



LEP Strategy Committee MINUTES

Meeting Held: Thursday 13th October 2016,
LEP Offices, Gadbrook Business Park

Present:

Robert Davis (Chair)
Louise Morrissey
Robert Mee
Andy Hulme

Philip Cox
Frank Jordan
Nigel Schofield

Pete Waterman
Andy Farrall
Gemma Davies

Apologies:

Charlie Seward

Visitors:

Alex Gardiner (Metro Dynamics) – AI 4 only

Agenda Item 1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Robert Davis welcomed members to the meeting. An Apology had been received from Charlie Seward (represented at the meeting by Gemma Davies).

Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest

Nigel Schofield declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (FE Skills Capital), as a Governor of Macclesfield College.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes, Actions and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st October 2016 were approved. The action to invite Clare Heyward to the October meeting was carried over to a future meeting to enable a joint meeting of the Strategy Committee and Employer Skills Board.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Agenda Item 4: Strategy Work Programme Update

The contents of the report were noted.

The final version of the **Quality of Place** report had been received from KPMG. It was agreed that proposals need to be developed to take forward the Quality of Place 'conversation' and the recommendations of the Workshop held jointly with the Nation Trust at Tatton in July.

Action: Paper outlining proposals for taking forward Quality of Place agenda to be considered at November meeting.

Philip Cox confirmed that, following a competitive procurement process, Metro Dynamics has been selected to provide consultancy support to the LEP during the **refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan**. Whilst the LEP will 'hold the pen' on the narrative for the SEP and lead on consultation activity, Metro Dynamics will provide the updated economic evidence and economic insight through a series of short, focussed reports. It was stressed that the refresh aims to ensure the SEP properly reflects the political and policy changes that have taken place since the original SEP, including the work to develop the devolution proposition.

Alex Gardiner, Associate Director of Metro Dynamics was welcomed to the meeting and provided background to the company and its experience.

Views of the Committee members were sought to identify particular groups for the LEP to engage with during the refresh process. It was noted that an Engagement Plan was being developed which would see a variety of engagement activity taking place between now and the New Year. This would include the existing LEP thematic sub-groups.

Strategy Committee members were also asked to consider what role they might play in the engagement process.

Action: Engagement Plan for the SEP refresh to be provided to the November meeting.

Agenda Item 5: FE Skills Capital

A verbal update was provided and recorded as a Confidential Item.

Agenda Item 6: Growing Places Fund

A verbal update was provided. It was confirmed that due diligence is progressing on the proposed £3.2 million loan facility for Cheshire Green and should complete shortly. Expressions of Interest had been received from the sub-regional 'Digital 2020' broadband programme (potential £1.7 million loan for use as ERDF match).

The Committee discussed the need to complete the ongoing review of GPF and to establish a clear framework for its use in the short-medium term. The potential to link to the fund to the proposed future Housing and Employment Investment Fund to support the Devolution Investment Programme was also noted.

Action: Paper to be produced following completion of the current review by Local Partnerships / Regeneris, setting out the principles of operation of the Fund and criteria for establishing project eligibility.

The potential to utilise a proportion of GPF to support inward investment enquiries was discussed.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

Andy Hulme noted that the final report from the Greater Manchester and East Cheshire Science and Innovation Audit was submitted to Government in September. The LEP is now awaiting news on the Liverpool City Region SIA bid which will also involve Cheshire and Warrington LEP.

Agenda Item 8: Date, Time and Venue of next meeting.

Thursday 10th November 2016, 2pm – 4pm, Venue TBC.



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