

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 17 JULY 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER**

**Board Members:**

Mike Blackburn (In the chair)

Councillor Richard Leese, Nancy Rothwell, Juergen Maier, Lou Cordwell, Fiona Gibson, Monica Brij and Lorna Fitzsimons

**Strategic Chairs:**

Iwan Griffiths

**Advisors:**

Eamonn Boylan, Simon Nokes, John Wrathmell, John Holden, David Rogerson and Allan Sparrow (GMCA); Kevin Lee (Office of the GM Mayor); Mark Hughes (Manchester Growth Company); Jon Lamonte (Transport for Greater Manchester) Jim Taylor (Salford CC); Pat Bartoli (Manchester CC); Louise Latham (Marketing Manchester) and Sally McDonald (Manchester Science Festival)

**Apologies:**

Andy Burnham, Councillor Sean Anstee, David Birch, Richard Topliss, Michael Oglesby, Mo Isap and Vanda Murray

**LEP/17/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

The following interest were declared by LEP Members:

Lorna Fitzsimons declared that she held occasional contracts with the Commission for the New Economy/GMCA regarding textiles and with the Manchester Growth Company regarding RGF funds.

Councillor Leese declared an interest in the Corridor Manchester Enterprise Zone as he was a Director of the Corridor Manchester Limited. An interest was also declared regarding the Manchester Science Festival as he served as an Advisory Board Member. Councillor Leese also declared that he acted as the Manchester Growth Company's Deputy Chair.

Juergen Maier declared that Siemens was a key sponsor and supporter of the Manchester Science Festival.

Nancy Rothwell declared the following interests: GM LEP Foresight Group - The University of Manchester was a core member; Corridor Manchester Enterprise Zone - She is a director and Chair of the Corridor Manchester Limited; The Manchester Science Festival - The University of Manchester was a Partner.

**LEP/17/32 MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2017. The Board was informed that the GMCA was to confirm the appointment of a fourth GMCA representative to the GM LEP Board at its meeting to take place on 28 July 2017. Members welcomed this announcement.

**AGREED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the GM LEP Board held on 20 March 2017 be approved.

### **LEP/17/33 LOCAL GROWTH FUND APPLICATIONS**

A report was submitted that provided details of business cases for four schemes which were seeking funding from Growth Deal 3:

- Skills Capital gateway 1
- Digital Skills gateway 2
- International Screen School Manchester gateway 3
- Cyber Innovation Hub gateway 3

The Board noted that GM's skills ambitions would not be fully addressed by the amount of skills funding available. In response it was reported that vigorous efforts were being made to ensure the LGF money levered in as much additional funding as possible via colleges.

A member queried how these programmes aligned with the wider Greater Manchester Strategy priorities. The Board was informed that once the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy had been finalised, an Implementation Plan would be developed setting out the details of delivery including LGF funded projects.

#### **AGREED**

1. That approval be given to the Skills Capital Strategic Outline Business Case (Gateway 1) and that the applications process be launched in August 2017.
2. That approval be given to the Digital Skills Outline Business Case (Gateway 2) as a portfolio scheme and that Gateway 3 sign-off for individual elements be delegated to the GM Portfolio Chief Executive for Skills & Employment and the GMCA Treasurer in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Skills & Employment.
3. That approval be given to the International Screen School Manchester Full Business Case (Gateway 3) and that a grant be offered subject to the following conditions being met prior to drawdown of funds:
  - Finalisation of detailed scheme costings
  - Manchester Metropolitan University Board approval of the Business Case and confirmed commitment to the capital sums required to deliver the scheme
  - Appointment of the construction contractor
  - Sign off that the project is State Aid compliant.
4. That approval be given to the Cyber Innovation Hub business case (Gateway 3) and a grant agreement be issued to Manchester City Council.
5. That it be noted that a full business case for the Productivity Programme was being developed and this would be brought to the September LEP meeting.

### **LEP/17/34 LEP TASK & FINISH GROUP**

Members were reminded of their informal discussion regarding the creation of a small number of Task and Finish Groups (TFG) to drive forward a number of key issues for the GM Economy.

It was reported that a note summarising the four potential TFGs was sent to LEP members for comment. Following feedback received these proposals were amended and further developed.

It was suggested that these TFGs cover:

- Digital Skills (Lou Cordwell to act as Chair)
- Start Up/Scale Up (Lorna Fitzsimons to act as Chair)
- Schools (Mo Isap to act as Chair)
- FUTURE Technical Skills Challenges (David Birch to act as Chair).

The following matters were raised on the report:

- The Board was made aware of the issues raised at the GM Mayor's Digital Summit and the need to create digital conversion courses to get the GM workforce up to speed on digital developments and this very much fitted into the Digital Skills TFG
- In terms of the School TFG, the Board was made aware that the GM Reform Board had considered a number of priorities of which one was 'school readiness' as well as 'work readiness'. The Reform Board felt that by tackling school readiness issues it set a template for helping young people when they reached a working age
- A comment was made that the School TFG should take account of the 'Curriculum for Life' agenda which was a key policy for the Youth Parliament and youth councils. Manchester was to pilot a scheme in September and it would be beneficial to have this as part of the work of the School TFG. Culture was also seen as an important issue for schools
- Reference was made to the wider Northern Powerhouse work where there was clear overlaps on policies around technical skills, digital, start-ups and scale. There was a need for TFG Chairs to talk and ensure their groups were adding to the overall agenda.

#### **AGREED**

That the proposal to set up four Task and Finish Groups (digital skills, scale up, schools & future technical skills challenge) with the Chairs and remit as set out in the report be endorsed with each Task and Finish Group to report back over the coming 3-9 months.

#### **LEP/17/35 LEP FORESIGHT GROUP**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined a proposal to set up a 'Foresight Group' which would look at potential 'disrupters' to business as normal and opportunities over the next 5 to 10 years and beyond. It was anticipated that the group would complement the work of the LEP and take into account the work of the Mayor's Business Advisory Panel.

The Board was informed that the Foresight Group would meet to determine the big issues to think about now before they had an impact in the future. The Group would report back to the LEP on such issues and the Group would consist of about 15 core members to be supplemented with additional members relevant to the topic under discussion.

It was reported that Mike Blackburn and Nancy Rothwell would lead the Group and it was intended that the first meeting would take place in September.

The Board was informed that the University of Manchester had put in place similar foresight arrangements with a focus on young people consisting of a panel of 30 people under 30 years of age to think about the future. The lessons learned from this panel could be fed into the work being undertaken by the LEP's Foresight Group.

#### **AGREED**

That the proposal to set up a 'Foresight Group' be endorsed and that Mike Blackburn and Nancy Rothwell be asked to approach individuals to be part of this group.

## **LEP/17/36 THE MANCHESTER CHANNEL**

The Board was informed that the Manchester Channel Steering Group includes GMLEP Board members Lou Cordwell, Mike Blackburn and Iwan Griffiths had met with Marketing Manchester to discuss the next steps for this project. The members had noted the objectives and aims of the 'Manchester Channel' project and how it should use its budget of £95k.

The Board was asked to note progress made on creating the 'M Drive', a digital depository and content asset management tool for sharing Greater Manchester content assets which was launched at the Greater Manchester Internationalisation Strategy event in July 2017.

It was reported that should the LEP agree the objectives and budget, Marketing Manchester would hire a Content Editor to collate and curate quality content on the 'M Drive'.

The Board was informed that the University of Manchester was currently working closely with the BBC on similar work and this could also be fed into the 'M Drive'.

A member felt that the Channel would need to think about long term funding for the M Drive enabling it to produce unique, high quality content that to helped tell the story of Greater Manchester worldwide.

### **AGREED**

1. That the progress made on creating the 'M Drive', a digital depository and content management tool for GM be noted.
2. That approval be given to the hiring of a Content Editor to collate and curate quality content for the 'M Drive'.

## **LEP/17/37 GREATER MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Item withdrawn.

## **LEP/17/38 CORRIDOR ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Consideration was given to a report that sets out the requirement for grant funding of £3.675m to facilitate the development of Citylabs 2.0 on the Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust (CMFT) site along the Oxford Road corridor, Manchester, together with a package of support including the appointment of a Growth Manager to accelerate and manage growth proposals within the Corridor Manchester Enterprise Zone.

It was reported that the business cases for these interventions were supported by the Corridor Board on 6 February and 10 May 2017, subject to LEP approval. The report was presented to the Board due to the LEP's role in directing the application of business rate receipts with receipts for the Corridor EZ being ring-fenced for use in that area.

It was noted that terms were agreed between Manchester City council and MSP including appropriate clawback mechanisms should greater value be realised on completion of the development. It was also noted that the grant would be financed from existing MCC sources.

The Board was informed that Citylabs 1.0 had been very successful with all the accommodation now taken. It was anticipated that Citylabs 2.0 would also realise its targets as it had great potential.

### **AGREED**

That approval be given to the funding of a £3.3m grant and Corridor EZ retained business rates to facilitate development of Citylabs 2.0, together with appointment of a Growth Manager post over 5 years at a cost of £375k.

#### **LEP/17/39 MANCHESTER SCIENCE FESTIVAL**

The Board was informed that the EuroScience Open Forum hosted by Manchester last year also meant that it took the title European City of Science. The European City Of Science award consisted of a year-long, city-wide celebration of science which culminated at the 2016 Manchester Science Festival, and involved a wider range of partners than ever before. The Board was informed that there was now a real opportunity to build on this network to encourage science engagement across the city region's communities and to cement Manchester's reputation as a Science City. Members were asked to consider how best to maximise this opportunity.

It was felt that future festivals should take the opportunity to include other events taking place in the city region as part of the Manchester Science Festival as well as promote the Manchester Festival to a wider audience.

Comments were made about the fact that last year's science festival was excellent and support should be in place to make it bigger and better by highlighting digital skills and showcase Manchester's creativity.

The need for engagement with schools was also highlighted. It was reported that the October half term holiday period was specifically chosen to capture young people, particularly new university students to the Manchester Science Festival which was held over many locations.

#### **AGREED**

That the report on the Manchester Science Festival be noted and that individual members contact Sally McDonald to offer any support to the festival.

#### **LEP/17/40 MANCHESTER GROWTH COMPANY END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17**

The Board was informed that Manchester Growth Company's (MGC) Business Plan for the 2016/17 financial year was presented to the LEP Board in May 2016. This was followed by a mid-year review of progress to date against Business Plan objectives and targets in January 2017. The purpose of the report was to present to the Board the end of year performance review and to note that a public facing performance review document would also be produced.

The following matters were raised on the report:

- Members queried the level of engagement with SMEs. It was reported that MGC had an ongoing programme in building such relationships which it was hoping to further develop.
- Reference was made to the targets for the apprenticeship programme and it was agreed that further information would be provided in future reports
- Members noted the good works that was taking place and suggested future KPIs should take account of outcomes such as jobs created and uplift to GVA as well as programme outputs
- Members felt that it was fine to have all this activity but what was its impact in tracking productivity.

## **AGREED**

That the Manchester Growth Company's end of year performance report be noted.

**The following items contained matters relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons or organisations. It was therefore agreed that any discussion on these items should not be held in public.**

### **LEP/17/41 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY REFRESH**

This report provides the latest draft of the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) for comment by LEP members. The Board noted that the GMS was subject to approval by the GMCA in July. The GMS Implementation Plan would be prepared and put to the Board in September and members were informed that if they wished they could get involved in developing the GMS Implementation Plan. It was also noted that a public facing document would also be produced.

The following comments were made on the paper:

- The GMS could be more distinctive in showcasing Greater Manchester's unique strengths and assets
- The GMS vision statement was excellent
- There was a need to be clear on ambitions in the public facing document and show direction of travel.

## **AGREED**

1. That it be noted that subject to approval at the July GMCA, a public facing GMS document would be developed to be launched in September/October.
2. That it be noted that an Implementation Plan was being developed, and LEP members be authorised to work with GM officers to develop this plan to be brought back to the September LEP Board meeting.

### **LEP/17/42 NEXT STEPS ON DEVOLUTION ASKS OF THE GOVERNMENT**

This report sets out the proposed approach for engagement with the new Government, the areas where further steps are needed to complete the delivery of the existing devolution deals, and initial thinking on the priorities for GM ahead of the Autumn Statement and any Spending Review.

## **AGREED**

1. To note the approach for engagement with Government and the gaps in the delivery of existing devolution deals.
2. Endorsed the priorities for the Autumn Budget and any Spending Review.

### **LEP/17/43 MANCHESTER GROWTH COMPANY END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17**

Consideration was given to the detailed annexes which support MGC's end of year performance review for the 2016/17 financial year, related to the item at Minute LEP/17/40. The annexes provided details on performance against the strategic and operational priorities contained in MGC's 2016/17 Business Plan and against KPI outcome targets for the year.

**AGREED**

That the report be noted.

**LEP/17/44 GREATER MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

This report sets out progress towards development of an Institute of Technology (IoT) for Greater Manchester.

**AGREED**

1. That the report and the progress made on the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology be noted.
2. That support be given to the establishment of a delivery board to be chaired by Mo Isap to further take the project forward.

**LEP/17/45 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday 18 September 2017

Monday 13 November 2017