

**NOTES FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD
HELD AT 16:20 ON THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS LIVE EVENTS**

Board Members:

Lou Cordwell (In the Chair)

David Birch, Mike Blackburn, Amanda Halford, Mo Isap, Vanda Murray, Chris Oglesby, Nancy Rothwell, Cllr Brenda Warrington & Cllr Elise Wilson.

Advisors:

Eamonn Boylan (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), Steve Wilson (GMCA), John Wrathmell (GMCA), Simon Donahue (Marketing Manchester), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company), Leila Mottahedeh (Cities & Local Growth Unit), Rebecca Drakeford (GMCA), Maria Gonzalez (GMCA), Stephen Heales (GMCA) and Oscar Lynch (GMCA).

GM LEP/21/13 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from GM LEP Members Andy Burnham, Sir Richard Leese, Lorna Fitzsimons, Richard Topliss and Juergen Maier. Apologies were also received from Simon Nokes.

GM LEP/21/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to Items 10 & 11 – Mike Blackburn, Vanda Murray and Cllr Elise Wilson advised that they were board member of The Growth Company.

GM LEP/21/15 NOTES FROM 24 FEBRUARY 2021 AND APPROVAL OF DECISIONS

The February 2021 meeting of the Partnership had been inquorate. Members were therefore asked to approve the decisions that could not be taken at that meeting.

RESOLVED: /

1. That the LEP approves the allocation of the 2021/22 LEP Core Funding.
2. That the LEP grants delegated authority to the Local Authority and TfGM / GMCA Chief Executives to, where necessary, vary individual scheme allocations

for the Growth Deal programmes, in order to optimise LGF/Growth Deal grant expenditure by 31 March 2021

STRATEGY

GM LEP/21/16 BUDGET DISCUSSION

- The Partnership was provided with an overview of the relevant outcomes arising from the Government's 2021 budget. Key issues included the overall economic forecast being better than it had been in the autumn; the extension of Covid-19 support measures beyond the projected government restrictions roadmap; and planned increases in corporation and income tax.
- Announcements of specific interest to GM included the capacity funding to the CA for intracity transport settlements; new Towns Fund allocations for Bolton, Cheadle and Rochdale; and the announcement of successful Freeport bids for the Liverpool City Region (benefitting GM through links to Port Salford) and East Midlands Airport (owned by the MAG Group). There would also be significant focus around the announcements of the Levelling Up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund – CA officers were in the process of establishing exactly how these would operate in practice.

Comments and Questions

- Members noted that the Government's Plan for Growth had included a specific reference to "every region of the nation having at least one globally competitive city at its heart" – it was considered that this still played into a narrative of the Government seeing city regions as an important tool. Did officers agree? It was felt that some elements pointed in a different direction, and whilst the political priorities of the Government were clear, debate remained about the economic growth theory would fit around that.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the update on the 2021 Budget outcomes be received by the LEP.

GOVERNANCE

GM LEP/21/17 BOARD MEMBER FEEDBACK ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Members provided updates on key meetings recently attended. A meeting of particular note was with UKRI on Innovation GM which had received very positive feedback. Further information would be provided in Item 21/19.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the Board Member feedback on meetings attended be noted.

PERFORMANCE

GM LEP/21/18 GM ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

- Members were advised that the latest update to the Economic Dashboard had been uploaded on 18/03.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the updated GM Economic Dashboard be noted.

GM LEP/21/19 INNOVATION GM UPDATE

- An update was provided on the plans to create a place-based partnership, that would be led by businesses and entrepreneurs to build upon GM's existing R&D assets and local delivery capacity, to drive innovation-led growth across all of the city region's diverse towns and cities.
- LEP Members were asked to agree to set of principles to be adopted in identifying a Chair and Board membership to take Innovation GM forward.
- Alongside beginning to identify appropriate leadership and structures, it was proposed IGM works with MIDAS, Marketing Manchester, and other stakeholders on a press release in March 2020 that outlined the Innovation GM vision, as well as a launch event in June 2021, to align with the wider re-opening of the economy and society.
- Members stated that adding a point around shared values to the principles of Innovation GM would be welcomed.
- It was asked whether there were any other places doing work like this that could be used for learning purposes. It was stated that from conversations with government that no other regions were taking such an innovative approach at the current time. Innovation GM was being developed as a pilot that could in time be rolled out into other places.
- Members then asked if successful innovation projects outside of the UK had been used for benchmarking. It was advised that the Industrial Strategy Council had undertaken research of six worldwide regions that had done this really well.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the progress made on building the case for an innovation deal with government be noted by the LEP.
2. That the LEP welcomes the suggested principles for a permanent chair and wider members of a future Innovation GM Board
3. That the need for shared values be added to the suggested principles
4. That the LEP welcomes the proposal for an Innovation GM press release in March 2021, followed by a proposed launch event in June 2021.

GM LEP/21/20

GM INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- The report introduced the GM International Strategy Implementation, the work undertaken in drafting it and the key milestones and next steps over the strategy's one year period.
- The plan had been designed to exactly reflect the priorities of the CA; LEP; the Industrial Strategy; the universities; airport and other business bodies in the region.
- 46 strategic priorities were now tied into the plan – with 92 distinct actions to be monitored on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the LEP notes the GM International Strategy Implementation Plan.

GM LEP/21/21

3 YEAR INTERNATIONAL AND MARKETING PLAN

- The report provided a programme overview and outcomes for GMCA Business Rates 3-year funding of the Growth Company's Place Promotion and Investment/Tourist attraction activity via MIDAS and Marketing Manchester (MM) services.
- It was stated that GM would be one of the first places in Europe to really bring sustainability and inclusivity objectives into this agenda.
- It was agreed that officers and Members would work together to ensure that Innovation GM would be joined up with the International Strategy through the economic vision action.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the LEP notes the 3 Year International and Marketing Plan.
2. That the LEP endorses the programme and outcomes.

GM LEP/21/22 GC BUSINESS SUPPORT, INTERNATIONAL & MARKETING UPDATE

- An update was provided on the business situation in Greater Manchester and how, in response, The Growth Company (GC) was providing support to GM's economy. The report focuses on GC's Growth Hub, Business Finance, Marketing Manchester and MIDAS services and on new initiatives or significant changes, rather than reporting on all components of GC's support since Covid-19 impacts commenced.
- Highlights from client feedback included the continuing trend that whilst some parts of the economy remained in significantly strained positions, other parts were continuing to thrive to a point that some dramatic pinch points were now being seen in the labour market.
- It was estimated that the GM exclusive Bounce Bank Loan activity for companies who could not get access to bank loans will have assisted around 200 companies/700 jobs to access £5m in support.
- Innov8 business support activities were being relaunched.
- Marketing Manchester were undertaking an immense amount of work with companies on the route map for reopening the economy.
- It was highlighted that there was a growing interest in GM from young and unknown tech start-up companies.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the LEP notes the GC Business Support, International and Marketing update.

Item 11 of the agenda (GC Business Plan 2021-22) contained confidential information and therefore the press and public were excluded from this section of the meeting

GM LEP/21/23 GC BUSINESS PLAN 2021-22

- The report presented the Growth Company Business Plan for the 2021/22 financial year, which had been approved by the GC Board.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the GC Business Plan 2021-22 be endorsed by the LEP.

GM LEP/21/24 SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Members were asked to feedback to officers with any suggestions for future agenda items.
- Thanks and well wishes were expressed to Members Mo Isap; David Birch and Juergen Maier who would be departing the LEP following the meeting. Members commented on the valuable experience they had brought to the LEP and wider GM during their membership.

Meeting closed at: 17:20

The next meeting of the Board would take place on Tuesday 20th April 2021

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