MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2018 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the chair)
Councillor Sean Anstee, Councillor Richard Leese, Councillor Jean Stretton, GM Mayor Andy Burnham, Nancy Rothwell, Richard Topliss, Fiona Gibson, Monica Brij, Lorna Fitzsimons, Lou Cordwell, David Birch and Michael Oglesby

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths and Vanda Murray

Advisors:

Simon Nokes, John Holden, David Rogerson, Allan Sparrow and Ninoshka Martins (GMCA); Paul Simpson (Manchester Growth Company); Amy Harhoff (Transport for Greater Manchester); Sheona Southern, Simon Donohue and Louise Latham (Marketing Manchester)

Apologies:

Juergen Maier, Mo Isap, Eamonn Boylan, Mark Hughes, Jon Lamonte, Steven Pleasant and Jim Taylor

LEP/18/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The following interest were declared by LEP Members:

Mike Blackburn declared his interest in the item regarding the GM Digital Strategy as British Telecom was a provider of digital services in the UK. He also declared an interest in the item regarding the Digital Strategy Infrastructure Challenge Fund and Implementation Plan. He noted he had not received or read the report itself as British Telecom or Openreach were potential bidders for the provision of these future services. He added that it would not be appropriate for him to be in the meeting when the Challenge Fund and Implementation Plan was being discussed and Lou Cordwell would take the Chair at that point in the proceedings.

Richard Topliss declared an interest in the items regarding The Manchester Growth Company Mid-Year Performance Reports as Chairman of the Manchester Growth Company.

Councillor Richard Leese declared an interest in the items regarding The Manchester Growth Company Mid-Year Performance Reports as Deputy Chairman of the Manchester Growth Company.

LEP/18/02 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Kieran Quinn

The Chair informed the Board of the untimely death of Councillor Kieran Quinn on 25 December 2017. He spoke of Councillor Quinn’s passionate support for the betterment
of both Tameside and Greater Manchester and he would be sadly missed. The Board’s condolences were expressed to Councillor Quinn’s family and friends.

Lou Cordwell

The Board was informed that Lou Cordwell had been awarded an OBE in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours Listed. The Board congratulated Lou Cordwell on her award of an OBE.

LEP/18/03 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017.

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the GM LEP Board held on 13 November 2017 be approved.

LEP/18/04 MATTERS ARISING

Nancy Rothwell reported that the LEP Foresighting Group had been established to look into the future for Greater Manchester in the next 20 years and beyond. It had its inaugural meeting in November to explore the challenges and opportunities of GM’s ageing population.

Chris Oglesby, Chief Executive of Bruntwood had volunteered to chair the group which consists of people drawn from the area’s leading business and academic sectors.

The Board was informed that the second Foresighting Group meeting will focus discussions on the future Artificial Intelligence informed by nationally recognised experts.

The Chair added that papers considered by the Foresight Group would be shared with LEP Members

LEP/18/05 INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which updated Members on the Government’s recent Industrial Strategy White Paper and the proposed approach to develop the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy.

It was reported that GM would use the Greater Manchester Strategy as a platform for its response as it provides a strong evidence base which underpins the broader strategic approach for the city region. GM would also work closely with Government, ensuring that GM’s priorities are reflected in ongoing relationships with key partners and agencies.

The Board highlighted the importance of ensuring that GM businesses are involved in developing the strategy. Reference was made to the GM Green Summit scheduled for 21 March 2018 and the links to the Industrial Strategy.

AGREED
That the contents of the Industrial Strategy White Paper be noted.

**LEP/18/06 GM DIGITAL STRATEGY**

The Board received a presentation on GM’s proposals to become a leading digital city. The presentation focussed on the vision for the strategy, the key indicators & actions as well as highlighting the skills and talents available in GM. Work would commence to develop a transformational digital inclusion programme across GM - building on local approaches and by scaling up the network of Digital Champions as well as encouraging businesses, charities and public sector employees to pledge their support. The Board also noted the timetable for agreeing the strategy.

The Board agreed that GM had the potential to be an exemplar in this area with a clear vision of digital inclusion.

Members noted that wireless accessibility which was an area GM could take a lead on and that there was a need to get employers as well as residents digitally ready. In particular, SME’s (particularly those outside the digital environment) needed to be better engaged.

The strategy would benefit from developing further engagement tools focusing on the diversity of GM’s population and there is a need to make use of the extensive research capacity which already exists in GM universities.

It was felt that GM’s role as a significant digital employer was not always clearly articulated and that this should be reflected in future communications strategy.

The digital strategy should link into existing initiatives such as the City Verve project and Manchester Airport Group’s digital section (MAG-O).

**AGREED**

That the presentation on the GM Digital Strategy be noted.

**LEP/18/07 MANCHESTER CHANNEL**

Consideration was given to a report and presentation that provided an update on what had been achieved so far with the Manchester Channel initiative. The Board welcomed Simon Donohue who had recently been appointed as the Content Curator for The M Drive.

It was reported that the M Drive had been developed to help SMEs to promote themselves as well as larger business organisations. The Board noted that the M Drive could be strengthened by broadening its reach to all parts of the city region to include the full range of GM’s innovative businesses.

The Board also noted the need for GM marketing to look beyond the UK and attract an international audience whilst retaining its distinctive character. This should reflect the region’s unique strengths are the home of both industrial and social innovation, particularly in the centenary year of the Women’s Suffrage movement.

**AGREED**
1. That Marketing Manchester to report back in summer 2018 with a 6 month interim evaluation to enable the consideration of a decision to extend the initiative through to March 2019.

2. That following full evaluation, consideration of funding for the Content Curator for 2019/20 to be presented to the LEP (once LEP funding is known and prioritised). Marketing Manchester was mindful of the need for sustained multiannual Content Curator activity to assess the outcomes of a boost to storytelling and to evaluate how this increases awareness and improves perceptions of Manchester’s key business, cultural and arts sectors.

3. That the initial steering group, be extended as a ‘Content Task and Finish Group’ comprising three/four GM LEP members to support MM to deliver the content plan over the next year and that this group be given delegated authority for the expenditure budget of the remaining £28k budget allocation and review match and future funding opportunities.

**LEP/18/08 GM CONGESTION PLAN**

The Board received a verbal report detailing the GM Congestion Plan objectives, activities to date and how TfGM had engaged the congestion conversation across GM.

**AGREED**

That the verbal update report on the GM Congestion Plan be noted.

**LEP/18/09 GM SKILLS CAPITAL UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report that updated members on the Skills Capital Programme and the process followed for the appraisal of the Stockport/Trafford Merger application for Skills Capital funding. The appraisal of this application had been accelerated to ensure alignment with the Colleges parallel application to the ESFA’s Transaction Unit.

**AGREED**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Chair of the LEP Board, in conjunction with the GMCA, should a decision be needed in advance of the next Board meeting to authorise the merger application for Skills Capital Funding for Stockport and Trafford Colleges.
3. That approval be given to the Programme Management and Contingency funding of £3m.

**LEP/18/10 MARY NEY LEP REVIEW UPDATE**

This item was deferred.

**LEP/18/11 MANCHESTER GROWTH COMPANY MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT**
At its meeting on 15 May 2017, the LEP Board received the Manchester Growth Company’s Business Plan for the 2017/18 financial year. The purpose of this report was to present to the Board a performance review of progress against Business Plan priorities, objectives and targets during the first half of the year (April to September 2017), as part of the agreed LEP reporting cycle. It was noted that there was a lag between the end of the reporting period and when the LEP Board receives the report as the performance figures are firstly reviewed by the Manchester Growth Company’s Advisory Boards and Group Board (in November/December) before a report is brought to the next available LEP Board meeting.

The Board noted the report and queried performance in relation to the number of apprenticeships that had been secured.

AGREED

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a further report on GM’s Apprenticeship performance be brought to the next meeting

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/18/12  GROWTH COMPANY MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

A detailed report was presented to the LEP Board on the Manchester Growth Company’s mid-year performance review for the 2017/18 financial year, this was related to the report covered under Minute LEP/18/11.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

LEP/18/13  GM CONGESTION PLAN PRESENTATION

The Board received a detailed presentation on the GM Congestion Plan’ objectives, activities to date and how TfGM had engaged the congestion conversation across GM.

AGREED

That the presentation be noted.

LEP/18/14  GM FULL FIBRE NETWORKS CHALLENGE FUND BID & THE GM DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

(At this point in the proceedings Mike Blackburn, having declared an interest in this item under LEP/17/02 and declaring that he had not received a copy of the report, left the meeting and took no part in the deliberation or decision taken on the report. Lou Cordwell took the Chair.)
Consideration was given to a report that sought agreement to the approach to Greater Manchester’s bid to the Full Fibre Networks Challenge Fund and agree the GM Digital Infrastructure Implementation Plan.

**AGREED**

That the LEP supports the approach to the GM Full Fibre Challenge Fund bid and the GM Digital Infrastructure Implementation Plan.

**LEP/18/15  PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

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