

**DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD AT 16:45 ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS LIVE EVENTS**

**Board Members:**

Lou Cordwell (In the Chair)

David Birch, Mike Blackburn, Mayor Andy Burnham, Lorna Fitzsimons, Amanda Halford, Mo Isap, Juergen Maier, Chris Oglesby, Dame Nancy Rothwell, Richard Topliss, Cllr Brenda Warrington & Cllr Elise Wilson

**Advisors:**

Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), Jack Loughlin (GMCA), Oscar Lynch (GMCA), Gemma Marsh (GMCA), Nicola McLeod (GMCA), Simon Nokes (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), John Wrathmell (GMCA), Simon Donahue (Marketing Manchester), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company). Leila Mottahedeh (BEIS) & Sheona Southern (Marketing Manchester).

**Apologies:**

Sir Richard Leese & Vanda Murray.

**GM LEP/20/21 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from GM LEP Members Sir Richard Leese and Vanda Murray.

**GM LEP/20/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Amanda Halford noted an interest in regard to discussion of South Manchester Manufacturing Innovation Park – specifically any discussions involving antibody manufacturing and/or translational research facilities.

Juergen Maier noted that he had joined the Board of the Halle Orchestra.

**GM LEP/20/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Board received the minutes of the last public meeting, held on 8 September 2020.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

## **STRATEGY**

### **GM LEP/20/24          GM YOUNG PERSON'S GUARANTEE**

A presentation was given on the development of the GM Young Person's Guarantee (YPG).

The Guarantee had been developed by working closely with GM's young people – with consultation work, including a Facebook event generating 5000 responses, taking place that sought to understand what was most important to young people and the type of support they felt was most needed at the current time.

Four key themes had arisen from these consultations:

- Keeping Connected – including digital and transport offers.
- Staying Well – ensuring safe environments and access to mental health support.
- Making Effective Transitions – including training, apprenticeship and re-skilling opportunities.
- Reducing Economic Inequalities – ensuring equality and inclusiveness in jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

Specific task groups had been inaugurated to tackle each of these four themes directly and would commence from mid-October. Each task group would meet on a monthly basis to review progress, ensure that activities were delivering against what young people had said, and to identify further areas of challenge and opportunities.

### **Comments and Questions**

It was asked how GM LEP could best provide support at this stage.

It was suggested that the LEP could use their business experience to advise on boosting opportunities for young people. Work was taking place with Mo Isap as LEP skills lead on considering the assets in GM that could encourage and incentivise more businesses to offer help and support to young people.

Mo Isap advised that he was working closely with the YPG Team on how best to support them in terms of taking recommendations forward. The needs of a demand led system were being closely mapped to help in future-proofing the talent system of young people in GM.

### **RESOLVED:/**

1. That the presentation on the Young Person's Guarantee be received by the Board.
2. That emerging recommendations be fed back to the Partnership.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **GM LEP/20/25          LEP GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

A mid-year review of the GM LEP had taken place with the Cities and Local Growth Unit which had resulted in positive discussions with Government with no major actions required. An Annual Performance Review would take place later in the year.

CLGU have confirmed that GM LEP is required to appoint a Deputy Chair. This will form part of the current Board membership refresh.

In terms of the Board refresh, Penna recruitment consultants are supporting the process and will produce a report on potential candidates shortly with a particular emphasis on recruiting candidates with the skills and experience that reflect the LEP's priorities.

It was noted that the Board's Register of Interest is currently being refreshed and that members should contact the Governance Team with any updates along with any declarations for the gifts, hospitality and expenses register.

#### **RESOLVED:/**

That the update on GM LEP governance be received by the Board.

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **GM LEP/20/26          ECONOMIC DASHBOARD UPDATE**

An update was provided highlighting headlines from the economic dashboard.

The dashboard provided up to date intelligence on the GM economy following the outbreak of Covid including current economic conditions; business and consumer confidence; and GM business indicators

This included intelligence on furloughed employees, benefit claimant counts, job postings and numbers of companies looking to make redundancies along with estimated footfall counts for GM's district centres.

#### **RESOLVED:/**

That the Economic Dashboard update be received by the Board.

### **GM LEP/20/27          BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE**

An update was provide on the work of the Growth Company in supporting local business.

The Growth Company had noted a slight uplift in job vacancies during August and early September with a number of redundancies anticipated for later in 2020/21.

There had been limited feedback from businesses on the Government's Winter Economy Plan although the 10-year loan repayment scheme had been welcomed.

The Growth Company's mainstream business support programmes continue to attract considerable interest and uptake with Marketing Manchester offering additional advice and support to the tourism and hospitality sector.

GMCA funding had allowed the launch of a GM Bounce Back Loan scheme which will target businesses that have difficulty accessing other sources of finance. Business grants were also available to support companies to become Covid secure.

A Kickstart gateway offer was underway with around 500 placements committed by companies.

### **Comments and Questions**

It was noted that a number of businesses centred on technology and innovation were continuing to thrive including health innovation, cyber and digital technologies including those with global as well as local reach.

A deep dive research into these areas would provide valuable intelligence including the opportunities to support start ups in growing economic sectors.

The Board discussed gender related economic data and the trends suggesting women were disproportionately being impacted by job losses.

### **RESOLVED:/**

1. That the business support update be received by the Board.
2. That consideration be given to further work examining the current success areas of the economy and how encouragement could be given to start-up businesses in these areas.

### **GM LEP 20/28            MARKETING AND COMMS UPDATE**

A paper was provided to the Board outlining marketing and comms activity.

Led by a Strategic Economic Communications Steering Group and key sector communications leads (digital and creative, green growth, health innovation, advanced manufacturing and materials), Marketing Manchester was working in partnership with GMCA communications colleagues to identify, create and share content promoting Greater Manchester's key strengths and characteristics. Content that had been published, and was due to be published, was highlighted.

Work was currently taking place on the LEP Economic Proposition. Work was taking place on a sharing pack for the Board to aid in promotion through their own communication channels and contacts.

Three key themes were highlighted that will be developed over the forthcoming 6-8 weeks include Green; Digital and Female Entrepreneurship. It was asked that members feedback any stories they had to contribute to these pieces.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the marketing and comms update be noted.
2. That GM LEP Board members be asked to share and promote LEP Economic Proposition strategic communications content and materials via their own networks.
3. That GM LEP Board members be asked to share any information they had on Green, Digital and Female Entrepreneurship with Marketing Manchester.

**GM LEP 20/29                      DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE**

An update paper was provided which updated the Board on the development of a GM LEP Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.

Following Board discussions and in consultation with the Diversity Champion, it was proposed that the LEP develop a more detailed Action Plan based on the following three themes:

- Highlighting Equality Issues in LEP Decision Making
- Development of the LEP Economic Proposition
- Champion of Best Practice in the GM Private Sector

**Comments and Questions**

The Board welcomed the report and noted the importance of the business case for diversity, setting out the evidence that demonstrates that a diverse workforce is more creative, innovative and productive.

**RESOLVED:/**

That the Diversity and Inclusion Update be noted.

Meeting ended: 17:30

The next meeting of the Board would take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November.