MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 16 JULY 2018 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Andy Burnham, Councillor Richard Leese, Nancy Rothwell, Fiona Gibson, Monica Brij and Mo Isap

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths

Advisors:

Eamonn Boylan, Simon Nokes, John Wrathmell, David Rogerson, Allan Sparrow and Ninoshka Martins (GMCA); Paul Simpson (Manchester Growth Company); Jon Lamonte (Transport for Greater Manchester); Carol Culley & Pat Bartoli (Manchester City Council) and Simon Donohue (Marketing Manchester)

Apologies:

Councillor Linda Thomas, Councillor Sean Fielding, Lou Cordwell, Juergen Maier, David Birch, Richard Topliss, Michael Oglesby, Lorna Fitzsimons, Vanda Murray, Mark Hughes, Jim Taylor and Louise Latham

LEP/18/33 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded the Board of the necessity of declaring any interests relevant to agenda items and that the Board Register of Interests is due to be refreshed. Officers will contact Board members shortly with the next steps.

Monica Brij declared an interest as a co-opted member of the Board of the LTE Group.

Councillor Leese and Nancy Rothwell declared their interests in the items concerning investment in the translation and industrialisation of diagnostic biomarkers in Manchester.

LEP/18/34 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018.

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the GM LEP Board held on 14 May 2018 be approved.
LEP/18/35 MATTERS ARISING

A. New Members of the Board

The Chair informed the Board that the GMCA had appointed Councillors Linda Thomas and Sean Fielding to the Board in place of Councillors Sean Anstee and Jean Stretton. The Chair welcomed Councillors Linda Thomas and Sean Fielding who were unable to attend the meeting and thanked Councillors Sean Anstee and Jean Stretton for their service to the Board.

B. Full Fibre Broadband and 5G Update

The Board was informed that GM had been successful in securing £23.8m capital funding from the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge fund to connect over 1500 GM Local Authorities, GM Fire and Rescue and with the Health and Social Care Partnership (CCGs) premises/sites across the region.

The aim of this approach was to create a GM fibre broadband spine which could then attract private sector investment to deliver further fibre in GM. The bid was currently going through a procurement process and a more detailed report was going to the GMCA meeting on 20 July 2018 which would look at indicative local capital requirements required to maximise LFFN funding. The programme would be rolled out in 2019.

The Board was informed that TfGM would be working with Districts to develop a single approach to wayleaves and highways works to further support investment by broadband providers.

The Board was also provided with information on the Connected Communities programme which offered the opportunity to bid for funding (up to £100m available) for a 5G test bed programme and GM’s application had been well received. A decision by the Secretary of State was expected by the end of the month.

LEP/18/36 TASK & FINISH GROUP UPDATE: START UP/SCALE UP

Item deferred to the next meeting of the GM LEP Board on 17 September 2018.

LEP/18/37 LEP FORESIGHT GROUP: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the LEP Foresight Group and its most recent meeting exploring the challenges and opportunities of the GM economy presented by artificial intelligence (AI) and data.

It was reported that the Foresight Group had now agreed four key priorities in response to the drivers, challenges and opportunities of the AI agenda including skills and education, infrastructure, funding and communication/branding. Further consideration
will also be given to the role of the human/AI interface and the significance of AI and machine learning in the development of health and social care services.

The Board noted the need for GM to continue developing the city region’s skills base to take advantage of AI.

The Board noted that GM had done more than other areas to develop its digital infrastructure which had been recognised by a number of leading businesses and the arrival of GCHQ, Jaguar Land Rover amongst others was testament to this.

The introduction of 5G will be an important next step in further developing this infrastructure which could leverage further private sector investment.

**AGREED:**

That the views expressed by the Board be fed into the GM Local Industrial Strategy and also fed into current related activity including the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy; the development of the Full Fibre Broadband Programme; and the development of the GM Productivity and Inclusive Growth Programme being delivered by the Growth Company.

**LEP/18/38  GM LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY (LIS) UPDATE**

The Board was provided with an overview of the process to develop the GM Industrial Strategy and updated on the progress made to date. The report also updated the Board on the bidding process for the recently announced Strength in Places Fund.

It was reported that GM wanted to use the LIS process to update the GM evidence base, as it had done successfully via the Manchester Independent Economic Review in 2009. Currently a joint statement was being developed with Government setting out the aims and progress of the LIS – due to be issued in July. Further development meetings were scheduled to take place with government with the intention to have a draft LIS ready for consultation in the autumn and the final LIS agreed by February 2019.

The Board welcomed the input from independent experts in reviewing the evidence base that will underpin the LIS.

It was pointed out to the Board that Local Authorities could not lead bids for Strength in Places funding and therefore the University of Manchester was leading GM’s bid, working with the other Universities. The bid would focus around the health/advanced materials strength identified in the GM Science and Innovation Audit.

**AGREED:**
That the progress to date on developing the GM LIS and the approach being taken to develop a strong GM bid to the Strength in Places Fund be noted.

LEP/18/39  BREXIT IMPACTS

The Board was updated on the latest position regarding the impacts and potential implications of Brexit on Greater Manchester. The Board discussed the lack of clarity from Government regarding the final Brexit deal and the work which had been undertaken to understand the potential impacts on the GM economy. It was reported that once clarity on the Government's White Paper was achieved GM would update its impact assessment.

It was noted that the current White Paper did not make clear the impact any Brexit deal would have on the GM economy including key issue such as the role of the services sector, immigration and labour markets.

AGREED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

LEP/18/40  DRAFT EMPLOYER CHARTER

The Board was informed that the GMS Implementation Plan committed to developing a GM Good Employer Charter which was being developed through a process of co-design.

It was reported that following the publication of an evidence paper and consultation document earlier in the year, further discussions had continued with the expert group which had been convened to help develop the Employer Charter, along with districts, business groups, trade unions, campaign groups, universities and partners.

It was noted that these discussions had developed the proposed approach set out in this report and following feedback from the LEP and other key stakeholders, a draft Employer Charter would be prepared for consultation in the autumn.

The Board was informed that the Employer Charter would not duplicate standards which were already in place but create a framework to develop GM standards.

The Board noted the good progress made with the Employer Charter. Previous research on the GM economy identified the need to boost the proportion of higher value industries to provide better pay, improved working conditions and increased employment security.

A member highlighted the need for the Employer Charter to help drive improved levels of business leadership in GM and it was reported that this issue had been raised during the last round of consultation. The Board also discussed the impact ‘red tape’ might play when trying to encourage employers to sign up to the charter. It was reported that GM was looking at how it could provide support to help employers navigate the wide range of support available and share good practice.
The Board discussed challenges facing the Employer Charter and the fact that larger national/international employers would not be in a position to sign up to it. It was reported that a number of large non Manchester based companies were happy to support the Employer Charter as supporters as they recognised good employers already meet many of the Charter’s objectives.

AGREED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted and welcomed the progress made with the Employer Charter.

2. That the Board be provided with a copy of the consultation document on the Employer Charter for comment in advance of its release ahead in the Autumn.

LEP/18/41 GROWTH COMPANY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a paper that set out the Growth Company’s end of year performance review.

AGREED:

That the end of year performance report for the Growth Company be noted.

LEP/18/42 UPDATING THE CITY CENTRE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

A report was submitted that set out proposals for the City Centre Transport Strategy for Manchester and Salford. Consideration was given to the key challenges and opportunities faced when updating the strategy. It was noted that a public consultation period would commence in August for 12 weeks and it was hoped to have the strategy finalised in 2019.

AGREED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

LEP/18/43 STATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Consideration was given to report that updated the Board on the progress of the Rail Station Partnership. The report also contained information on the work undertaken to date and the proposed work-streams as well as the next steps to follow.

Comments were made that many rail stations in GM were still not accessible to many users and there was a need not only for rail station devolution but could be extended to the devolution of Network Rail in GM. The Board was informed that transport operators had been invited to the Mayor’s Transport Board the following week.
AGREED:

That the update on progress being made with the Rail Station Partnership be noted.

LEP/18/44 INVESTMENT IN THE TRANSLATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION OF DIAGNOSTIC BIOMARKERS IN MANCHESTER

Consideration was given to a report that set out the requirement to support research in biomedical and health science, which was crucial to providing a strong platform for the development of an innovation cluster within the region’s growing knowledge economy. The report also supported key growth sectors within one of the GM LEPs priority economic assets located in the regional core of the LEP economy. The paper was fully aligned with and supported the ambitions and business plans of a wide range of local partners, and would significantly accelerate the pace of economic activity within this priority area for investment, for the benefit of the GM economy as a whole.

AGREED:

That approval be given for Enterprise Zone funding of up to £23.4m to facilitate the development of science and research, as a major driver of key growth sectors in the GM economy.

LEP/18/45 FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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/18/46 GROWTH COMPANY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report that provided a detailed analysis of the Growth Company’s end of year performance report.

AGREED

That the report be noted.
Consideration was given to a report that set out the contractual and commercial arrangements that underpinned the proposal to support research in life science sub-sectors of health and medical technologies.

AGREED

That the proposals for the Life Science Hub and associated new vehicle as set out in the report be endorsed.