGATION MEASURES	FUTURE RISK RATING		
RISK	IMPACT		IMPACT {1-5}	LIKELIHOOD {1-5}	TOTAL
Crewe Hub - Risk that project may not happen due to national political uncertainty and or that the funding isn't fully spent due to the delays with the project	Reputational risk. If govt decide not to go ahead then there the economic benefits won't be realised. Not achieving the maximum connectivity to the Hub and thereby reducing the economic benefits of the Hub and VfM.	Working closely with new govt/, CEC, DfT and the rail industry to deliver a scheme which supports the wider economic growth of the region.	5	3	15
Failure to deliver Accelerate in line with SLA	Reputational damage, loss of funding, funding could be reclaimed/ fines imposed and lost opportunity.	Recruited 2 staff with one to be appointed. Changing focus of third role to bring range of expertise. Regular monitoring using CRM, Weekly meetings with all staff inc. UOC. Delivery board and mgt board established to give adequate oversight.	4	3	12

<p>Website not developed on time or budget due to number of websites that need to be integrated and to support CRM and intelligence across the LEP.</p>	<p>Expectation that the website will be completed is detailed in the LEP delivery plan, failure to delivery could impact on the LEPs governance score. Need for the website to function well to ensure transparency.</p>	<p>Brief due to go out by end of year. Keeping stakeholder engaged. Team developing content and technical rqts of site, so can start to build quickly once contractor appointed.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>Crewe High Speed Ready Heart fails to spend all the LGF due to delays with the programme</p>	<p>Loss of LGF, Funding gap for the council, reputational damage to the LEP and Council. May impact ability to secure future funding. Impacts the LEP rating</p>	<p>Council looking at options for achieving spend including making stage payments to the developer. Need to look to see if there are other projects to spend the LGF on within the council.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>12</p>

Summary of project status

updated: Nov-19

Project Name	Main Recipient	Main Contractor	Project description	Total Cost (£)	LGF Grant (£)	Total Paid to date (£)	Current Position
<b>LGF</b>							
<b>Live Projects</b>							
GM & Cheshire Life Science Investment Programme	Catapult Ventures	Catapult Ventures	£31m Life sciences Investment Fund.	31,982,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	Invested £18.4m into 29 investments. 16 of which are in Cheshire. Full grant paid
Centre Park Link (Warrington)	Warrington Borough Council	Balfour Beatty	The Centre Park Link comprises a new highway route into the Town Centre, providing access to developable land. This involves the construction of a new bridge structure and associated highway link.	19,891,000	5,300,000	5,300,000	main works started on site in May 19 and going well. Works still progressing on site.
Ellesmere Port Central Development Zone	Cheshire West and Chester Council	Vinci	Development of new council offices for use by CWAU staff, DWP and For Housing on old bus station site. Relocation of bus station, demolition of existing council offices to make way for new housing.	17,392,000	8,332,000	2,065,620	Work on site has been delayed. Bus station works should start mid-May and main works in September.
Crewe High Speed-ready Heart Town Centre Regeneration Programme	Cheshire East Council	Parkinsons to lead Market Hall Work. Peverell Security is the developer for the Royal Arcade site	The overall scheme is £69m and will see significant remodelling of the town centre, including the demolition and relocation of the existing bus station and the creation of a new shopping arcade. The business case put forward concentrates on the elements to be funded through LGF and the Cheshire East Council, which are, the Bus Station, new multi-story car park, public realm and reconfiguration and updating of the markets.	69,000,000	5,000,000	3,577,590	Completion of market hall may be delayed due to COVID. Uncertainty around wider scheme due to COVID
Unlocking Winsford Industrial expansion Land	Cheshire West and Chester Council	A E Yates	Infrastructure works to open up the site for redevelopment to create new commercial and industrial buildings with associated jobs.	5,000,000	3,800,000	2,635,080	Work ongoing on site. £1m bond against s278 works paid to CWAC. Issue with main contractor due to COVID clause, so start on site delayed.
Tarvin Road (Chester)	Cheshire West and Chester Council	Balfour Beatty	Improvement to the highway to help improve traffic flow.	5,427,000	3,663,000	1,588,591	Land required for the scheme now acquired. Prelim works progressing.
<b>Warrington West Programme</b>							
Omega Local Highways Schemes phase 1 and 2b	Warrington Borough Council	Not yet appointed contractor	Highway improvements. Preferred option currently being developed.	8,815,000	4,050,000	-	FBC being worked up for consideration. Delayed to May
Warrington West Station	Warrington Borough Council	Balfour Beatty	New train Station. The new Warrington West railway station will act as a key interchange node and serve residential properties within the north and west of Warrington and improve accessibility to the Omega and Lingley Mere employment sites.	20,524,000	6,530,000	-	Project complete. Station opened in December 19
Warrington West Station cycle access	Warrington Borough Council	Not yet appointed contractor	New cycle and pedestrian access to the station	345,000	250,000	-	Design work being finalised
Burtonwood Omega Path (WBC)	Warrington Borough Council	Not yet appointed contractor	This is a new 3.5m wide shared use path alongside Burtonwood Road/Clay Lane in North Warrington which aims to provide a safe, secure and attractive cycling and walking link between the west side of Burtonwood village and the commercial and employment growth areas of Omega, Gemini and Lingley Mere. The length of the proposed path is 2.4km	1,650,000	500,000	-	CPO concluded, design work being finalised
<b>WW programme total</b>				<b>31,334,000</b>	<b>11,330,000</b>	<b>10,197,000</b>	Payment made against programme of projects
<b>Skills</b>							
C&W Security Training	Youth Federation	Youth Federation	an investment in computers, servers and networking equipment to deliver cyber security training to individual learners and local businesses. The equipment will be based at the Science and Technology Facilities Council, Daresbury. The proposed business model is based on an existing facility in Salford.	297,398	17,398	17,398	The centre is now fully equipped and ready to go as soon as restrictions on movement are lifted.
Community Learning Hubs	Warrington and Vale	Warrington and Vale	Project to provide digital equipment for use in the community by adult learners and the workforce of local businesses, situated in 'Community Digital Learning Hubs' at Northwich and Winsford libraries. The college will co-locate some of its adult and community (ACL) provision at the libraries and will augment existing learning opportunities there, primarily focusing upon digital familiarisation and upskilling.	52,525	39,038	39,038	All equipment now purchased. As libraries are currently closed digital offer is being developed including on facebook. E.g. virtual lego club launched attracting 10,000 views and the most popular post reached 22500 people.
The digital hub - Digital doorstep	CCSW in collaboration with Forward Futures	CCSW in collaboration with	an investment in portable, entry level specialist equipment to support the development of additive manufacturing and virtual and augmented reality. The equipment will be based at Cheshire College South and West's Crewe campus.	44,172	18,235	8,362	Some equipment acquired, funding slipped into 20/21. Covid having an impact on the ability to deliver the project
Made Digital (previously Warrington digital)	Culture Warrington	Culture Warrington	an investment in equipment to deliver coding, digital fabrication, physical computing workshops to young people and vulnerable people in schools, central and neighbourhood libraries and businesses within Warrington. The investment would build on pilot work already undertaken by LiveWire Warrington library staff and Spark at Penketh High School.	37,892	19,992	15,074	project has been successfully established and already run 4 sessions with a total of 46 participants.
21st Century Skills Lab	UTC Warrington	UTC Warrington	an investment in specialist equipment to support the development of computer network management and cyber security skills. The equipment would complement the UTC's cyber curriculum. The equipment would be located at Warrington UTC but could be moved and installed at a range of temporary sites.	39,988	19,988	-	Some equipment purchased and first session run. Further sessions and purchasing of equipment delayed due to COVID.
Macclesfield Stem Centre	Astra Zeneca	Astra Zeneca	Investment in a STEM Centre at AstraZeneca Macclesfield to allow employees and visitors to experience AR, VR, 3D Printing and Projection Mapping. The STEM Centre will be a dedicated building and use existing underutilised space on the AstraZeneca Macclesfield site whereby employees can go to experience immersive digital content for training in digital and increase their awareness and understanding of advanced manufacturing and research.	402,420	268,420	147,496	Media Wall completed, some kit still to be delivered. First session to businesses taken place. Launch event delayed due to COVID.

The Digital Hub - Project 4.0	Cheshire College South and West	Cheshire College South and West	Investment in a digital hub employing cutting edge technology including Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Robotics and Additive Manufacturing that would be based in a central and fully accessible Digital Hub on College campuses. A proportion of the equipment that is readily portable will be incorporated into a mobile learning centre that will deliver the opportunity to engage with the technology and the desired reskilling and upskilling.	2,230,749	913,648	124,246	some equipment acquired. Project being impacted by COVID. Remaining equipment to be acquired during q1 subject to supplier availability.
Automatic Milking dairy	Reeseheath College	Reeseheath College	Investment in a new automatic milking dairy to provide training, upskilling and reskilling and education in digitalisation, robotics and data-driven dairy management. A key part of this is the creation of a Centre for Dairy Automation and Robotic Milking.	736,000	656,000	29,245	Work has started on converting the new dairy.
The Controlled environment Food Production Centre	Reeseheath College	Reeseheath College	Facility to develop precision horticulture through controlled environment food production.	450,000	340,000	-	During the next quarter they are going to identify the location for the projects and develop the procurement documents.
Specialist equipment to transform Digital and advanced manufacturing skills	Macclesfield College	Macclesfield College	New Digital Hub to provide Agile Project Mgt training, cyber security, coding and robotics.	1,124,912	521,615	-	Project has slipped £331k into 20/21. No work started in March following signing of the offer letter, but they have stated the expect to spend the full LGF grant by the end of August.
High Performance Private cloud	UOC	UOC	Investment in client server computing environment for use by industry and education.	1,968,308	893,005	-	Project approved. Purchase of equipment delayed due to COVID. Looking at options to livestream demonstrations of how the new technology works.
IOTA	Carpe Diem	Carpe Diem	skills lab to train participants in their STEM confidence and raise aspirations across new technology and advanced engineering.	398,560	118,800	118,800	Kit acquired. Delivery to move to online until Lockdown eases.
AMET centres - Warrington Campus and Vale Royal campus	Warrington and Vale Royal	Warrington and Vale Royal	Advanced manufacturing and Engineering Centres. The Centres will enhance the skills of prospective and current employees through the training is the use of specialist equipment.	1,369,000	656,000	-	Approved and in development
<b>Energy Innovation</b>							
Low carbon Energy Efficient grant	Blue Orchid	Various	Energy Audit and Grant programme for SMEs	1,415,030	695,000	53,607	Additional £25k approved. Some audits carried out before lockdown. Now trying to carry out virtual audits where possible. Project outcomes likely to be delayed.
Project Vanguard	Storengy	TBC	Green Hydrogen Generation and refuelling station at Middlewich refuse truck depot. Four vehicles to be converted to Hydrogen. Refuelling services to be made available to NW hydrogen alliance members.	1,035,000	345,000	26,512	Planning application submitted, decision due 18th April. ITT to be issued in April for refuelling station.
Netzero Cheshire	EA Technology	EA Technology	Development of a net carbon-zero smart energy building. Including ground sources heat pump, LED lighting, PVs, 20 EV charging points	753,000	335,000	-	Project costs have escalated and project progress delayed due to COVID. Planning application submitted.
Protos Hydrogen production facility	Waste2tricity	Waste2tricity	Scheme to covert waste plastic to electricity and hydrogen	19,000,000	1,250,000	-	Grant offer withdrawn as grant conditions not met. Need to look at reallocating funding.
Delivering network visibility in Cheshire's Energy Innovation district	SP energy networks/Ea Tech	EA Technology	Collecting data from 673 sub stations to help understand constraints and trade variable loads	1,364,100	825,084	-	Applicant changed to ensure state-aid compliance. Project now being developed.
Crewe Town Centre Heat Network	Cheshire East Council	TBC	Heat Network initially serving munciple buildings in crewe. Potential for geo-thermal to be explored.	2,000,000	700,000	-	Project approved. Working on securing additional funding required to deliver the scheme
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>25,567,130</b>	<b>4,150,084</b>	<b>80,119</b>	
<b>Joint Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable Travel Access Fund</b>							
Chester Road	Warrington Borough Council	tbc	Pedestrian and cycle route along Chester Road. Will link to Centre Park Link (another LGF scheme) and link into the Trans Pennine Way.	900,000	600,000	64,185	First claim received. Design work being finalised.
TPT Upgrade	Warrington Borough Council	tbc	To widen and upgrade the Trans Pennine trail which is a tourist attraction as well as a link between residential and employment sites.	900,000	600,000	22,892	First claim received. Design work being finalised.
Wilmslow Strategic Cycle and Walking route	Cheshire East Council	tbc	Upgrading of pedestrian and cycle links between Royal London site and Wilmslow. Fill gaps in the off-road route between Wilmslow and key employment sites Inc. Alderley Park, Waters and Manchester Airport Enterprise Zone. Total route length to be upgraded is 2.7km	950,000	900,000	70,063	Detailed design progressing. Public consultation carried out. Likely to be impacted by COVID.
Northwest Crewe Cycling and Walking Link	Cheshire East Council	tbc	Extending a cycling and walking path linking Crewe and Nantwich, the Bentley employment site, Leighton Hospital and residential areas. NR widening bridge at Boulderstone Bridge, this project will link into the widened bridge.	1,850,000	700,000	163,870	Project progressing well. Planning application submitted, details design and land negotiations progressing.
A5117 Cycle Route, Ellesmere Port	Cheshire West and Chester Council	tbc	4.5km cycleway linking Ellesmere Port and Chester.	602,000	380,000	-	Project approved and designed being finalised
Ellesmere Port Canal Towpath	Cheshire West and Chester Council	tbc	Enhancement of 2.2km of canal towpath between A41, Ellesmere Port and Chester to shared use.	4,379,000	680,000	-	Project approved and designed being finalised
Sutton Way Boulevard, Ellesmere Port	Cheshire West and Chester Council	Ringway Jacobs	1 mile new shared pathway which will link the town centre with the western fringe and residential areas and provide a link to Chester by joining up with Stoney Lane.	1,024,000	640,000	527,513	Project delayed due to storms in February. Significant progress on site with civils which are expected to finish this quarter. Landscaping will be completed in the Autumn.
<b>Major Transport Schemes</b>				only includes locally held LGF			
Poynton Relief Road	Cheshire East Council	Grahams construction	Poynton Relief Road is a proposed 3km single carriageway road scheme to the west of Poynton with the primary aims of relieving village centre congestion and regenerating the north of the borough.	50,657,000	5,600,000	5,040,000	FBC approved by DfT. Agreement with all land owners now reached. Project likely to be delayed due to COVID
Congleton Link Road	Cheshire East Council	Graham Construction	A new 5.5km road for Congleton to reduce congestion and support town centre regeneration. The Congleton Link Road would join the A534 Sandbach Road (to West of Congleton) with the A536 Macclesfield Road (to the North of the town).	90,743,268	5,000,000	5,000,000	Work was progressing well on site but all but earthworks have stopped due to COVID. Was due to complete September 20, likely to be delayed and costs to overrun.

Completed LGF schemes							
Birchwood Pinch point (Warrington East Phase 1)	Warrington Borough Council	Balfour Beatty	The scheme aims to improve access to Birchwood Park. It includes: Signal improvements at junction of Birchwood Way/Birchwood Park Avenue A bus only link connecting the Birchwood Way/Faraday Street junction with Ordnance Avenue The replacement of the Moss Gate roundabout with a higher capacity junction to eliminate traffic congestion, accessibility and road safety problems	4,986,000	2,140,000	2,140,000	Completed
M62 J8 Junction Improvements	Warrington Borough Council	Balfour Beatty	The scheme involves the remodelling of the current junction to increase capacity and improve traffic flow.	11,690,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	Completed June 18
Chester Central (Northgate and Bus Interchange)	Cheshire West and Chester Council	Graham Construction	The project is to create a new Bus Interchange. The old bus station site will then be freed up to form part of the £380m Northgate development which will see new retail and leisure opportunities developed.	21,637,682	13,500,000	13,500,000	Completed May 17
Thornton Science Park (Chester)	University of Chester	Wilmot Dixon Construction	The project is to refurbish an existing building to create an energy demonstrator. The aim of the Demonstrator is to provide a flexible platform (with office and laboratory space) for research and development, focusing on testing new and emerging technologies across all aspects of energy systems and smart grids. The initial objective is to concentrate research on emerging energy storage technologies.	17,382,500	6,800,000	6,800,000	Completed May 17
Reaseheath Employer Focused Hub	Reaseheath College	John Turner Construction Group Ltd.	Construction of new lecture theatres, teaching and break out study areas of approximately 500m2 connecting the existing HE centre with the centre point building and refurbishment of the existing building approximately 337 m2	1,889,307	674,850	674,850	Project complete and operational
Reaseheath Agri Tech Centre	Reaseheath College	Engineering Extension - Novaplus Ltd. Agritech - Pochin Construction Ltd.	The National Centre for Agri-tech and advanced engineering will provide general teaching areas, workshop space, specialised facilities for robotics, tractor simulation, GPS and the most advanced agricultural engineering machines associated with precision farming, meeting current and future skills needs. In addition the project will introduce robotics to the college farm and livestock management improving animal welfare, farm productivity and reducing environmental impacts.	7,457,972	2,475,000	2,475,000	Project complete and operational
Reaseheath Sports Science and Performance Academy	Reaseheath College	Sports pitches - Blakedown Sport & Play Ltd. Sports Hall - Pochin Construction Ltd.	The construction of new sports facilities to deliver all year round sports provision, wider range of activities, sports science and performance laboratories, increasing recruitment and delivering higher level skills to all sports and public service learners. It will provide essential recreational facilities for 1200 residential students and the local community. The new facilities to include a sports hall a new MUGA pitch and a new 3G pitch to Sports England specifications.	6,169,154	2,169,750	2,169,750	Project complete and operational
Crewe Green Roundabout	Cheshire East Council	Balfour Beatty	Redesign of the existing roundabout to increase capacity and reduce congestion at this pinch point.	7,750,000	3,300,000	3,300,000	Completed October 18.
Ellesmere Port and Chester Campus remodelling	South Cheshire College	Wilmott Dixon	The project is to reconfigure the teaching and learning spaces at the Ellesmere Port and Chester Campuses. This is following an Ofsted report which gave the college an Inadequate grading. This was due in part, to the open design and layout of teaching spaces meant that learning is often disrupted by noise from other parts of the building.	3,791,198	3,198,000	3,198,000	Project complete and operational
Reaseheath Learning Hub and Accommodation	Reaseheath College	Learning Hub - Novaplus Ltd. Accommodation - Pochin Construction Ltd	The replacement of temporary residential units ( 180 beds) with a new 200 bed purpose built facility that will provide accommodation for approximately 320 students meeting increased demand. Addressing significant condition issues in central scientific laboratory Hub	11,244,158	3,582,315	3,582,315	Project complete and operational
Sydney Road Bridge (Crewe)	Cheshire East Council	Network Rail and J Murphy & Sons	Replacement of the bridge at Sydney Road with a new bridge which take two lanes of traffic, plus a pedestrian path. The new bridge will reduce congestion in the area.	10,452,553	5,850,000	5,850,000	Project complete and operational
Chef's Whites Academy	Macclesfield College	no contractor	The LGF grant will be used to buy equipment to enable the college to set up the Chef's Whites Academy and run courses from September 2019. The course is expected to create apprentice opportunities for 40 students.	200,000	25,000	25,000	Course started. 11 students enrolled. More expected next year.
Warrington East Highways Improvements	Warrington Borough Council	Balfour Beatty	A five part scheme of traffic improvements to open up development sites and improve traffic flow.	13,500,000	6,900,000	6,900,000	Complete
<b>Total committed and spent</b>				<b>484,900,846</b>	<b>126,772,138</b>	<b>102,447,377</b>	

GPF				Loan (£)			
Cheshire Green Employment Park	Cheshire Green Employment Park Limited	Jones Bros.	Infrastructure works to open up the site for redevelopment to create new commercial and industrial buildings with associated jobs.	14,000,000	3,650,000	3,200,000	First phase completed. Land revalued. Number of plots now sold. Phase 2 works ongoing.
Glasshouse, Alderley Park	Bruntwood	Workspace and GMI	Refurbishment of a previously owned Astra Zeneca building into new office space.	27,800,000	3,873,000	2,726,498	Due to open in February
New Bridge Road Sub Station	Peel Investment	LEAP utilities	New 10 Mva Sub station to facilitate £70m of investment in the creation of new cardboard manufacturing plant and open up 5 EZ sites for development premises	1,737,816	590,857	590,857	work completed and operational
Aviator	Redsun Developments Ltd	Cadex	125k sqft industrial Unit	10,786,918	1,701,418	803,778	Due to complete end of January 20
Helix Phase 2	Gaerwen Properties	Portal	3 industrial units totalling 30k sqft	3,728,223	659,347	-	Scheme is complete. Awaiting final claim
Newport Rhino	Andrews4 Property	Portal	82k sqft. European HQ of Rhino properties	6,187,228	792,670	792,670	Complete and occupied

100,000
50,000
2,000,000
62,500
75,000
150,000
524,881
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