

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD AT 16:00 ON MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Lorna Fitzsimons, Amanda Halford, Chris Oglesby, Sir Richard Leese, Mo Isap, Lou Cordwell, Cllr Elise Wilson, Andy Burnham, David Birch, Richard Topliss, Iwan Griffiths,

Advisors:

John Holden (GMCA), Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Matt Berry (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), Leila Mottahedeh (GMCA), Gemma Marsh (GMCA), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company), Kate Brown (TfGM) and Suzanne Jones (BEIS)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Dame Nancy Rothwell, Fiona Gibson, Juergen Maier, Vanda Murray, Eamonn Boylan and Cllr Brenda Warrington

GM LEP/19/46 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

GM LEP/19/47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

GM LEP/19/48 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 15 JULY 2019

It was restated that if any Members had future strategic discussion themes for meetings of this Board, to submit these to David Rogerson (GMCA).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019 be approved

STRATEGY

GM LEP/19/49 SPENDING REVIEW UPDATE

John Wrathmell, Assistant Director, Strategy & Policy, GMCA updated the Board on the recent Spending Round setting out the Government's spending plans for 2020/21.

This confirmed a real increase in day-to-day spending next year of £13.8 billion, detailing departmental resource settlements for priorities including healthcare, education and tackling crime and laying the foundations for an 'infrastructure revolution'. However, it was noted this does not reverse the last ten years of spending restraint.

Later in the autumn, the Government will announce its plans for future capital spending, including through the publication of the National Infrastructure Strategy. A full multi-year Spending Review will be conducted in 2020 for capital and resource budgets beyond 2020-21

The Board noted the increased spending commitments, particular in regard of key GM services including police, fire and bus reform although highlighted the need for further engagement with Government on detailed delivery.

From a Local Authority perspective, it appears that the Review is better than expected but only reduces cuts especially in areas such as social care, children's services and homelessness. Additionally, a single year spending review did not provide the long term certainty necessary for truly transformational change.

It was noted that the Prime Minister had announced the potential devolution of the rail system which could open up opportunities for Greater Manchester and ties in with the city region's Town Centre approach. The current review of HS2 may also support Greater Manchester's capital infrastructure plans

It was noted that the Spending Review does not mention the Local Industrial Strategy approach at either a national or local level or Shared Prosperity Fund and that clarity on this funding was needed to support delivery of Greater Manchester's priorities.

It was reported that the many other LEP chairs shared this concern and that LEP Network had written on behalf of all LEP chairs to request a meeting with the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED:/

That the report be noted.

GM LEP/19/50 INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY REFRESH

Iwan Griffiths introduced the report to the Board which proposes an approach to refreshing the existing GM Internationalisation Strategy. It was reported that the

GMCA and GM LEP agreed the initial three-year internationalisation strategy in September 2017 with a refresh after 18 months. It was highlighted that there has been considerable progress since then with significant developments in the local, national and international context.

It was agreed that the fundamental priorities of the strategy are still fit for purpose although there is a need to reflect the priorities of the Local Industrial Strategy and the city region's key assets and opportunities.

This includes working with key partners with an international profile such as the universities, the Airport and sports clubs but also developing international partnerships to capitalise on Greater Manchester's strengths.

As well as looking at areas of strength, the refresh should also explore how international partnerships could help support those areas the city region is looking to improve.

The Board noted the progress being made with the NP11 group and the Department for International Trade in developing an approach to boost Northern trade and investment. There may also be an opportunity to engage more closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth office and their ambassador teams.

Action: Mark Hughes to share Trade and Investment prospectus

The Board agreed that the strategy should proceed as planned whilst taking into account the need for flexibility to respond to the dynamic and fast moving environment.

RESOLVED:/

That the report be noted.

GM LEP/19/50 BREXIT UPDATE

John Holden, Assistant Director for Policy and Research GMCA introduced the report summarising the steps being taken to prepare the city region for Brexit with a focus on business support.

The Board noted the Government's Be Ready Campaign and discussed the possibility of a No Deal Brexit. GMCA is considering how best to support residents and businesses particularly in terms of information, advice and guidance. Officers are currently working with Government on tailoring Brexit preparedness messages for Greater Manchester.

The Board discussed a number of potential issues including 'day one' issues arising as we leave the EU together with longer term consequences. These were particularly relevant for smaller businesses that may not have the resources to make fast paced changes.

Members noted that Greater Manchester's robust partnership arrangements would provide a strong foundation to a Brexit response including a holistic communications strategy including both top down and peer to peer approaches.

The will help maintain business confidence in the City Region with any communications strategy reflecting the principles of the Local Industrial Strategy emphasising Greater Manchester as a strong, capable place of opportunity.

Action: John Wrathmell to circulate briefing on GM's key priority messaging

RESOLVED:/

That LEP Members note the activity underway to prepare Greater Manchester for Brexit.

PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY

GM LEP/19/50 LGF UPDATE

Gemma Marsh, Assistant Director Skills, GMCA introduced the item to the Board, providing an update on the Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme delivery for the Board's comment and approval.

The 2019/20 LGF delivery plan was reviewed and approved by the LEP board in May 2019. A further update on LGF delivery for the whole programme was agreed to be given every 6 months.

The Board welcomed the progress on LGF delivery along with the activity to drive investment into Greater Manchester. This was illustrated by the overall programme outcomes and case studies demonstrating real impact.

Members noted that there is an opportunity to articulate this information and share these positive messages more widely.

RESOLVED:/

That the contents of the presentation and attached appendix table detailing projects be noted.

GOVERNANCE

GM LEP/19/50 LEP GOVERNANCE UPDATE

John Holden, Assistant Director Research and Strategy GMCA introduced the report which set out a proposal for Board Members to adopt thematic portfolios to drive delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy along with an approach to recruit a new LEP Chair given the current Chair's term of office expires in March 2020.

In line with national guidance set out in the 2018 LEP Review, and advice received from Government officials, an open recruitment process is proposed supported by independent recruitment consultants. This will be a similar to the approach taken previously when recruiting new private sector LEP members.

The Board commented that the potential Chairs should demonstrate significant placed based knowledge of Greater Manchester and that it would be crucial to capture the current chair's knowledge and experience.

RESOLVED:/

- i. That the report be noted
- ii. That the proposed member portfolios be agreed
- iii. That the procurement of consultants to support the Chair recruitment with the funding to be taken from existing LEP capacity funds be approved

GM LEP/19/51 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER BOARDS

There was no significant feedback to submit at this time.

GM LEP/19/52 FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 11 November 2019.

GM LEP/19/53 GM LEP AGM:

No public questions received.