

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 20 MARCH 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

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

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths

Advisors:

Sir Howard Bernstein (Manchester City Council), Eamonn Boylan (Stockport MBC), Mark Hughes (Manchester Growth Company), Jon Lamonte (TfGM), Simon Nokes (New Economy), Tim Newns (MIDAS), Louise Latham and James Stanley (Marketing Manchester), David Rogerson and Allan Sparrow (GM Integrated Support Team)

Apologies:

Keith Johnston, Lou Cordwell, Juergen Maier and Vanda Murray

LEP/17/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mike Blackburn declared an interest in the following items:

- GM Digital Talent and Skills Programme – BT had been consulted on this programme to maximise the impact of the investment
- Fibre to the Premises – BT is a supplier of fibre to the door.

LEP/17/20 MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meetings of the GM LEP Board held on 16 January and 10 February 2017 be approved.

LEP/17/21 REVIEW OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Chair provided a verbal update on the process for appointing new GM LEP members. He added that a shortlist of qualified, credible candidates was

being drawn up including strong representation from female and BAME candidates. A brief outline was given regarding next steps and timelines.

A member reflected on whether the Board could be expanded to harness the skills and expertise of a greater number of suitable candidates. In response it was reported that this would require a change to the current terms of reference for the Board which could be explored in further detail following the review.

AGREED

That the update on the review of Board membership be noted and that a further update be given to the next meeting.

LEP/17/22 INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY: DEVELOPING A GM RESPONSE

A report was received that updated members on the Government's National Industrial Strategy consultation document published on the 23 January 2017. The report outlined the approach for developing a comprehensive Greater Manchester response to the consultation aligned to the GMS refresh process.

The Board was informed that GM has set up a working group to develop a final response to the National Industrial Strategy with GMCA Leaders and would value the input of the LEP Board.

The Board welcomed the consultation and felt that the Government's draft strategy contained many positive proposals although it could be strengthened in some areas. In particular, the need for a joined up approach to skills and education provision was noted along with the fact that the strategy should include greater emphasis on the importance of improving productivity.

The Board highlighted the importance of ensuring that the final strategy was not solely focused on the key industrial sectors but takes a broader, place based approach. This would reflect the approach set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy but also in the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review.

The Board also discussed government proposals around rebalancing the economy and the potential relocations of national agencies and institutions. It was reported that GM would undertake work to evidence the link between GM's sectoral strengths and the potential relocation of existing key institutions.

AGREED

1. To note the GM key issues regarding the National Industrial Strategy response and to note that the consultation process was now underway.
2. That Mike Blackburn and Nancy Rothwell be appointed as the LEP's representatives on the small working group to develop GM's response to

the National Industrial Strategy. This group would also include the Leaders with portfolio responsibilities in this area.

LEP/17/23 GM DIGITAL TALENT & SKILLS PROGRAMME

A report was submitted that provided the background to and details of a £2m investment that had been agreed by the GMCA in a GM Digital Talent & Skills Programme. This would realise GM's digital ambition through a holistic approach that addresses challenges relating to talent, skills, apprenticeships & inclusion.

The report sought LEP involvement in steering the direction of the programme to respond to employer demand and to help secure buy in from the business community. There was now a unique opportunity for GM to transform its digital skills base and it was critical that business played their part in maximising the impact of this investment.

The Board was informed that GM had four areas it wished to focus on

- More young people in GM to take up digital learning opportunities and enter careers that require digital skills
- Individuals of all ages acquire the up to date digital skills required by employers
- More people progressing onto advanced digital apprenticeships providing employers requiring digital skills with a work ready talent supply
- All GM residents will have the basic digital skills required for basic social interaction, accessing public services and entering the labour market.

The Board welcomed the programme and recognised the need for this work to be linked to the National Industrial Strategy

The programme would need to be flexible in its approach given that the digital economy was innovative and fast moving with the digital skills required by employers evolving rapidly.

In particular, it was felt that the strategy should recognise the need digital skills needs of the wider population as well as developing specialist digital needs for industry.

The Board also noted the need to reach out to non-digital employers to reinforce the importance of the digital economy and the need for appropriate skills in more "traditional" industrial sectors.

Additionally the Board anticipated that the initial £2m revenue funding could be used to leverage further private sector investment to strengthen the delivery of digital skills training.

AGREED

1. That the report be noted.

2. That approval be given for the use of £2m of LGF monies to support the digital skills programme.

LEP/17/24 MANUFACTURING CHAMPIONS NETWORK

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the Greater Manchester Manufacturing Champions Network.

It was noted that the Network continued to meet on a regular basis with continuing LEP support and that further consideration was being given to attracting and retaining SMEs.

AGREED

That the update on the Manufacturing Champions Network be noted.

LEP/17/25 FIBRE TO THE PREMISES

(At this point in the proceedings Nancy Rothwell took the Chair as Mike Blackburn's employer (BT) was a supplier of fibre to the premises.)

The Board received a verbal update on the current position on the installation of fixed-line digital infrastructure in Greater Manchester.

A member asked if GM knew the costs for fibre installation at a GM level and it was reported that significant funding would need to come from government.

The Board also felt that any future strategy needed to promote a range of solutions to address the needs identified. The Board asked officers to report back to next meeting with proposals on the next steps.

AGREED

1. That the verbal update on fibre to the premises be noted.
2. That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board outlining proposals regarding how to take this work forward.

(Mike Blackburn retook the Chair at this point in the proceedings.)

LEP/17/26 HS2 ROUTE UPDATE AND CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Board was informed that on 15 November 2016, HS2 Ltd announced the preferred route for HS2 Phase 2b, serving Manchester, East Midlands, South Yorkshire and Leeds. A paper was submitted that provided a summary of the key changes affecting GM and a recommendation to endorse the response to the consultation. Consideration was also given to the GMCA response to the consultation, submitted in line with the HS2 Ltd deadline of 9 March 2017.

The Board welcomed the consultation response and were updated on the parliamentary progress of the HS2 hybrid bill along with the work being carried out to support the developing evidence base.

In particular, work was underway to understand the impact HS2 would have on economic growth which would benefit from future LEP input.

AGREED

1. That the GMCA response to the HS2 route refinement consultation be endorsed.
2. That a further paper be brought to the Board on the work being undertaken to understand the impact HS2 would have on economic growth.

LEP/17/27 NORTHERN POWERHOUSE PARTNERSHIP

The Board was updated on the publication of the first report by the Northern Powerhouse Partnership. The publication had identified priorities around the four Prime Capabilities of the North, (advanced manufacturing/materials, digital, health and energy) alongside Education and Skills.

The Board was informed that the report built upon the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER) published in February which described the strengths of the northern economy. The report set out the ambition that if the right actions are taken then the Northern economy has the potential to be £100bn larger over the next three decades than it would otherwise have been, alongside the creation of 850,000 new jobs.

AGREED

That the GM LEP notes developments around the NPP and to agree that GM should continue to be represented at the appropriate level in this work to ensure it supports broader GM objectives - with Simon Nokes continuing to co-ordinate activity in the short-term.

LEP/17/28 GM BREXIT MONITOR

A report was submitted on the key economic and policy developments in relation to the UK's decision to leave the European Union. The Board was informed that since the publication of the latest Monitor the Prime Minister had announced that she will trigger Article 50 and commencing the process for the UK's exit from the European Union.

AGREED

That the Brexit Monitor and the UK government's decision to trigger Article 50 on 29 March 2017 be noted.

LEP/17/29 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 15 May 2017

Monday 17 July 2017

Monday 18 September 2017

Monday 13 November 2017

LEP/17/30 SIR HOWARD BERNSTEIN

The Board was informed that this would be the last meeting attended by Sir Howard Bernstein before his retirement on 31 March 2017. The Board expressed its wish to place on record its thanks and appreciation to Sir Howard Bernstein for his guidance and leadership over the lifetime of the Board.