

**DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD AT 16:45 ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS LIVE EVENTS**

**Board Members:**

Mo Isap (In the Chair)

David Birch, Mike Blackburn, Mayor Andy Burnham, Lou Cordwell, Lorna Fitzsimons, Sir Richard Leese, Juergen Maier, Vanda Murray, Dame Nancy Rothwell, Richard Topliss, Cllr Brenda Warrington & Cllr Elise Wilson

**Advisors:**

Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), Rebecca Drakeford (GMCA), Maria Gonzalez (GMCA), Gemma Marsh (GMCA), Simon Nokes (GMCA), David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), John Wrathmell (GMCA), Simon Warburton (TfGM), Simon Donahue (Marketing Manchester), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company). Leila Mottahedeh (BEIS) & Sheona Southern (Marketing Manchester).

**Apologies:**

Amanda Halford & Chris Oglesby.

**GM LEP/20/13 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from GM LEP Members Amanda Halford and Chris Oglesby.

**GM LEP/20/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

**GM LEP/20/15 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Board received the minutes of the last public meeting, held on 21 January 2020.

Summary notes were also included to capture discussions that had taken place amongst the GM LEP Membership during 2020 including a small number of emergency decisions taken using the written procedure protocol as set out in the Terms of Reference.

The Board received an update on GM LEP Communications which are being further developed in line with the LEP's approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the Covid crisis and the LEP's role in supporting GM's economic recovery.

The approach would be agile with a clear focus on innovation, addressing inequalities and building business confidence. Initial work had included the addition of an 'Insights' page to the GM LEP website highlighting the LEP's commitment to tackling inequality through inclusive growth and LEP investment in graphene to boost innovation.

It was agreed that consideration of the latest updates on marketing/communications would be added as a regular item to GM LEP meetings.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.
2. That the emergency decisions taken using written procedure be adopted by the Board
3. That the latest marketing and communications updates be added as a regular item at meetings of the GM LEP.

**STRATEGY**

**GM LEP/20/16            LIVING WITH COVID RESILIENCE PLAN**

Mayor Andy Burnham introduced the item which sets out a one year delivery plan highlighting the impacts arising from Covid and captures the actions to be taken in the short term to build resilience and begin to respond to those impacts.

The Plan recognises the significant and disproportionately impacts arising from Covid on Greater Manchester residents, businesses and places, but also seeks to acknowledge the positive gains and innovations which supported Greater Manchester's response to the pandemic.

The Plan sets out the range of support that would be required throughout the next year and the Board discussed a number of key factors such as the role of mental health; skills and employment support and securing the future of young people.

**Comments and Questions**

The Chair expressed the Board's support for the objectives of the one-year plan – stating that the LEP was keen to take on a leadership role in areas where they could add particular value including helping businesses safely return to work, the skills agenda and the support of SME's.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Living with Covid Plan be endorsed by the Board, and supports its implementation as a system wide driver for change and improvement.
2. That the mechanisms that the GMCA is proposing to put in place to drive system wide change within the development and delivery of policies and activities to tackle inequalities highlighted and exacerbated by Covid be noted by the Board.

## **GM LEP/20/17            GREATER MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY REFRESH**

In July 2017, Greater Manchester had launched a three-year internationalisation strategy that outlined the city region's ambitions on the global stage to grow international exports, investment, research and innovation partnerships, as well as continuing to attract international visitors and students.

The report sets a review of the long-term international vision and enhanced strategic framework, identifying new and continued strategic objectives that supports the delivery of Greater Manchester's long-term ambitions in-light of new challenges and opportunities.

It also looks to address the immediate and emerging issues brought about by COVID-19 and any emerging challenges and opportunities from the UK's new relationships with the EU. Consequently, the refresh take on a 12 month time frame, in line with the Living with COVID-19 Resilience Plan. The Strategy will be reviewed in 2021 to include a more detailed analysis of priority markets and any further challenges post-COVID

### **Comments and Questions**

The opinion of the Board was sought on four key areas: the proposed strategic objectives; future opportunities; how the strategy could benefit all parts of the city region; and promoting Greater Manchester as the gateway to the North.

It was agreed that given the time constraints of the meeting – that the four questions would be emailed to the Board members for consideration and response.

The Board also discussed how the increasing role of digital is breaking down the concept of geographical borders with businesses who had never previously traded internationally now taking advantage of these opportunities. It was considered that Greater Manchester could leverage this and offer the city region as a location for strong 'worldwide' HQ's.

### **RESOLVED:/**

1. That the update on the International Strategy refresh be noted by the Board.
2. That the four questions listed above be emailed to the Board membership for consideration and response.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **GM LEP/20/18      LEP BOARD MEMBERSHIP REFRESH**

The campaign to recruit new member of the LEP Board was soon to be launched with a view to filling the two current private sector vacancies.

Advice had also been received from the Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) that LEPs should appoint a Deputy Chair as set out in the Local Growth Assurance Framework. Officers will explore with CLGU whether this is applicable to GM LEP given its Co-Chair model.

#### **RESOLVED:/**

That the update on the LEP Board Membership refresh be received.

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **GM LEP/20/19      DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION/SOCIAL VALUE FRAMEWORK**

An update was given on the refresh of the GM Social Value Policy and how this could strengthen delivery of the LEP's diversity and inclusion priorities.

#### **Comments and Questions**

The Board welcomed the report which reflects the LEP's commitment to diversity and inclusion and highlighted the economic evidence that businesses with diverse leadership are more successful.

#### **RESOLVED:/**

That the refreshed Greater Manchester Social Value Framework be endorsed.

### **GM LEP/20/20      SUPPORTING THE GM ECONOMY THROUGH COVID**

The Board was provided with an update on GC Business Growth Hub's response to COVID-19.

GC BGH, working with the LEP, has taken a key role in supporting GM's collective response to COVID-19 impact on business: rapidly pivoting available resource; adapting the way in which its services are delivered; and developing a number of new campaigns and initiatives to support the business community through this period.

This has included the #HereForBusiness Campaign, business workshops, supporting businesses to access finance as well as coordinating the supply of PPE. The Growth Company has also provided a number of webinars including ones hosted by the LEP Co-

Chairs and the Mayor and GMCA portfolio holder for the economy focused on providing the latest information and guidance to business.

The Growth Hub has had a strong focus on employment and set up Employ GM – an integrated, one-stop-shop platform supporting newly unemployed and furloughed workers.

The Growth Company also established the Tourism and Hospitality Support Hub to provide sector specific support and has worked with Government and partners to support the wider national Growth Hub Network.

The report also highlighted the work to support growth and recovery in the longer term.

### **Comments and Questions**

The Board welcomed the report and highlighted the need to support the recapitalisation of good quality businesses to safeguard their ability to continue to innovate.

### **RESOLVED:/**

That the content of the report be noted by the Board.

Meeting ended: 17:30

The next meeting of the Board would take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October.