

## Item No. 3

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2016 AT THE TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER

#### Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Councillor Richard Leese, Tony Lloyd, Nancy Rothwell, Scott Fletcher, Lou Cordwell, and Michael Oglesby

#### Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths

#### Advisors:

Mark Hughes (Manchester Growth Company), Simon Warburton (TfGM), Simon Nokes (New Economy), Anne Morgan (AGMA), Louise Latham and James Stanley (Marketing Manchester), Rebecca Heron, David Rogerson and Allan Sparrow (GM Integrated Support Team)

#### Apologies:

Councillor Sean Anstee, Keith Johnston, David Birch, Richard Topliss, Juergen Maier, Vanda Murray, Howard Bernstein, Eamonn Boylan, Tim Newns and Jon Lamonte

#### LEP/16/84 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nancy Rothwell declared an interest in the discussion item regarding international students as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Manchester.

#### LEP/16/85 MINUTES

#### AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the GM LEP Board held on 19 September 2016 be approved.

#### LEP/16/86 GM LEP MEMBERSHIP

The Board was informed of the resignation of Wayne Jones as a member of the Board. The Chair added that due to his new work commitments Wayne was unable to give sufficient time to the LEP and reluctantly he had submitted his resignation from the Board.

Consideration was also given to a paper setting out the process for reviewing the private sector membership of the Board which was reviewed regularly to ensure the LEP's membership remained relevant and fit for purpose. (Public sector representatives were reviewed on an annual basis by the GMCA.)

The Board was informed that the current private sector members' term of office is due to expire on 31 March 2017 and therefore a full review of the membership was needed. The report set out the proposed process for the review which would be undertaken in line with a previous comprehensive review carried out in 2013 by Penna Consultants. The Board was asked to consider appointing Penna to carry out the 2017 review on the basis of the brief before the Board under the direction of the Chair.

The Board noted the desirability for greater diversity in LEP membership that could better reflect the demographics of wider GM society and that this should be highlighted in the consultant's approach to the current review.

Similarly, the Board discussed the need for the breadth of GM's business sectors to be represented including smaller businesses and SMEs.

The Chair responded that he had already discussed with Penna the need for a more diverse board and that smaller businesses could play a greater part in the work of the LEP. This could be as Board members but could also be through inputting into relevant projects focusing on key thematic areas such as SMEs, skills or manufacturing.

## **AGREED**

1. That in noting the resignation of Wayne Jones he be thanked for his services to the Board.
2. That approval be given to the process for the review of the private sector membership of the Board.
3. That Penna Consultants be appointed to facilitate the review under the direction of the Chair with full costs to be reported when available.

## **LEP/16/87 REFRESHING THE GM STRATEGY AND CONSULTATION PROPOSALS**

The Board was informed that in July 2016 it considered a report on a number of strategically significant workstreams currently underway to support the delivery of the GM's growth and reform ambitions and agreed to endorse the proposal to revisit and refresh the GM Strategy.

This report set out an outline framework for that refreshed strategy, and proposed that an extensive programme of engagement was developed to ensure that GM residents, businesses and stakeholders had the opportunity to shape and influence the strategy. The paper also detailed the timetable and provided a brief update of progress to date.

The board was informed that the revised vision for 2040 will be focused on the priorities of 'Strong People and Strong Places' and these will form the basis of a conversation with the people of GM on our shared ambitions for GM's future. This conversational approach will include a series of key questions which the Board noted along with the proposed refresh timetable.

The Board welcomed the refresh and noted that it should highlight GM's approach to science and innovation given its importance to the city region's future.

It was also noted that the refresh would help to give business and residents a better understanding of the wider GM agenda and the current challenges and opportunities that exist. The conversational approach would provide confidence in GM's transparent strategy development and decision making process.

A member asked if this process represented a full review of GM's strategic approach or would refresh the existing strategy. It was reported that Greater Manchester's refreshed strategy will build on our existing growth and reform priorities, reflecting the changed context since 2013 with a greater emphasis on inclusivity and ensuring all residents can share the benefits of growth.

## **AGREED**

1. That the outline consultation framework for the review of the GM Strategy be endorsed as a basis for engaging residents, businesses and other stakeholders in a public conversation regarding their vision and aspirations for Greater Manchester.
2. That the draft timetable of activity and progress to date be noted.

## **LEP/16/88 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK**

The Board was informed that the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework was approved for consultation by the Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive Board at their meeting on 28 October 2016. The public consultation would run from 31 October to 23 December 2016.

A presentation was given outlining the context, timetable, vision and including details of high level thematic policies which would be detailed on local plans.

The Board was informed that GM would look carefully at the responses to the public consultation with a draft Framework being prepared for approval by the GMCA in Summer 2017 before its submission to the Secretary of State in the Autumn.

The Board welcomed the report and discussed a number of key points.

It was noted that the GMSF will provide a comprehensive and consistent planning framework in line with GM's growth and reform ambitions. It will align closely with the developing vision from the transport strategy and with the refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

It will be important to communicate this approach to the residents and businesses of GM along with the need for substantial, good quality housing and employment sites to sustain GM's projected economic growth. This would not only ensure buy in for the plan but also generate inward investment and attract potential talent.

It was noted that the significant majority of the new housing developments would be built on brownfield sites including a number of high density, city centre sites which could reduce demand on other areas.

However, it was highlighted that the framework is a high level, strategic plan for GM and that Local Authorities maintained their existing powers on more detailed, local planning strategies.

The framework will continue to protect high quality green space and a clear, GM-wide plan was the best way to achieve this.

The Board asked if the housing and employment needs identified in the draft framework would meet GM's future needs given the difficulty in predicting economic growth. It was reported that the framework was underpinned by a robust social and economic assessment providing confidence on GM's growth model. These figures will be updated as GM develops to accurately reflect GM's needs.

The Board queried whether neighbouring authorities had been approached with a view to them aligning their spatial strategies with GM's emerging vision. It was confirmed that discussions are ongoing and that there is the potential for cross border working in future particularly around transport as proposed developments are realised.

Broader questions on inter-regional connectivity would also take place as part of the evolving Northern Powerhouse agenda.

## **AGREED**

To note the GM Spatial Framework consultation process and timetable.

## **LEP/16/89 GM 2040 TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a report, which had been submitted to GMCA on 28 October 2016 which summarised the feedback received during the 12-week consultation (July to September 2016) on the 'Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 - Consultation Draft'. The report also highlighted the next steps in finalising the strategy.

The Board was informed that TfGM were pleased with the diversity of respondents and initial finding suggested that there was strong support for core transport principles. Planned mayoral reforms to the bus network would also be helpful.

It was reported that the strategy would go back to the GMCA at the end of the year. This would generate a transport plan and develop bus proposals for the arrival of the new Mayor. These plans would be driven and prioritised within the Spatial Framework.

The Chair referred to recent discussion he had had with other LEP Chairs in the region whose areas were now referring to Manchester as tourist hub. It was noted that Marketing Manchester is continuing to raise GM's profile with potential visitors and that an improved transport system would help to bolster the impact of this work

### **AGREED**

1. That the report on the range and nature of responses received on the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 Consultation draft be noted.
2. That the next steps in finalising the strategy by the end of 2016 be noted.

### **LEP/16/90 GREATER MANCHESTER BREXIT MONITOR**

A report was submitted that updated LEP Members on progress with work to understand the full implications of Brexit on Greater Manchester and develop an appropriate policy response. The latest edition of the monthly Greater Manchester Brexit Monitor was also submitted to provide a real-time snapshot of the economic and policy impact of Brexit.

In particular, the board discussed the three principles which should underpin the UK's negotiation of withdrawal from the EU to safeguard continued growth and prosperity in GM. These included the need to promote growth in trade, to continue investing in sub-national growth and regeneration and raising the skills of the workforce.

It was noted that GM's own skills strategy had achieved good training results with half of the original 20,000 young people identified as needing skills training being successfully skilled up for employment.

The Board welcomed these results but stated there was still more to do in ensuring the local skills base matched the needs of the local employers..

### **AGREED**

1. To note the contents of the latest Greater Manchester Brexit Monitor.
2. To note the updated review of risks and opportunities by sector summarised in this report.

3. To confirm the three principles for withdrawal from the EU which have been identified and that these should form the basis of future discussions with Government.

### **LEP/16/91 DISCUSSION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The Board was informed that universities across GM and the UK were becoming increasingly concerned about the impact the proposed immigration cap could have on international student numbers.

This is likely to have a significant economic impact on Greater Manchester, which is home to a large number of international students. This will not only affect universities in terms of student fees but also the students' impact on the wider GM economy.

Beyond simple spending power, the Board was informed that former international students from across the world maintain valuable contacts with GM and the UK once their studies have finished leading to increased foreign investment and overseas trade deals.

It was also noted that the number foreign students does not impinge on universities' capacity to accept national students.

It was therefore suggested that the Government should look again at their immigration policies and the inclusion of international students.

The Chair reported that he had spoken to other LEP Chairs and that it is likely that the Government does not fully appreciate the economic impact of this policy on universities and their city regions.

The LEP Chair will continue to work other Chairs through the LEP Network to draft a letter to Government setting out the position of international students and their economic value (*Note: Letter appended to these Minutes*).

The Board was informed that this approach would be welcomed by universities and help to strengthen their message to Government.

It was felt that this could form part of a wider approach to the issue including raising awareness with the public and key MPs as well as better understanding how this relates to our wider ambitions for GM and the impact on our economy.

### **AGREED**

That the Chair and Nancy Rothwell in consultation with Simon Nokes develop a set of actions to help the business sector to make the case for international students not being classed and counted within the government's migrant numbers.

**LEP/16/92 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday 16 January 2017

Monday 20 March 2017

Monday 15 May 2017

Monday 17 July 2017

Monday 18 September 2017

Monday 13 November 2017