

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership Board last held a public meeting in April 2021 – please see full minutes below – with future meetings planned for May, June and August 2021.

However, due to the Covid crisis the Board was unable to meet in public and held monthly meetings to ensure they remained informed of the latest developments and could help drive the recovery of the city region.

The Board met in May, June and August. The main themes of their discussions included:

- Development of the GM Economic Vision and the next steps in delivery as we move into recovery
- The refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) to provide an overarching strategic framework for detailed thematic plans and delivery within a ten-year timeframe. It will provide a clear shared and collective vision to attain high level outcomes over this time as well as prioritising activity to be achieved over the first three years of the new GMS.
- Regular updates from the Growth Company of business support including the latest updates on marketing, business finance and inward investment along with the GM Covid related Business Survey
- The LEP role in supporting the GM Low Carbon agenda including the Green Summit planned for October 2021 and activities to support COP26 including the launch of the Greener Greater Manchester communications campaign.
- Supporting the GM Social Enterprise Advisory Group in creating a series of recommendations to encourage a thriving social enterprise sector across the city region.
- Updates on transport priorities including the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund being used to deliver the first phase of the Bee Network, which is the walking and cycling element of the Our Network plan to transform Greater Manchester's transport system.
- Overview of the Local Growth Fund programme

During these meetings a small number of emergency decisions were taken using the written procedure protocol as set out in the Terms of Reference. The Board agreed:

- **June:** The allocation of the remaining £10.25m non-transport Local Growth Funds to the GM Work and Skills Programme
- **August:** A £10k GMLEP contribution to the NW LEP consortia plans for COP26

NOTES FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD AT 16:30 ON TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS LIVE EVENTS

Board Members:

Lou Cordwell (In the Chair)

Mike Blackburn, Marilyn Comrie, Steve Connor, Lorna Fitzsimons, Justin Kelly, Vanda Murray, Chris Oglesby, Sir Richard Leese, Miles Rothbury, Nancy Rothwell, Richard Topliss & Cllr Brenda Warrington

Advisors:

Eamonn Boylan (GMCA), Simon Nokes (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), John Wrathmell (GMCA), Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), Simon Donahue (Marketing Manchester), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company), Donna Edwards (The Growth Company), Jesse Garrick (BEIS), Leila Mottahedeh (Cities & Local Growth Unit), Pam Smith (Stockport Council), Anne Lythgoe (GMCA) and Oscar Lynch (GMCA).

GM LEP/21/25 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from GM LEP Members Andy Burnham, Amanda Halford, Vimla Appadoo and Cllr Elise Wilson.

GM LEP/21/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

GM LEP/21/27 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18 MARCH 2021

The Board considered the minutes of the previous meeting of 18th March 2021.

RESOLVED: /

1. That the GM LEP agrees the minutes of 18th March 2021 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

STRATEGY

GM LEP/21/28 GM INEQUALITIES COMMISSION UPDATE

- An update was provided on the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission report published on 26th March 2021 which responded to the long-term systemic inequality issues present within Greater Manchester. It summarised the background and

recommendations of the report and highlighted how this could inform the further development of the LEP's priority of Diversity and Inclusion.

- The Commission had been established in autumn 2020, tasked with taking a deep dive, with rapid research, into the structural inequalities that existed within Greater Manchester. The Commission acted as a critical friend for GM and was asked to be challenging and radical in its approach to the research.
- The Commission engaged across GM's communities, public and business stakeholders, carrying out research, and gathering ideas – studying inequalities associated with health, education, employment and skills; structural racism; future economic strategy, and the powers that GM had to tackle these issues.
- Through the report, the Inequalities Commission had made 17 recommendations across five separate 'pillars':
 - **An Essential Pivot** – Putting wellbeing and equality at the heart of what GM does.
 - **People Power** – Putting more power in the hands of people.
 - **Good Jobs, Decent Pay** – Good employment, real living wage and skills opportunities.
 - **Building Wealth** – Spreading wealth and asset holding and benefits in communities.
 - **Services for a Good Life** – Move towards universal basic services.
- A considerable amount of interconnectivity could be seen, including building into the work of the LEP in areas such as the Diversity and Inclusion updates and the Good Employment Charter.
- The Commission would meet again in Autumn 2021 to confirm the progress made to date and agree the further steps GM was going to take.

Comments and Questions

- Members welcomed the report, complementing the level of work that had been put into the findings and the shaping of the recommendations. It was noted that some of the recommendations were not only welcome but would also yield considerable benefit in other thematic areas – the transition towards net zero carbon being a particular example of this.
- Members suggested that some of the recommendations should be accelerated where possible i.e. achieving a living wage for all employees
- It was stated that the LEP needed to zero in on the economic inequalities within the report and had a key role to play in championing the Good Employment Charter throughout the region.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the report of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission, including the recommendations and proposed way forward, be noted by the GM LEP

GM LEP/21/29 LIVING WITH COVID – ONE YEAR PLAN UPDATE

- A progress update was provided on the implementation of the Greater Manchester Living with Covid Resilience plan, after its first two quarters of delivery. The report provided an update on the evidenced impacts arising from Covid-19; an overall assessment of progress and challenges which remained; an update on the work being undertaken to respond to the inequalities evidenced and exacerbated by Covid-19; and summary updates on the progress made against the deliverables in the Living with Covid Plan.
- It was advised that the update was written in advance of the outcomes from the Independent Inequalities Commission Report.
- A further quarterly report would be provided and the lessons learned would inform the development of the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) that would launch in Autumn 2021.

Comments and Questions

- The Board highlighted the importance of prioritising the findings and recommendations of the Independent Inequalities Commission Report in the development of the GMS. Officers confirmed this would be picked up and appropriate alignment would be put in place.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the progress update on the delivery of the GM Living with Covid Plan be noted by the GM LEP.

GOVERNANCE

**GM LEP/21/30 BOARD MEMBER FEEDBACK ON MEETINGS
ATTENDED**

- Sir Richard Leese advised that the Urban Centre Economic Recovery Taskforce report had been completed and would be shared when publicly available.

RESOLVED:/

1. That Board Member feedback on meetings attended be received.

PERFORMANCE

GM LEP/21/31 LOCAL GROWTH FUND UPDATE

- The report provided an overview of progress on the delivery of the Local Growth Deal (LGF) Programme (Tranches 1, 2 and 3), and confirmed that full Growth Deal grant spend had been achieved by March 2021.
- An update was also provided on the Growth Deal Major Transport scheme programme. This was made up of fifteen schemes, delivered either by TfGM or Local Authority Partners. Twelve of the Growth Deal schemes had progressed through Full Approval and were now in implementation (either in their entirety or on a phased Full Approval basis); with a further three schemes having secured Conditional Approval and now working towards the achievement of Full Approval.

Comments and Questions

- Members acknowledged the level of pressure that had been faced in meeting the funding timescales, and the team were congratulated on the significant achievement in meeting the full grant spend.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the achievement of full Growth Deal grant spend by the deadline date of 31 March 2021 be noted by the GM LEP;
2. That the progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Major Works programme be noted by the GM LEP;
3. That the progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Minor Works and Additional Priorities programmes be noted by the GM LEP; and
4. That the progress made in relation to the Non-Transport Skills Capital and Economic Development & Regeneration (ED&R) programmes be noted by the GM LEP.

GM LEP/21/32 GM ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

- Key highlights from the Economic Dashboard were raised. These included a bounce back in confidence beginning to be seen; and behavioural indicators showing that movement around the city region was now beginning to increase at a faster rate.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the updated GM Economic Dashboard highlights be received by the GM LEP.

GM LEP/21/33 BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY & INCLUSIVE GROWTH PROGRAMME

- The report provided a programme overview and outcomes for GMCA business rates 21-month funding of the Growth Company's extension of the Business Productivity, Innovation and Inclusive Growth Programme (BPIIG) via GC Business Growth Hub (GC BGH) to June 2023.
- As part of its 2020/21 budget process, the GMCA had agreed an additional funding allocation of £7.4M which would extend delivery of the programme to June 2023 (financial close September 2023) and leverage additional funds from ERDF of £7.2M and additional public/private match of £2.2M to create a full programme value of £16.9M. In addition to this, there was an opportunity to access a further £700k of retained business rates which has been agreed to further develop a Greater Manchester branded Leadership and Management programme (this could be matched with ERDF funding to create a total of £1.4m).
- To reflect an increased focus on innovation, the next phase of the programme would be named the Business Productivity, Innovation and Inclusive Growth Programme (BPIIG). Innovation, along with productivity and inclusivity would be a thread running through all Business Growth Hub programmes. An investment from GMCA of £7.4M presented a pro rata reduction in CA funding of circa 50% and reduced the ability to leverage other funds such as ERDF. This would remove some key Business Growth Hub services, whilst reducing others. Reductions in overall funding also significantly reduced the ability to flex and respond to local needs, as the Business Growth Hub had done throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To seek to mitigate this, the method of delivery would focus on:
 - Retaining client facing resources and increasing their efficiency;
 - Greater use of online delivery (both light touch enquiry and one to one/cohort delivery, whilst remembering the vital role of direct human interaction);
 - Increased use of the one to numerous mode of delivery; and
 - Increased leverage of partnerships across the public and private sector.

Comments and Questions

- Members stated that they would be happy to work alongside the Growth Hub on how to best establish and enable private sector partnerships including supporting its events and championing its work around the region. The credibility of the LEP could provide a significant level of help in attracting new partners.

- Members noted the reductions being seen in the marketing budget and asked how this would be mitigated to ensure that those who would benefit most from the support were still captured. It was advised that it was vital to leverage professional and business organisations around the network.. The Business Growth Hub worked closely with around 150 services, and this level of reach should help in ensuring full coverage of the GM region.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the report on Business Rates Funded GM Business Productivity, Innovation & Inclusive Growth Programme – Phase 2: 2021-2023, be noted by GM LEP.
2. That the programme and outcomes be endorsed by GM LEP.
3. That GM LEP members give further consideration to how best to support the work of the Growth Hub.

GM LEP/21/34 GROWTH COMPANY BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

- The report provided an update on the business situation in Greater Manchester and response. The report focused on the Business Growth Hub, Business Finance, Marketing Manchester and MIDAS services.
- In terms of business finance – the GM Bounce Back Loan activity had now come to an end. A significant amount of campaign and promotion work was taking place around building business confidence, both within Greater Manchester and beyond.
- A reduction in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) had been identified, which was understandable given the current pandemic, but a deeper dive into the figures did reveal that GM continued to do significantly better than many other locations globally.
- Positive data was seen on job vacancy levels which are returning to pre-Covid19 levels. There were some challenges within the data but it was supported by confidence indicators in SMEs.

Comments and Questions

- Members noted that a DCMS consultation was taking place looking at the future roles of Destination Marketing Organisations (DMOs). Members were encouraged to submit representations before the deadline of 28th April 2021, to ensure that GM's voice suitably fed into the conversation.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the Growth Company Business Support Update be noted by GM LEP.

GM LEP/21/35 SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Members were asked to feedback to officers with any suggestions for future agenda items.

Meeting closed at: 17:30

The next meeting of the Board would take place on Wednesday 19th May 2021.