

**NOTES FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
HELD AT 16:45 ON TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS LIVE EVENTS**

**Board Members:**

Mo Isap (In the Chair)

Mike Blackburn, Mayor Andy Burnham, Lou Cordwell, Lorna Fitzsimons, Sir Richard Leese, Juergen Maier, Chris Oglesby, Vanda Murray & Cllr Elise Wilson.

**Advisors:**

Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), Gemma Marsh (GMCA), Simon Nokes (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), John Wrathmell (GMCA), Ross McRae (GMCA), Krista Patrick (GMCA), Mark Atherton (GMCA), Simon Donahue (Marketing Manchester), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company), Leila Mottahedeh (BEIS), Sheona Southern (Marketing Manchester), Pat Bartoli (Manchester City Council) & Anne Selby (Chair of GMCA Natural Capital Group).

**GM LEP/20/30                    WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from GM LEP Members Amanda Halford & Cllr Brenda Warrington

**GM LEP/20/31                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**GM LEP/20/32                    NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Board received notes from 17 November 2020. It was advised that as the meeting was not quorate, these did not constitute formal minutes of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:/**

That the notes of 17 November 2020 be received.

**GOVERNANCE**

**GM LEP/20/33                    AGM RATIFICATIONS AND ACTIONS**

- As the previous meeting was not quorate. Formal approval was sought for the Annual Delivery Plan; the Annual Delivery Report and the GM Local Growth Assurance Framework.
- To formally agree that Cllr Elise Wilson be nominated Deputy Chair of the GM LEP.
- To formally approve a small amendment to the transport element of the Local Growth Deal Delivery

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Annual Delivery Plan be formally agreed.
2. That the Annual Delivery Report be formally agreed.
3. That the GM Local Growth Assurance Framework be formally agreed.
4. That Cllr Elise Wilson be confirmed as the Deputy Chair of the GM LEP.
5. That the amendment to the transport element of the Local Growth Deal Delivery be formally agreed.

**GM LEP/20/34                    TAKING FORWARD THE GM ECONOMIC VISION**

**Delivering the Initial Actions**

- A document had been forwarded to partnership members summarising the twelve initial actions in the Economic Vision. This would then return to the January meeting for discussion on the next steps on delivery and how this would framing the work of the LEP in 2021.

**Innovation GM Update**

- There had been a focus on working with the separate boroughs on a pipeline of investable propositions. These would form innovation zones covering cities, towns and out of town manufacturing parks, building upon existing zones, and stimulating the development of those which were emerging.
- A business case for Innovation GM, aligned to the new Treasury Greenbook appraisal method, was in development and would be brought to the LEP early in 2021.
- Following on from the business case, outward-facing engagement, working with MIDAS and Marketing Manchester, was in development. This would include

materials that articulated the opportunity and calls to action, as well as deeper discussions with the wider GM business community to get their ideas and ensure they shaped priorities and membership.

- In addition to providing an update on the progress made against Innovation GM, a recommendation was being brought to the LEP to nominate an interim science advisor to engage stakeholders and to ensure evidence underpinned the development of Innovation GM.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the update on the development of Innovation GM be received.
2. That the Board agrees to delegate responsibility to the Interim Chair of Innovation GM, in consultation with the GM LEP, to appoint an interim science advisor to provide additional capacity and advice to support its development.
3. That the Board endorses the proposal to work with MIDAS and other local partners to undertake outward facing engagement activity from the new year, including the set-up of a private-public leadership group.

**GM LEP/20/35 MARKETING MANCHESTER UPDATE**

- A paper provided the Board with an update on activity being undertaken by Marketing Manchester and GMCA communications colleagues on its behalf in relation to strategic communications which support the GM Economic Vision.
- Performance over the previous month had been healthy in media terms – with a focus on the Economic Vision launch, which had seen a good response in social and other media with the promotional film being downloaded over 1000 time and the report over 300 times.
- Following the launch of the Economic Vision, proactive comms work was taking place to ensure that the vision's messages were landing in both national and international media.
- It was asked that Board members feed back to Marketing Manchester with any good news stories they receive to help in building a narrative around the 'Greater Manchester Story'.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Board notes the Marketing Manchester Update.

**STRATEGY**

**GM Economic Dashboard**

- Members were provided with an update on the current GM Economic Dashboard. OBR forecasts indicated that the GM economy could be 10% smaller by the end of 2020 than it was at the outset of the year – this represented a potential £7bn hit to the value of the GM economy. 140,000 people had already been added to the claimant count, with the potential for another 100,000 at the outset of 2021. This represented the real impacts now happening due to the Covid crisis.

**Living with Covid Plan Update**

- The report provided LEP Board Members with an update on the progress of the implementation of the Living with Covid Resilience Plan and the development of mechanisms to drive system change to better respond to environmental and equalities impacts arising. An update of progress against the Greater Manchester Strategy headline outcome measures was also provided.
- The plan was updated following a first quarter review, looking at how GM is addressing some of the key inequalities issues drawn out in the plan and reshaping delivery in response to the ongoing Covid pandemic.
- A huge amount of partnership working was taking place with an acknowledgment that system wide responses would be required to truly tackle these inequalities and impacts.
- It was asked if there were measures in place to identify Recovery work from Contain work. It was advised that a robust basket of indicators is being developed to provide a clear picture of overall progress with both Contain and Recovery work continuing simultaneously

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the updated GM Economic Dashboard be received by the Board.
2. That the progress made over the first quarter delivery and the overall progress as reported in the Greater Manchester Strategy outcomes dashboard be noted by the Board.

**PERFORMANCE**

- A report was provided which updated the Board on the St. John's Creative Enterprise Zone proposal and the development of a business plan for submission to Government.
- The importance of Manchester city centre to GM's long-term recovery was noted including thriving arts and creative industries. This EZ would be built around the Factory and would provide an enormous boost to the city region when completed and provide significant long-term benefits.
- Members expressed enthusiasm for the project and hoped that the potential for projects such as this could be capitalised on in other parts of the GM city region.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the outline justification for the establishment of a Creative Enterprise Zone at St Johns.
2. That the Board endorses the development and submission of a proposal and detailed business case to Government for the establishment of an Enterprise Zone at St Johns, Manchester City Centre.

**GM LEP/20/38                    GM ENVIRONMENTAL FUND**

- The Board were advised that in the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan, GMCA committed to supporting the development of a Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF). Substantial development work had taken place over the last year and the report provided an update on the progress made, along with next steps towards the establishment of a self-sustaining business model.
- The Lancashire Wildlife Trust had been awarded the contract to manage the GMEF through a competition exercise and had also been successful in attracting £1.8m in Government funding from the 'Green Recovery Challenge Fund' to provide the GMEF with the best possible start.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the progress made on developing the GMEF be noted by the Board.
2. That Board members consider how they could support scale-up of the GMEF through providing funding or identifying potential funders.
3. That Board Members support the ambitions of the fund by considering whether the fund could be utilised to meet LEP Board partner's compliance regulations

or as a voluntary carbon offsetting schemes to support the wider ambitions of the 5 Year Environment Plan.

**GM LEP/20/39**

**LOCAL GROWTH FUND UPDATE**

- The report provided an update on progress on the delivery of the Local Growth Deal (LGF) Programme (Tranches 1, 2 and 3) and sought approval to vary the transport grant allocation, to maximise Growth Deal grant spend by March 2021.
- The forecast spend for capital schemes was reported to the GMCA meeting on 27 November 2020. This included the original Growth Deal schemes along with schemes contributing to the Growth Deal spend target. In July the LEP/GMCA agreed to add some MCF Cycling and Walking schemes to the Growth Deal portfolio to contribute to the Growth Deal spend target by March 2021 (with the MCF funding then being used to fund spend on remaining Growth Deal projects beyond March 2021).
- It was proposed to increase the total amount of MCF Cycling and Walking schemes within the Growth Deal portfolio by £5.4 million, from £26.7 million to £32.1 million to enable further activity in 2020/21. There will be no impact in terms of funding allocations to projects as an equal amount of MCF funding would then be recycled to fund remaining spend on Growth Deal projects beyond March 2021.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Board notes the progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Programme as set out in the report.
2. That the progress made in relation to the non transport Skills Capital and Economic Development & Regeneration (ED&R) programmes as set out in the report, be noted.
3. That the Board agrees the £5.4m variation of the Growth Deal transport grant to maximise eligible grant spend on the Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking programme for 2020/21, as set out in the report.

**GM LEP/20/40**

**GROWTH**

**COMPANY  
UPDATE/PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**BUSINESS**

**SUPPORT**

- The report provided an update on the business and economic situation in Greater Manchester and how, in response, the GC was providing vital support to the GM economy with a focus on the GC's Business Support, Marketing Manchester and MIDAS activities.

- The GC's Business Survey continued to be what was likely the largest scale continuous business update survey in the country. An overriding concern continues to be the need for revenue and loan funding to sustain business through the Covid crisis. Insolvency risk continued to grow, although actual insolvent numbers were being kept at bay by Government intervention programmes at the current time.
- The purpose of the six-monthly performance report was to present to the LEP Board a mid-year performance review of GC's progress against its Business Plan priorities, objectives and targets for 2020/21, as part of the agreed LEP reporting cycle.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Board receives the GM Business Support Update report.
2. That the Board receives the GC six monthly performance report.

Meeting closed at: 17:30

The next meeting of the Board would take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.