

## MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership Board last held a public meeting in January 2020 – please see full minutes below – with future meetings planned for March, May and July 2020.

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 March, April, May, June and July with the main themes of their discussions including:

- The challenges and opportunities presented by the Covid crisis and the LEP's role in supporting GM's economic recovery
- Regular updates from the Cities and Local Growth Unit on Government initiatives to tackle the crisis, with the Board providing business feedback to Government, particularly on Small Business Loans, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and Town Boards
- Updates from the Growth Company and partners on business support activity and the role of GC Finance in providing loan funding
- Supporting GMCA and partners in developing potential models for the economic recovery and shaping interventions accordingly
- Launching the Build Back Better campaign with the GM Mayor to understand the views of local businesses on how the GM economic could be reshaped as it comes into recovery. The feedback received will be critical in understanding how GM can take this opportunity to work together to build a better future and help shape a more sustainable, robust and equitable economic model.
- The LEP's role in supporting diversity and inclusion

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:

- **March:** The allocation of the £500K 2020/21 LEP Capacity Funding with £286k providing for core LEP activity and the remaining £214k allocated to delivery of the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)
- **May:** The allocation of £3m Local Growth Fund to a GM CBILS scheme administered by the Growth Company to provide a package of urgently needed financial support for Greater Manchester businesses battling the impact of coronavirus.
- **June:** That the Growth Company be allowed to utilise the existing £3m Local Growth Fund allocation to support new Co-Angel investments in order that the start up community continues to be supported.
- **July:** The scope, work-plan, membership and allocation of resources for the Innovation Partnership for Healthy Ageing

- **July:** That between £150K and £200K of LEP funding already ring-fenced for LIS activity be allocated to Marketing Manchester to support their LIS related activity. The decision on the final amount of funding and detailed work plan was delegated to LEP Co-chair and communications Lead Lou Cordwell
- **July:** That new projects be brought onto the LGF portfolio (including walking and cycling, Metrolink improvements, digital skills and housing/business loan funds) and amending the funding structure of the current LGF projects in order to fully commit and spend LGF funding by March 21.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD AT 16:30 ON TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2020 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER**

**Board Members:**

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Lou Cordwell, Lorna Fitzsimons, Fiona Gibson, Amanda Halford, Mo Isap, Sir Richard Leese, Nancy Rothwell, Richard Topliss & Cllr Elise Wilson

**Advisors:**

Mark Hughes (The Growth Company), Simon Nokes (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), and John Wrathmell (GMCA).

**In Attendance:**

Helen Boyle (Electricity North West), Steve Cox (Electricity North West), Gemma Marsh (GMCA), Lisa O'Loughlin (GM Colleges Group) and Mike Taylor (Electricity North West)

**GM LEP/20/01 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Apologies were received from David Birch, Andy Burnham and Juergen Maier.

**GM LEP/20/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

**GM LEP/20/03 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

The Board considered the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 November 2019.

It was agreed that the updated LEP Communications Plan be circulated to the Board.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2019 be approved

***STRATEGY***

**GM LEP/20/04          WORK AND SKILLS STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

An update on the Work and Skills Strategy was provided by Gemma Marsh and Mo Isap.

Board Members were advised that five key goals had been set to help focus work on addressing the challenges faced in GM:

- **Quality** – Quality as only judged by Ofsted did not give a true picture of the challenges faced by GMs educators
- **Clear Line of Sight** – Ensuring all people have an incentive to reach their full potential by providing a clear line of sight to opportunities across the region
- **Core Skills & Talent** – Growing a culture whereby residents had the ability to expand and build their talents
- **Supporting People into Work & to Progress** – Supporting people to aspire to whatever they wanted to be with a comprehensive education and skills training offer
- **Increasing Technical Skills** – generating more relevantly skilled individuals to help build on globally competitive strengths and drivers of growth

There were many success stories that could already be celebrated in the GM region. For example, 'Bridge GM' provided an infrastructure for connecting business leaders with local schools. This had proved to be a highly successful approach, with 196 of GM's 234 secondary schools now having a business leader connected. Their role was to go into the schools and provide pupils with insights into the world of work, with a particular emphasis of highlighting aspirational opportunities within GM. To date this had resulted in 475,300 meaningful encounters with over 2,300 businesses, and helped the GM region to be a national leader on careers engagement.

The GMACS website and portal had been developed to put all apprenticeship opportunities in GM front and centre for young people through their careers support. The official launch of the GMACS website and app was due to take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, with an event led by the GM Mayor. This would build upon all the positive work being done under Bridge GM, and would allow young people from the first year

of secondary school all the way up to 18/19 years old to explore the opportunities within GM.

Looking forward there was a lot that GM could work together to progress as soon as possible, as well as working with Government to deliver our ambitions.

Work was taking place in collaboration with KPMG to develop an interactive policy tool that used the Local Industrial Strategy sectors to establish a better understanding of the job market going forward. It will explore how GM could look in ten years if it continues down the current path to help in further develop a high quality local offer. What for example were the jobs that currently could not be filled, and what would be the jobs of the future (such as 'green jobs').

### **Comments and Questions**

Board Members welcomed this positive news and noted that the take up of apprenticeships could be better. The level of joined up working compared to that seen previously was particularly welcomed.

Lorna Fitzsimons stated that the work taking place was very positive and added that GM did not have control of all of the possible levers it could use. It was asked that Gemma Marsh and her team engage with Lorna to discuss this further.

### **RESOLVED:/**

1. That the update on the Work and Skills Strategy be received.
2. That the Strategy and Policy Team be advised to engage with Lorna Fitzsimons for further discussion.

### **GM LEP/20/05            PRESENTATION FROM FE COLLEGES**

The Chair of the GM Colleges Group Lisa O'Loughlin provided the Board with a presentation on GM Colleges offer to Greater Manchester.

The group had reformed in 2016 following the Area Based Reviews with the intention of finding ways to work together and support the work and skills strategy for GM.

Since then the nine colleges had all been on a positive journey. All were now rated as Ofsted good, providing valuable educational support to all varieties of learners and delivering achievement rates that were within the top 10% nationally.

The colleges group also played a key role in social reform work – supporting the development of over 3,000 high-risk young people every year, and over 1,000 Looked After Children and care leavers each year to achieve qualifications.

Going forward, eight of the nine colleges would be delivering T Levels by 2020/21, including 40-day placements. Considerable work had taken place on a work placement capacity-building pilot, and 25% of the nationally available placements would be provided within GM alone.

GM Colleges Group is developing a new vision for technical education by the year 2030. A place-based skills specialisation pilot would be developed to support the delivery of effective local and city region economic and industrial growth strategies, underpinned by co-created protections and incentives. It would allow the colleges to become experts in particular fields, removing competition and encouraging further joined-up positive collaboration. It was intended that a more developed proposal for this would be in place by March 2020.

### **Comments and Questions**

Board Members asked how geographic access could assured across GM for particular courses.

It was advised that for some areas of specialisation it may be necessary to have two areas of provision to ensure accessibility – studies would take place to look at specific geographic areas where particular skills may be in more demand. Where deemed necessary, teachers would be shared across locations. Collaboration between colleges would also ensure a better distribution of suitably qualified teachers.

The Chair noted the points raised and advised that the GM College Group link up with Mo Isap as the Board's Lead on Education and Future Skills to take the plans forward.

### **RESOLVED:/**

1. That the presentation highlighting the GM College Groups offer to Greater Manchester be received.
2. That GM Colleges Group be advised to engage with Mo Isap as the Board's Education and Future Skills Lead to further develop the proposed collaboration programme.

### **GM LEP/20/06**

### **GMS OUTCOME AND INDICATORS UPDATE**

Simon Nokes presentation a report to the Board that summarised outcome and supporting indicators RAG rated red within the latest six monthly update of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) Implementation Plan and Performance Dashboard.

The Chair asked that the LIS action leaders pick up where they needed to.

### **RESOLVED:/**

1. That the summary of red RAG rated outcome and supporting indicators within the GMS Implementation Plan and Performance Dashboard be noted.
2. That LIS action leaders be asked to pick up where appropriate.

**GM LEP/20/07            SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ACTION GROUP**

Sir Richard Leese presented a report providing the Board Members with information about the establishment of a Greater Manchester Social Enterprise Advisory Group, including its Terms of Reference and the recruitment process proposed to populate the Group.

The Advisory Group would lay the foundations for the development of a more unified approach to the social enterprise sector, bringing together a broad range of institutions underpinned by a clear definition of social enterprise.

Board Members were advised that an update on the selection made by the recruitment panel for the membership of the Advisory Group would be circulated following the meeting.

**Comments and Questions**

The Board discussed whether the LEP Board would benefit from new Board members with a social enterprise or cultural specialism as vacancies became available.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the establishment of the Greater Manchester Social Enterprise Advisory Group be noted by the Board.
2. That Board Members be asked to consider the selection made by the recruitment panel for membership of the Advisory Group, due to be circulated after the meeting, to provide comments and endorsement of the recommendations.

***PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY***

**GM LEP/20/08            ENERGY NORTHWEST PRESENTATION**

Electricity North West representatives made a presentation to the Board explaining its role in helping GM to meet its 2038 carbon neutrality target.

Scotland was highlighted as an example of the ability to achieve carbon neutrality in electricity demand and generation. 66% of Scotland's electricity demand was now met by Photovoltaics (PV) and onshore wind. It was considered that a comparable level of demand could also be met in GM but this would require considerable effort and focus.

It was expected that under all scenarios, future energy demand would double – a driving factor in this would be the mass growth and adoption of electric vehicles (EV). Significant studies were underway to understand the nature of EV charging behaviours.

For GM to successfully decarbonise, 40 GM businesses a day would need to decarbonise between now and 2038, and solar panels across the region would be required to reach a 40% target.

Leadership would be required to provide the vision and policy framework to enable and encourage businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies and drive behavioural change.

### **Comments and Questions**

Nancy Rothwell advised that a successful Foresight Group discussion had recently taken on the challenges and opportunities of clean growth.

Members asked about the key policy elements that had helped to make a difference in Scotland. It was advised that a study was being undertaken to help inform approach to policy making. In Scotland they had looked particularly closely at planning processes and how restrictions could be removed to move quicker on decarbonisation.

The Chair advised that Chris Oglesby in his role as the Clean Growth lead should be contacted for collaboration.

### **RESOLVED:/**

1. That the presentation on decarbonisation by Electricity North West be received.
2. That Electricity North West engage with Chris Oglesby to develop the clean growth approach

### **GM LEP/20/09          SIX MONTH GROWTH COMPANY PERFORMANCE**

Mark Hughes presented a high-level summary of the Growth Company's performance over the latest six-month reporting period. The report highlighted both positives and negatives for full disclosure to the Board.

### **Comments and Questions**

The Chair noted that there had been a very positive response nationally to the work the Growth Company had been undertaking following the collapse of Thomas Cook.

Future funding was discussed and the need to establish as soon as possible the opportunities that could arise from Brexit and the new Government. The Board agreed that GM has gathered substantial evidence on business support from successfully supporting companies. This could inform conversations with Government on future

devolution and flexibility to the Green Book approach allowing local programmes to better support local enterprise.

The importance of appropriate management and leadership was highlighted including links to the Alison Rose Review.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Growth Company 6 month performance report 2019/20 be noted.

**GOVERNANCE**

**GM LEP/20/10 LOCAL GROWTH ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK UPDATE**

Simon Nokes advised the panel that further guidance from the Department for Transport had been incorporated into an updated Assurance Framework for approval by the Board.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the updated GM Local Growth Assurance Framework be approved by the Board.

**GM LEP/20/11 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER BOARDS**

The Chair asked that members undertake a refresh of their Register of Interest.

**GM LEP/20/12 FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.