



**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
Performance and Investment Committee Meeting
held on 27th February at 1.30 at Wyvern House**

In attendance: Ged Barlow (Chairman), Chris Hindley, Paul Goodwin, Rachel Brosnahan

Apologies: Stuart Brown, Lisa Harris, John Downes, Philip Cox

In attendance: Tim Smith for part of the meeting
Presentations on Poynton Relief Road by Paul Griffiths at CEC

| Item No. | Item | To be Actioned by | By When |
|----------|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Welcome, Introductions and Apologies Apologies from Stuart Brown, Lisa Harris, John Downes and Philip Cox RB to ask if LH can send a deputy in her absence | RB | End of Feb |
| 2 | Conflicts of Interest GB asked for any conflicts to be declared. Paul Goodwin declared his interest in Poynton Relief Road. Committee agreed it would be best practice for CEC to have a representative on the committee as the S151 attends in their capacity as S151 officer and not to represent CEC. Committee asked whether PC would be attending until new Finance Director is in place, to ensure separation of duties as PC also sits on the Strategy Committee RB to confirm who will represent the LEP on the Committee and to follow up appointment of CEC rep to the committee | RB | End of March |
| 4 | Minutes from the last meeting: The minutes were agreed and as per the email correspondence it was again confirmed that the committee were happy to give final approval to the Centre Park Link project (as the December meeting wasn't quorate) | | |

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| | Committee also confirmed approval of CLG q3 report which had also been done by correspondence. | | |
| 5 | <p>Presentation on Poynton Relief Road</p> <p>Paul Griffiths gave a presentation on the Poynton Relief Road project (available on the LEP website)</p> <p>Committee confirmed conditional approval of the scheme.</p> <p>RB to issue offer letter</p> | RB | End of March |
| 7 | <p>Programme Manager update</p> <p>RB ran through the programme manager update highlighting key issues which included,</p> <p>A51 Tarvin Road estimates have increased. Officers are seeking council approval for additional funding and trying to reduce the cost of the scheme through value engineering.</p> <p>Ellesmere Port One Public Estate offer letter issued and expected to be signed by CWAC by the end of February at the latest</p> <p>Implementation Agreement signed with Network Rail for Sydney Road Bridge works. Bridge beams successfully lowered into place marking a big milestone for the project which is on track to complete in May.</p> <p>GB asked about progress with the Energy Fund. A new call for the Energy Fund will be issued written no later than July following completion of the Local Industrial Strategy. RB emphasised that it was important to make progress with this programme with only 25 months left to spend the funding.</p> <p>RB explained that the programme was currently behind profile for the year (if pro-rated), but due to the number of projects that are on site in full delivery, coupled with the conditional approval of Poynton Relief Road then the £16m target for the year should comfortably be exceeded. Funding for next year will be difficult due to payment from BEIS, but RB to manage through bringing all projects back in line with intervention rates. Potentially will need to borrow GPF to meet cashflow or delay q4 19/20 payments until May 20.</p> <p>ERDF application for a £20m Cheshire and Warrington Urban Development Fund still progressing against challenging timescales. Decision expected end of March.</p> <p>Not taking any new GPF applications at present as cashflow shows it will be fully committed by August. Waiting to hear from applicant</p> | | |

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| | <p>whether they want to continue with application. If not, that potentially frees up some funding.</p> <p>PG requested copy of GPF cashflow.</p> | RB | End of Feb |
| | The committee members noted the contents of the risk registers. | | |
| 8 | <p>Mid Term Evaluation</p> <p>RB gave a brief overview of the findings of the mid-term evaluation.</p> <p>The committee noted the contents of the report and the need for the recommendations to be followed up.</p> | | |
| 9 | <p>ESIF update</p> <p>Tim Smith gave an update on the European Funds and ran through his paper.</p> <p>£10.5m of ERDF left to invest. £33m in application stage. Two further calls this year against the amounts outstanding in the different priorities.</p> <p>ESF - £220k left. May be underspend from projects finishing in April.</p> <p>£14.8m University Chester Workforce development bid in full application stage.</p> <p>Revaluation of programme due to exchange rate means there is an extra 11% now available.</p> <p>CH queried what would happen if the exchange rate changed again, TS stated that HMG will underwrite the full spend on the programme.</p> <p>There is a risk of not being able to spend all the ESIF funds but TS has been advised that there is potentially the opportunity to move funding between priorities.</p> <p>Rural fund is fully committed.</p> | | |
| 10 | <p>AOB</p> <p>Agreed to cancel April meeting as it falls during Easter holidays. Moving it to May would make it close to the May P&I meeting. May agenda will be manageable.</p> | | |