

Item No. 3

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the chair)

Andy Burnham, Councillor Richard Leese, Councillor Sean Anstee, Councillor Jean Stretton, Lou Cordwell, David Birch, Richard Topliss, Michael Oglesby, Lorna Fitzsimons, Mo Isap

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths and Vanda Murray

Advisors:

Eamonn Boylan, Simon Nokes, John Holden, Alison Gordon, Phil Swan, Michael Contaldo, David Rogerson and Donna Parker (GMCA); Kevin Lee (Office of the GM Mayor); Mark Hughes (Manchester Growth Company); Steve Warrener (Transport for Greater Manchester) and Jim Taylor (Salford CC)

Apologies:

Nancy Rothwell, Juergen Maier, Fiona Gibson, Monica Brij and Theresa Grant

The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Jean Stretton and Vanda Murray to their first meeting of the GM LEP Board.

LEP/17/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The following interests were declared by LEP Members:

Mike Blackburn declared an interest in the GM Digital Infrastructure Plan (Minute LEP/17/48 refers) by virtue of BT being a supplier in the market. David Birch took the Chair for this item only. Mike Blackburn did not speak or vote thereon.

Mike Blackburn also declared an interest in the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund (Minute LEP/17/49 refers) by virtue of being a Trustee/Director at the Lowry Theatre.

Michael Oglesby declared an interest in the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fun (Minute LEP/17/49 refers) by virtue of being involved with Arts organisations in the City Centre.

Michael Oglesby declared an interest in all items on the agenda by virtue of being involved with the Manchester Science Parks and the Corridor.

LEP/17/47 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2017.

Simon Nokes provided an update on the following:-

Task and Finish Groups – It was reported that four Task and Finish Groups namely digital skills, start-up/scale-up, schools and technical skills challenge had been set up since the last meeting of the GM LEP Board and the Terms of Reference had been agreed. The next step

was to arrange a meeting for the Chair of each of the Task and Finish Groups to meet and discuss progress moving forward.

LEP Foresight Group – The first meeting would be held shortly and would include approx. 30 people. The Board agreed that LEP Strategic Funding of £5k previously allocated to a Contingency Fund at the meeting in January could be used to support the Foresight Group.

AGREED

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the GM LEP Board held on 17 July 2017, be approved.
2. That the update on the Task and Finish Groups and Foresight Group, be noted.

LEP/17/48 GM DRAFT DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report that sought the view of the GM LEP Board on the GM Draft Digital Infrastructure Implementation Plan, as detailed at Appendix A of the report. The draft Plan defined digital infrastructure as fixed connectivity; next generation 5G mobile connectivity and public wifi and was part of the draft GM Strategy and GM Mayoral priority.

The GMCA had stated an ambition for GM to be a 'World Leading Digital City Region' and the Mayor had held a 'Digital & Tech Summit' on 6th July 2017.

To support this the following four 'Digital Infrastructure' priorities had been proposed as part of the draft plan:-

1. Make Greater Manchester a full fibre connected city region as quickly as possible so that we can offer the highest possible fibre to the premises speeds (1Gbps+) to businesses and homes;
2. Place GM at the forefront in the adoption and roll out of next generation 5G mobile technology;
3. Deliver fixed superfast broadband at minimum speeds of 25Mbps across all GM by 2020 to ensure that everyone can participate in the digital world;
4. Deliver ubiquitous wifi across all GM city centres and town centres to support our international and other visitor markets and provide alternative means of digital access for GM citizens and businesses.

A discussion was had on the current position of GM in 'Digital Infrastructure' within the UK and worldwide including existing and potential digital challenges and opportunities.

It was noted that the Mayor's Digital Summit had been very successful and reflected the need for digital infrastructure investment as a prerequisite for sustainable growth. Similarly, the Board recognised that this approach could lead to further investment through leveraging private sector funds.

In conclusion, a private sector led Digital Infrastructure Leadership Group had been established following the Mayor's Digital Summit to finalise the draft Plan following consultation and then oversee its delivery. The final plan would be submitted to the GM LEP Board and GMCA by the end of the year for consideration and agreement prior to implementation.

AGREED

1. That the GM LEP Board agree in principle the priorities set out in the GM Draft Digital Infrastructure Implementation Plan, as detailed at Appendix A of the report.

2. That the Expression of Interest submitted to Government for its Full Fibre Networks Challenge Fund in line with priority to accelerate full fibre investment as set out in the draft implementation Plan, be noted.
3. That the ambitions and actions as detail in the draft Plan are developed further by the Digital Infrastructure Leadership Group informed by the feedback from the Mayors Digital & Tech Summit on 6th July 2017.

LEP/17/49 NORTHERN CULTURAL REGENERATION FUND

Consideration was given to a report that advised that on 4th August 2017 the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) announced a £15m capital fund, 'The Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund' (NCRF) to help towns and cities in the North 'build a lasting regional legacy from the Great Exhibition of the North'.

All eleven Northern Local Enterprise Partnerships were eligible to submit one application of up to £4m each. The Board was presented with a proposed approach to identifying and prioritising one project from Greater Manchester for submission to the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund by the deadline date of 30th November 2017.

The deadline for Strategic Outline Business Cases submission to the GMCA/LEP was 29th September 2017. It was proposed that the selection of the preferred project was based upon appraisal recommendations made by a small panel of 3 LEP Board Members and 3 Leaders that would include Councillor Cliff Morris, Portfolio Lead for Culture, Arts and Leisure. In response, a number of Board members volunteered to sit on the panel.

The Board noted the tight timeline for the submission and suggested existing projects would be in a better position to submit detailed Business Cases.

The Board discussed the potential for this funding to align with the wider regeneration of town centres and the link GM's overarching growth agenda. It was noted that any successful bid should demonstrate how it would provide GM wide benefits.

AGREED

1. That the context and DCMS eligibility for the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund, be noted.
2. That the proposed approach to the project selection process, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, be agreed.
3. That LEP volunteers to sit on the Panel to appraise the bids be contacted by officers with further information.

LEP/17/50 INNOVATE NORTH

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on discussions with Northern partners and InnovateUK to develop a framework to support innovation across the north of England.

It was reported that the Autumn Budget offered a good opportunity to demonstrate that key partners across the North were working more closely together to identify actions around innovation that were best undertaken at a regional level drawing together both local and national priorities.

InnovateUK had suggested that Northern stakeholders send a joint submission into the Budget to specifically highlight this work. It was felt that a joint submission led by the LEPs describing a future collaborative, multi-level approach would send a strong signal to Ministers and demonstrate the potential for delivering a genuinely strategic response to the Industrial Strategy and potential funding opportunities. This would not replace separate submissions by

GM or individual LEPs being submitted. The close date for all submissions to Treasury was Friday 22nd September 2017.

The Board supported the approach detailed within the report and felt that the 'Northern Innovation Competitions' to target 'grand challenges' under each of the four Northern Prime Capabilities would generate new and innovative ideas to take forward. In response, Lorna Fitzsimons gave details on an Alliance Project that had worked similar to increase productivity in a textile environment.

Councillor Richard Leese took the opportunity to invite both Mayor Andy Burnham and Mike Blackburn, GM LEP Board Chair to attend a meeting with the 11 LEP Chairs, Northern Leaders and officers to discuss forming a GM Trade and Investment Body.

AGREED

1. That the work to date to develop a framework to support innovation in the Northern Powerhouse 'Innovation North', be endorsed.
2. That the focus on rationalising the evidence base, bringing innovation leaders together, raising the North's profile internationally in this space, and putting in place a set of innovation competitions, be agreed.
3. That the short submission to the Autumn Budget be sent to the Chancellor from Northern LEP Chairs which outlined the proposed work, as detailed in the annex to the report, be agreed.

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/17/51 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the development of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) Implementation Plan which reflected feedback received from LEP member.

AGREED

1. That the work underway to develop the GM Implementation Plan be noted.
2. That regular updates on the GMS Implementation Plan to future GM LEP Board meetings.

LEP/17/52 SUBMISSION TO THE AUTUMN BUDGET

The Board received and discussed a report on a draft submission to the Autumn Budget on the potential next steps in the devolution of powers and resources to Greater Manchester.

The Board were requested to submit their comments on the content of the report by close of play on Wednesday 20th September 2017.

AGREED

1. That the report and the progress made on the Submission to the Autumn Budget, be noted.
2. That the Board to submit any comments on the content of the report by close of play on Wednesday 20th September 2017

LEP/17/53 LEP FUNDING UPDATE

The LEP noted the progress outlined in the information item LEP Funding Update: 2016/17 Review and 2017/18 Outcomes including Business Growth Hub Funding

LEP/17/54 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 13 November 2017

Monday 15 January 2018

Monday 19 March 2018

Monday 14 May 2018

Monday 16 July 2018

Monday 17 September 2018

Monday 12 November 2018

Monday 14 January 2019

Monday 18 March 2019

Monday 13 May 2019

Monday 15 July 2019

Monday 16 September 2019

Monday 11 November 2019