

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD AT 16:00 ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

David Birch, Andy Burnham, Lou Cordwell, Lorna Fitzsimons, Fiona Gibson, Iwan Griffiths, Amanda Halford, Sir Richard Leese, Juergen Maier, Chris Oglesby, Nancy Rothwell, Cllr Brenda Warrington & Cllr Elise Wilson

Advisors:

Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), John Holden (GMCA), Kevin Lee (GMCA), Simon Nokes (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company) and Simon Warburton (TfGM).

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mo Isap and Richard Topliss

GM LEP/19/54 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

GM LEP/19/55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

GM LEP/19/56 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2019

It was confirmed that actions from the previous meeting (sharing of the Trade & Investment Prospectus and circulation of the briefing on GM's key priority messaging) had been completed.

The Board expressed its thanks and well wishes to Iwan Griffiths and Fiona Gibson who will be shortly departing the Board having taken up roles outside of GM.

It was confirmed that the recruitment exercise for a new Chair of the LEP had closed. Officers would advise the Board on the next steps of the process in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2019 be approved

STRATEGY

GM LEP/19/57 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND PERFORMANCE – SIX-MONTH UPDATE

Simon Nokes, Executive Director of Strategy and Policy, GMCA, provided the Board with the latest six monthly update on the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) Implementation Plan and Performance Dashboards. The update showed the progress against the agreed delivery milestones and ambitions, and updated the outcome measures for each of the GMS priorities.

It was highlighted that there was a time lag on many of the metrics used in the dashboards – in the case of a lot of the activity, the impact of the delivery may not be felt for many years. The current GMS Implementation Plan only ran up to 2020, so a refresh needed to be undertaken in the coming year. It was proposed that a longer-term strategy could be created that took a 10 year view, with interim 4 yearly targets that aligned with the mayoral term of office.

Board Members welcomed the improvements seen in Priority 1 (Children Starting School Ready to Learn) – with the levels of improvement in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside being particularly encouraging. Members sought clarity on what factors had aided this differential impact. It was advised that a key factor had been the removal of silos, with multi-disciplinary teams working together between GM and District level partners. A strength of the GMCA was that it had the direct involvement of each district, allowing for a more galvanised level of partnership working.

Board members discussed looking at measures where further progress could be made with the availability and uptake of apprenticeships being highlighted as an area for further consideration.

There were also areas of the report where the ‘relative’ level of progress made was unclear and it was agreed would benefit from contextual national comparators and trends.

The Board also discussed the overall tax and spend gap in Greater Manchester including how the component parts of that had changed over time.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the updated GMS Implementation Plan and Performance Dashboard be noted by the Board.
2. That a report be brought to a future meeting on apprenticeship in the city region.

Councillor Elise Wilson, Leader of Stockport Council and Portfolio Lead for Digital City Region, presented a report outlining the draft refreshed Greater Manchester Digital Strategy. This was now being referred to as a 'Blueprint' for GM and was a result of significant stakeholder engagement, and reflected the speed at which the digital economy in GM had progressed since the first Digital Strategy had been adopted in February 2018.

Feedback from stakeholders had indicated that they wanted something visually striking that interested people who may otherwise be reluctant to read long text heavy documentation. It was stated that the Blueprint clearly showed that GM was 'ahead of the game' and undertaking exciting innovations that were helping to put GM firmly on the map as a global digital influencer. The first iteration of the Strategy had been led by the public sector – the Blueprint however had incorporated a lot more collaborative work with private sector stakeholders including SMEs and larger employers, to ensure inclusivity and buy in from key partners.

Board Members welcomed the draft Blueprint and suggested it would be beneficial to have a clear definition of what exactly was meant by 'digital' within the context of the city region. The Blueprint proposed some large-scale ambitions and it would be good to highlight GM's international offer. GM had been on an incredible run of digital success stories including the Cyber Foundry and the new GCHQ facility moving to Manchester. These needed to be emphasised as a selling point to show GM's broader offer along with a focus on investment in digital skills and the development of a clear talent pipeline for the most sought after industries.

It was agreed that it was important to sell this product internationally as soon as possible as other cities have already begun to do. Board Members stated that the governance also needed to reflect this – with a well-organised but expedited decision-making system that kept pace with the level of innovation and digital change.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the the progress on the draft refreshed Digital Blueprint be noted.
2. That it be agreed that the GM Digital Blueprint should be reviewed annually to reflect the dynamic environment in which it is embedded.

Simon Warburton, Transport Strategy Director, TfGM, advised the Panel that in early October 2019 the Combined Authority had agreed to the commencement of a bus reform consultation that would run until 8th January 2020. Significant activity had already been taking place within the community to promote engagement with the consultation. The outcomes of the consultation would then be independently reviewed by Ipsos MORI, the analysis from which would then be used to help inform the final decision on the way forward in early 2020.

The Board stated that the private sector would support the reform proposals at this stage especially if provided with a clear analysis of the business need for a more coherent system. This is reflected in the proposed 'London' style integration of ticketing and how this would create a more reliable, convenient and affordable system. Members suggested that a roadshow of events, supported by the business community could be arranged that presented the intended strategy and the benefits arising from it.

RESOLVED:/

That the bus reform consultation update be noted.

GM LEP/19/60 CLEAN AIR PLAN UPDATE

Simon Warburton, Transport Strategy Director, TfGM, provided the Board with an update on the current position of the Clean Air Plan. It had been hoped that the Government Funding Plan would have been concluded over the summer – as this was an important factor in allowing the 10 GM districts to move to the consultation stage with the public. Discussions had been progressing well, but the announcement of the General Election and the resultant pre-election period meant that Government had paused the Plan. The revised plans would be set out at the Combined Authority meeting on 29 November 2019.

Work was continuing on moving the agenda forward wherever possible – collaborating with bus companies on the rollout of lower emission buses, working with the Cycling and Walking Commissioner's plans around a cycle hire scheme for GM and preparing a trial for the £32m future mobility zone plan.

RESOLVED:/

That the update on the Clean Air Plan be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY

GM LEP/19/61 GROWTH DEAL TRANSPORT PROGRESS UPDATE

Simon Warburton, Transport Strategy Director, TfGM, updated the Board on the latest position in relation to the Local Growth Deal Transport Programme. The Programme comprises 15 major schemes, many of which were in excess of £5m in value. The numbers were now going through the final approvals process and there was confidence that all sought resources could be put into the Programme.

RESOLVED:/

1. That the GMLEP notes the current position in relation to the Growth Deal Major Schemes Programme.

2. That the GMLEP notes the current position in relation to the Growth Deal Minor Works and Additional Priorities Programmes.
3. That the GMLEP notes the granting by GMCA of full approval for the MSIRR Great Ancoats Street Scheme and the associated funding release to Manchester City Council of the remaining £8.213 million of the total £8.8 million Local Growth Deal funding to enable the delivery of the scheme.
4. That the GMLEP notes the approval by GMCA of funding of up to £1.15 million for the Rochdale Town Centre connectivity minor works scheme.
5. That the GMLEP notes the approval by GMCA of funding of up to £1.65 million advance utility works for the A5063 Trafford Road Major Scheme.

GM LEP/19/62 LEP COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Lou Cordwell presented the draft LEP Communications Plan to the Board. The Plan presented a comprehensive media, communications and engagements approach to ensure that the work of the GMLEP was being effectively communicated to a range of key audiences. With this in mind, the comments of the Board were sought before production of the final report.

Board Members commented that the LEP needed to be mindful of how broad the communications approach needed to be. The primary audience needed to remain as the business community and government. The plan needed to be about the ability to influence these bodies, and this was the priority before considered accessibility for secondary audiences.

The Chair suggested that the Draft Plan should be brought back to the January meeting of the LEP for final ratification.

RESOLVED:/

That the Draft report be brought back to the January 2020 meeting of the GM LEP for ratification.

GOVERNANCE

GM LEP/19/63 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER BOARDS

Board Members confirmed their attendance at various recent bodies.

GM LEP/19/64 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 21 January 2020.