

**NOTES FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD
HELD AT 16:20 ON TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS LIVE EVENTS**

Board Members:

Lou Cordwell (In the Chair)

Mike Blackburn, Mayor Andy Burnham, Lorna Fitzsimons, Amanda Halford, Mo Isap, Sir Richard Leese, Juergen Maier, Vanda Murray, Nancy Rothwell, Cllr Brenda Warrington & Cllr Elise Wilson.

Advisors:

Eamonn Boylan (GMCA), Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), Gemma Marsh (GMCA), Ross McRae (GMCA), Simon Nokes (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), Nichola Wallworth (GMCA), Steve Wilson (GMCA), John Wrathmell (GMCA), Nicola Kane (TfGM), Simon Warburton (TfGM), Simon Donahue (Marketing Manchester), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company), Leila Mottahedeh (BEIS) and Sheona Southern (Marketing Manchester).

GM LEP/21/01 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from GM LEP Members David Birch & Chris Oglesby

GM LEP/21/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Juergen Maier advised the Board that he had recently taken up the position of Vice-Chair on the Northern Powerhouse Partnership.

GM LEP/21/03 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15 DECEMBER 2020

The Board received the minutes of the meeting of 15 December 2020 for approval.

RESOLVED:/

That the minutes of the meeting of 15 December 2021 be agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

STRATEGY

- The progress that had been made against the year one priority actions of the LIS were highlighted. GM had worked quickly with the Government and partner organisations to put in place new policies and solutions. The LIS had also been embedded into the plans of GM's local authorities.
- The LIS and LIS Implementation Plan supported the ambitions outlined in the GM Economic Vision, and would aid in the delivery of a world class innovation eco-system in GM. Key areas of activity and alignment included: Innovation GM; health innovation and devolution; green growth and low carbon innovation; digital and cyber; employment and skills provision; business support; and driving good employment.
- Studies had begun into the impact of Covid-19 on the ambitions of the LIS, and these studies would continue as the outcomes from the pandemic evolved. This was aiding the identification of priority actions that would support GM's recovery from Covid-19 and long-term growth prospects.
- Three high impact programmes would form the core of GM's recovery from Covid-19 and the focus of year two LIS implementation priorities. These were:
 - Leadership and Management Programme: Supporting small businesses in every LA to adapt their operations and plans. It would also focus on increasing the diversity of people entering leadership and management positions.
 - Improving Jobs and Productivity in the Foundational Economy: the plan would help ensure the jobs and business models that emerged through the recovery increased GM's resilience to future shocks and pandemics, improving the lives of people living in every part of the city-region and addressing inequalities.
 - Innovation GM: Delivering on the government's ambitions for levelling-up and global Britain and building on the city region's existing assets to drive innovation-led growth in all GM's towns and cities.
- Other year two priorities included: M62 North East Growth Corridor & Advanced Materials City; development of a robust digital skills pipeline; establishing the UK's first city region Clean Growth Mission; and further embedding the GM Good Employment Charter.

Comments and Questions

- Members enquired about the impact of Brexit on the ambitions of the LIS. It was advised that there would be complex outcomes from Brexit that would have to be unpicked – particularly upon the service sector within the region. The importance of driving innovation in the region was highlighted as more vital than ever in the post Brexit marketplace.

- It was suggested that in terms of priorities going forward, they could be presented to reflect the strategic pillars of the LIS.
- The importance of illustrating how achieving the strategic ambitions of the LIS will benefit all GM's residents was noted. It was suggested that visual framing of LIS outcomes could help.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the GM LIS Implementation Plan year one review be received by the Board.
2. That the priorities for the Year 2 LIS Implementation Plan be approved by the Board.

GM LEP/21/05 ENSURING AN APPROPRIATE TALENT PIPELINE

- It was advised that the Industry, Labour Market & Skills Intelligence Team would play a key part in the development of a fully aligned labour market response in GM where there is a credible, current, employer led and shared understanding of the jobs, talent and competencies employers need across Local Industrial Strategy frontier and foundation sectors.
- The importance of young people, and of adults, understanding where opportunities existed in their districts was highlighted, and there needed to be deliberate targeting in place through the intelligence function.
- The Pipeline was about providing a better understanding for employers and potential employees of progression pathways to priority jobs as well as identifying the true gaps in talent development across the GM economy. This in turn would create a more aligned and responsive talent and skills offer for residents and employers, and support employers and skills providers to work collaboratively to make a bigger impact.

Comments and Questions

- Members commended the quality of the presentation, stating that it demonstrated how the needs of employers and residents could be better matched against skills provision. It was felt that the Pipeline plans clearly presented a way to 'square the circle'.
- It was stated that the LEP has an opportunity to take an ownership role in promoting business engagement with the Pipeline to maximise the opportunities the scheme could provide.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the presentation on ensuring an appropriate talent pipeline be received.

GOVERNANCE

GM LEP/21/06 BOARD MEMBER FEEDBACK ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

- It was advised that board member feedback on meetings they had attended would now become a standing item on the agenda going forward.
- Sir Richard Leese advised that he was a member of a newly established task force on Urban Centre Recovery, jointly chaired by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, and the Chair of Homes England. The task force was focussing on major urban centres and the policy initiatives that could be used to drive recovery.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the updates from board members providing feedback on meetings attended, be noted.

PERFORMANCE

GM LEP/21/07 GM ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

- A brief update was provided highlighting key points from the latest update of the GM Economic Dashboard.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the updated GM Economic Dashboard be received by the Board.

GM LEP/21/08 GROWTH COMPANY BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

- Latest survey information included an increasing amount of concern about the impact of Brexit; reductions in the number of businesses planning redundancies as a positive; and notable increases in the levels of business optimism, though the timelines in which they expected recovery to occur had lengthened.
- Overall businesses who were able to operate in the current lockdown environment were better prepared than they had been previously. However, concerns around mental wellbeing were being highlighted at an increasing rate.

- Another positive arising from the survey was that certain sectors are continuing to show growth leading to further job creation.

Comments and Questions

- Concerns around mental health provision were echoed, and it was asked how this could be addressed. It was advised that the Good Employment Charter unit is exploring relevant business support alongside a number of existing Growth Company programmes tackling these issues.
- It was noted that despite the challenges of leaving the EU noted by some businesses, a number had reported an increased appetite for exporting on a more globalised scale.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the contents of the Growth Company Business Support Update be noted by the Board.

GM LEP/21/09 GM FREEPORTS UPDATE

- The Board received an update on discussions with partners on potential freeport bids, particularly with Liverpool City Region and other partners in the Northwest

RESOLVED:/

1. That the Freeport bidding criteria meaning that a GM only bid is not being progressed, but opportunities to work with partners across the North West to support their work, and ensure that GM's businesses and economic assets are able to benefit from any Freeports established, and prepare for any future rounds which build upon the initial Freeports, be noted by the Board.
2. That the continuing conversations with other partners were updated upon and noted by the Board.
3. That officers keep the Board updated on progress around Freeports and other opportunities in relation to them, as they arise.

GM LEP/21/10 MARKETING AND COMMS UPDATE

- Since Christmas stories had been released on Manchester's music sector; investment in cycling & walking; and 2D materials.

- Coming up were pieces on health innovation; a virtual event with BBC digital cities; the Innovation GM strategy launch; and working with new LEP members to communicate the GM Economic Vision.
- The steering group had noted the importance of acknowledging both the short and long term challenges facing businesses in the Covid-19 environment.
- Work was taking place to ensure that communications and content was aligned with public affairs efforts in GM to ensure that messages were consistent and replicated at all levels.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the Board notes the marketing and comms update.

GM LEP/21/11 TFGM UPDATE

GM Transport Strategy 2040 & Five-Year Transport Delivery Plan and Local Implementation Plan

- It was advised that the tabled plans were the culmination of 18 months' work amongst LA partners. This now set out a very clear list of investment priorities and policy reform to set GM on the path to deliver the GM Mayor's vision.
- The timing of the plan was particularly important in terms of the context of the autumn budget statement. Work had been taking place with the Department for Transport to maintain the case for urban transport investment, and the intra-city transport fund referenced in the statement was welcomed.
- The GM Mayor referenced his hopes for a London style transport system that would include a cap on daily spend, and that his commitment to a continued push for devolved city region spending on transport remained a key pillar of his vision.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the Board endorses the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040.
2. That the Board endorses the final version of the Five-Year Transport Delivery Plan (2021-2026).

GM LEP/21/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The GM Mayor advised Board Members about developments that had taken place with Transport for the North which could have consequences for pan-

Northern transport ambitions. This included a 40% cut to the core funding of the body and a freezing of its funding for the development of Northern Powerhouse Rail.

- Board Members noted this development and suggested writing to the Prime Minister setting out the importance of continuing investment in northern rail infrastructure and its importance to the wider transport network.
- It was advised that the Northern Powerhouse Partnership would also look to add their support on this issue.

Meeting closed at: 17:45

The next meeting of the Board would take place on Wednesday 24th February 2021