



MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE ZONE BOARD MEETING

16 May 2019

Meeting Title	Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone Board	
Date	16 May 2019	
Time	13:00-15:00	
Location	Ellesmere Port	
Agenda Item		Action/Decision
1.	<p>Attendees and apologies</p> <p>EZ Board Members: Robert Mee, Chair of EZ Board Tony Bochenski, Independent Board Member Chris Farrow, Independent Board Member</p> <p>In Attendance: John Adlen, Cheshire and Warrington LEP Chris Capes, Cheshire West & Chester Council Philip Cox, Cheshire and Warrington LEP Stephen Fitzsimons, Warrington & Co. Jane Gaston, Peel Environmental Philip Kerr, Skills & Growth Company Joel Tagg, Cities & Growth Unit Stephen Wade, Legat Owen</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Rus Bowden, Warrington Borough Council Lisa Harris, Cheshire West & Chester Council Christine White, Astra Zeneca</p>	
2.	<p>Previous EZ Board minutes</p> <p>All matters arising from the previous EZ Board held on 21 March 2019 have either been actioned or will be covered in this board.</p>	Minutes agreed and signed off
3.	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>(a) Chris Farrow declared an interest in sites in Ellesmere Port as Chair of the Ellesmere Port Development Board</p>	
4.	<p>Ellesmere Port Update</p> <p>Jane Gaston from Peel Environmental and Stephen Wade from Legat Owen gave an update to the Board on progress to date across the EZ sites in Ellesmere Port, excluding Thornton Science Park.</p>	

5.	<p>Governance</p> <p>a) EZ Board membership</p> <p>John Adlen reported that Councillor Brian Clarke (CWAC) and Councillor Paul Bates (CEC) have stepped down from the EZ Board. Philip Cox reported that he had written to the three local authority Chief Executives to request their nominations for the LEP Board and sub-committees, including the nomination of alternate representatives.</p>	
6.	<p>EZ investment programme</p> <p>a) EZ investment programme update</p> <p>John Adlen presented an update on the latest position with the EZ investment programme, which showed that the EZ Board had committed £7.6m in approved investments. Only the Glasshouse at Alderley Park has drawn down any funding to date, £519k of its £3.8m. Glasshouse is expected to make a further claim this month and the other EZ investments have been issued with claim forms and are expected to start drawing down their funding this month.</p> <p>b) EZ investment cases</p> <p>John Adlen reported that an investment case has been received from Alderley Park for two projects (Block 22 and Blocks 23 & 24) seeking a total investment of £6m. Cushman & Wakefield have been appointed to undertake an appraisal of the project and DWF have been appointed to provide some early State Aid advice, as both projects include an element of multi-storey car parking. It is anticipated that the investment case, appraisal and draft legal agreement to come to the July EZ Board for consideration.</p>	
7.	<p>Operational update</p> <p>a) Growth Director's update</p> <p>The EZ Board considered and noted the Growth Director's report on key development activities undertaken during the last period.</p> <p>b) Business Rate Discount applications</p> <p>No new Business Rate Discount applications were received during the last period.</p>	
8.	<p>Marketing and communications</p> <p>a) Marketing and promotion activities</p> <p>The EZ Board considered and noted the Growth Director's report on key marketing and promotional activities undertaken during the last period. It was agreed to invite Catherine Walker, the LEP's new Marketing & Communications Director to the July EZ Board.</p>	<p>Agreed to invite Catherine Walker to the July EZ Board meeting</p>
9.	<p>Finance update</p> <p>a) Borrowing facility update</p> <p>John Adlen and Philip Cox presented the headline proposal to establish a £30m borrowing facility for investments in the EZ that had been agreed in-principle with finance representatives from the three local authorities. This proposal would now need to go to the three</p>	

	local authority chief executives for approval. There was a discussion regarding the role of the credit committee vis-à-vis the EZ Board and the need to streamline EZ investment decision-making as much as possible in order to maintain maximum flexibility to respond to the market.	
10.	AOB There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.	