



**LEP Strategy Committee  
MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Wyvern House, Winsford

**Present:**

Robert Mee (Chair)  
Philip Cox  
Steve Park

Stephen Kinsey  
Charlie Seward  
Andy Hulme

Pete Waterman  
Frank Jordan

**Apologies:**

Clare Hayward  
Robert Davis

Graeme Bristow

Gary Steen

**Attending:**

Hayley Kirkham (AI 4)  
John Adlen (AI 6)

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**Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Robert Mee welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Robert Davis, Clare Hayward, Gary Steen and Graeme Bristow.

It was noted that Steve Park will now be representing Warrington on the Strategy Committee in his new role as Director of Growth. It was noted that as a result of this, Steve will be stepping down from his position on the LEP Performance and Investment Committee, to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.

**Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were declared.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

All actions were completed or covered under the Agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Strategy Update**

The contents of the report were noted.

Due to the late issue of the papers it was agreed that more detailed comments and feedback on the Digital and Science and Innovation Strategies would be provided via e-mail.

Some initial feedback on the draft Digital Strategy was provided. It was noted that the current draft is no more than 70% complete and work is continuing to develop it further. The Committee expressed the view that final document the needs to be more focussed and shorter – some of the background information could potentially be located in an Annex. It was suggested that the strategy could also look at addressing digital ‘fears’ (e.g. cybercrime, fraud).

Finally, it was felt that as well as charting a course in terms of the digital infrastructure that the sub-region might need to support its ambition of a £50 billion by 2040, the Strategy should focus on what the LEP can usefully use digital for, the risks and resilience around digital and also digital skills.

The Committee was supportive of the proposal to re-constitute a Science and Innovation Board.

***Action: Committee members to provide comments on the Digital and Science and Innovation Strategies by e-mail by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.***

#### **Agenda Item 5: Local Industrial Strategy**

The contents of the report were noted.

Work to add a layer of granularity to the LEP evidence base was nearing completion and activity was now moving into developing and sense checking the insight from the data. Given the extent of this evidence base it was agreed that an informal meeting of the Strategy Committee would be arranged for the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to enable the Consultants undertaking the evidence work, Metro Dynamics, to walk the Committee through the evidence pack and allow an initial discussion around the emerging issues and consequences for LEP policy.

A draft engagement plan was shared. It was agreed that local authority partners in particular would feed in details of existing engagement activity that could be used to support conversations around the LIS. Current plans would see a significant ramp up of engagement in the first quarter of 2019, to coincide with publication of an update / position paper summarising the key evidence and the potential areas of focus for future policy.

Work is progressing to establish an expert panel to provide critical external challenge to the development of our LIS. It was noted that, unfortunately, our first choice for Chair has indicated that they are unable to commit to the role due to other commitments.

***Action: Andy Hulme to make arrangements for a session on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to review the evidence base.***

#### **Agenda Item 6: Growing Places Fund**

John Adlen, Director of the Cheshire Science Corridor, presented the report which requested the use of up to £300k of funding from Growing Places Fund to enable development work for early EZ site proposals. GPF would be repaid through retained business rates.

The Committee approved the recommendation

#### **Agenda Item 7: Government Announcements**

There was a short discussion about some of the key points contained within the recent budget. This included confirmation of development funding for Northern Powerhouse Rail and additional funding for the Medicines Discovery Catapult at Alderley Park.

An announcement is expected shortly regarding funding for the E-Port Smart Energy project.

## **PART B – Non-public Items**

Due to issues of Commercial Confidentiality the papers and detailed note for the following items will remain exempt from Public Release.

### **Agenda Item 8: Crewe Station Development Strategy**

Frank Jordan, Executive Director for Place, and Hayley Kirkham, HS2 Programme Manager for Cheshire East Council, presented on the progress of the Crewe Station Development Strategy.

### **Agenda Item 9: Low Carbon Energy Innovation Fund**

The contents of the report were noted.

Responses to the call for projects was below expectation. It was noted that this could reflect the fact that the call was issued during the main summer period, and also with limited engagement up front. The Chief Executive suggested that greater impact could be achieved by taking a more strategic approach to deploying the Fund.

The Committee supported the proposal that the process be paused and a series of more targeted conversations undertaken with potential projects.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Any Other Business**

None

### **Agenda Item 11 – Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Informal workshop (LIS Evidence Base) – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 9.30am, Wyvern House

Strategy Committee – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 9:00-11:00 am, Wyvern House