

Item No. 3

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Councillor Sean Anstee, Councillor Richard Leese, Tony Lloyd, Nancy Rothwell, David Birch and Richard Topliss.

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths

Advisors:

Andrew Lightfoot (GMCA), Mark Hughes (Manchester Growth Company), John Lamonte (TfGM), Eamonn Boylan (Stockport MBC), Sheona Southern, Alison Gordon and Michael Contaldo (New Economy), Pat Bartoli (Manchester City Council) Julie Connor, David Rogerson and Steve Annette (GM Integrated Support Team)

Apologies:

Wayne Jones, Keith Johnston, Juergan Maier, Michael Oglesby, Vanda Murray, Scott Fletcher

LEP/16/68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nancy Rothwell declared an interest in items regarding the Local Growth Deal Funding for the Graphene Centre and the Science and Innovations Audits

LEP/16/69 MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the GM LEP Board held on 14 July 2016 be approved.

LEP/16/70 HS2 GROWTH STRATEGY GRANT APPROVAL

A report was submitted that summarised Greater Manchester's outline specification of work which it is proposed to take forward with the £1.25m of funding earmarked for Manchester Airport, and the £1.25m earmarked for Piccadilly Station.

A member commented that he hoped the development of growth strategies for both Piccadilly and Manchester Airport would be the catalyst for broader benefits across Greater Manchester. Pat Bartoli confirmed that there are a number of key stakeholders involved to ensure that those broader benefits are achieved. The Chair commented that if any further private sector support was required, that the Board would be willing to offer its support.

AGREED

1. That the content of the outlined submission, as summarised in the report be noted.
2. That the LEP funding allocation be used to develop detailed growth strategies for both Piccadilly and Manchester Airport Stations, including the resourcing of appropriate external expertise, in accordance with the arrangements as set out in the report.

LEP/16/71 APPOINTMENT OF MGC BOARD DIRECTORS

A report was submitted seeking the re-appointment of two directorships for the Manchester Growth Company.

The Board of Directors for Manchester Growth Company includes five representatives from the GM LEP, and Mike Blackburn and Iwan Griffiths currently hold two of these Directorships with terms of office expiring in September 2016.

AGREED

That Mike Blackburn and Iwan Griffiths be re-appointed as GM LEP representatives on the MGC Board of Directors for a further three year term expiring in September 2019.

LEP/16/72 BREXIT MONITOR

Consideration was given to a report that informed the Board that the GMCA had commissioned a comprehensive programme of work to better understand the full implications of Brexit on Greater Manchester.

The report highlighted the issues that Greater Manchester would be seeking the Government to address through the Autumn Statement, and the matters that Greater Manchester would want to highlight for consideration as the framework for Britain's withdrawal from the EU is established.

It was reported that a work programme would be looking at eight key areas to identify GM specific issues and opportunities and that New Economy would be closely monitoring policy developments and economic and social trends arising from the decision to leave the EU.

Board members were encouraged to provide feedback from each of their individual sectors so that this could be incorporated into the work programme framework for discussions with Government.

It was suggested that the work to refresh the Greater Manchester Strategy should reflect the changing landscape arising from Brexit particularly with regards to the ongoing need for a well skilled workforce. These issues could also form part of any GM response to the Government's developing industrial strategy.

A Board member commented that it was important for all stakeholders to adopt a common approach with shared messages. A Board member also commented that there was much uncertainty regarding business investment within the UK and no consistent feedback from companies. There is also concern about the quality and availability of data to properly assess the impact of Brexit.

AGREED

1. That the report and the GM Brexit Monitor be noted.
2. That Board members be encouraged to consider any sector implications that they are aware of from their own industries that should be built into Greater Manchester's analysis or reporting in the next Brexit Monitor.

LEP/16/73 LOW EMISSIONS STRATEGY AND AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

A report was submitted that provided information on the outcomes of the public consultation on the Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan

The Board warmly welcomed the report and the Chair asked members to submit any relevant information from their own sectors.

AGREED

1. That the outcomes from the public consultation on the Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan be noted.
2. That the proposals as set out in the Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan be noted, and that support be given to the implementation of the plan across Greater Manchester.

LEP/16/74 GREATER MANCHESTER FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS STRATEGY

A report was submitted that provided details of the GM Freight and Logistics Strategy that had been developed in consultation with a broad range of industry actors and stakeholders from both public and private sector organisations.

It was reported that the first meeting of the Greater Manchester Freight and Logistics Forum had taken place and that the response from industries had been very positive.

A Board member commented that the logistic industry can be 'land hungry' and that it will be important to balance this against the competing land needs required for a ranges of uses across GM.

AGREED

That the report be noted and that the Board supports the implementation of the strategy across Greater Manchester.

LEP/16/75 GM CONNECTED

The Board received a presentation on GM Connected, a new wayfinding solution for Greater Manchester.

GM Connected is a wayfinding solution providing physical on-street infrastructure and supporting print and mapping resources. The solution was being planned and designed to support an end-to-end journey experience; integrating visitor, transport and wayfinding information into more seamless and personalised journeys.

This new generation wayfinding solution works on the basis of progressive disclosure and heads-up mapping which reveals information and options at the appropriate journey stage. The branding and identity of the system was being designed to capture the local identity and create a memorable experience strengthening civic pride.

The first phase will focus on the area between Piccadilly Station and Victoria Station linking these major gateways of the city to the retail quarter.

Stakeholder engagement will be taking place in the next months to ensure the solution meets the aspirations of the city region, with a start of system installation envisaged in spring 2017 and completion of the Phase 1 by the autumn 2017.

It was noted that this work will align with Marketing Manchester's existing branding framework and there was the potential for the system to link up with related virtual mapping systems such as at Manchester University.

AGREED

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. The Board asked for the title of the initiative to be reviewed to avoid any confusion with GM Connect.

LEP/16/76 LOW GROWTH DEAL FUNDING FOR THE GRAPHENE ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTRE (GEIC)

Consideration was given to a report that sought formal approval of the 'in principle' agreement given by the Board in May 2015, to grant £5m of Local Growth funding to the University of Manchester, Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC).

It was noted that the grant would also secure a further £5m of investment through a £5m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project secured by the University. Together, this funding will be used to purchase equipment to fit out GEIC's laboratories

AGREED

1. That progress with delivering the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre be noted.
2. That the "in principle" agreement of a grant of £5m of Local Growth Deal Funding to support the purchase of equipment to fit out GEIC's laboratories, be approved
3. That the GMCA Treasurer/Monitoring officer proceed to finalise the terms of the grant agreement.

LEP/16/77 EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL INVESTMENT FUNDS UPDATE

A report was submitted that provided an update on the implications for Greater Manchester's ESI Funding following the EU Referendum vote and the recent announcements from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the steps the Treasury was taking to address the current uncertainty surrounding European funds.

Members noted that the ESIF programme had experienced a slow start as a result of lengthy negotiations between HM Government and the European Commission, which had resulted in limited funding being progressed to contract before the referendum vote - c11% of GM's ERDF allocation and c27% of ESF. With limited correspondence from Government post EU referendum, there were significant concerns that the majority of Greater Manchester's ESIF funding programme was at risk.

The Board discussed the report and noted the importance of ESIF funded programmes in delivering GM's growth and reform priorities particularly with regard to business support, skills development, science, innovation and the low carbon agenda.

A Board member commented that the ESIF Programme Monitoring Board had recently met and that this had been raised as a matter of concern. It was noted that the Board had agreed to support the streamlining of the process to enable funding to be released sooner. It was envisaged however that there would be an announcement regarding Northern Powerhouse funding before the end of October.

AGREED

1. That the Board supports the GMCA in seeking urgent assurance from Government that it will commit to fully fund all Greater Manchester ESIF projects that are currently “under assessment”, recognising the limited capacity of both DCLG and DWP to speedily progress projects to contract by the arbitrary deadline of the Autumn Statement.
2. That the Board supports the GMCA in seeking assurance from Government that it will fully fund the total value of GM’s ESIF programme to 2020 as set out in Greater Manchester’s ESIF Plan.
3. That the Board supports GMCA in seeking clarification from Government regarding the timing of future calls within this programme period, in order for Greater Manchester to continue to deliver the 2014-2020 ESIF Plan.

LEP/16/78 SCIENCE AND INNOVATION AUDITS

The Board received a verbal update on the developing Science and Innovation Audits.

It was reported that the brief had focussed on five key areas which resulted in the identification of a number of areas of funding, key actions and investment opportunities. It was noted that going forward there would be greater collaborative working with other universities and businesses.

AGREED

That the Executive summary paper be circulated to this Board for information and that the full report be circulated once it was finalised.

LEP/16/79 NEW GM LEP WEBSITE

Consideration was given to a report that provided details of the proposal to re-develop the GM LEP website during the autumn 2016.

It was reported that the current website had not been updated since 2013 and that the recent National Audit report into Local Enterprise Partnerships had highlighted the issue of transparency and it was decided a clear and accessible website would help improve accountability and access for the public.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

LEP/16/80 GM INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

A report was submitted seeking the views of the LEP Board to the GM Internationalisation Strategy for Greater Manchester. In addition to the report there was a presentation highlighting challenges, priorities, market opportunities and a strategic vision for how GM could become a top twenty global city by 2035.

Board members commented that it was important to recognise and not underestimate the value and importance of the demand for university courses from international students as well as the network that exists of alumni students that have graduated from a particular school, college or university.

A Board member commented that it was also important to monitor other emerging economies such as Mexico. However it was acknowledged that the development of international links should be a qualitative as well as a quantitative approach.

In relation to the Manchester Airport it was considered important to recognise that the increase in passenger numbers should not be the only performance measure, but also the number of long haul destinations, regularity of flights, nature of visits etc, and the added value that this brings in terms of longer term economic investment needed to be recognised and factored.

A Board member suggested that a visitor travel card similar to what is available in London would be beneficial to overseas visitors to GM. It was confirmed that work on developing a travel card was underway.

AGREED

1. That the Internationalisation Strategy be agreed for consideration by the GM Combined Authority.
2. That the Strategy be reviewed on an annual basis and any adjustments required to take account of changing circumstances in the interim will be considered under the direction of the GM Internationalisation and Marketing Board.

LEP/16/82 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LEP Membership

The Chair reported that he would be bringing a paper to the next meeting in relation to commencing a review of Board membership

LEP/16/83 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 10 November 2016
Monday 16 January 2017
Monday 20 March 2017
Monday 15 May 2017
Monday 17 July 2017
Monday 18 September 2017
Monday 13 November 2017