MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Councillor Richard Leese, Nancy Rothwell, David Birch, Lou Cordwell, Fiona Gibson, Monica Brij and Richard Topliss

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths and Vanda Murray

Advisors:

Simon Nokes, John Wrathmell, David Rogerson, Allan Sparrow and Ninoshka Martins (GMCA); Paul Simpson (Manchester Growth Company); Jon Lamonte (Transport for Greater Manchester); Sheona Sothern and Louise Latham (Marketing Manchester); Richard Roe and Graig Gaskell (UA92 – Minute LEP/18/51 only)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Andy Burnham, Councillor Sean Fielding, Councillor Linda Thomas, Mo Isap, Lorna Fitzsimons, Michael Oglesby, Eamonn Boylan, Jim Taylor and Mo Isap.

LEP/18/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Richard Leese and Vanda Murray declared their interests as Non-Executive Directors of Manchester Airport Holdings Limited (Minute LEP/18/53 refers).

LEP/18/49 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018.

AGREEED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018 be approved.

LEP/18/50 MATTERS ARISING

A. Made Smarter

The Board was updated on the core themes, objectives and deliverables of the Made Smarter Pilot. It was reported that while the Made Smarter Pilot was led by the Growth Company on behalf of all North West Local Enterprise Partnerships.
In discussion on the objectives, it was reported that a measure of success for the Pilot would be an increase GVA. This would in turn attract new businesses thus increasing regional productivity and encouraging innovation. Members requested that a brief summary of the objectives and outputs of the Made Smarter Programme be circulated for their information (circulated to the board on 19 September 2018).

**LEP/18/51  UA92 PRESENTATION**

The Board received a presentation from Richard Roe (Trafford MBC) and Craig Gaskell (University Academy 92). It was reported that UA92 was a new higher education initiative that brought together the talents of academia, business and sport. UA92 aimed to accelerate careers in media, sport business and psychology with a curriculum inspired by the experience of the Class of 92, developed by Lancaster University and supported by Microsoft. The Board received information on how UA92 would operate and plans for the academy itself.

A number of questions were raised on UA92’s business model and the Board was informed how UA92 intended to raise its profile and attract students.

It was highlighted to the Board that an important element for UA92 future direction was to work closely with local GM communities in to develop GM’s skills base. Improving access to create a pipeline of students was central to the UA92 approach and local partners would be important to deliver this commitment.

It was highlighted to the Board that UA92’s base in Trafford would not only support education but would be a key influence in supporting regeneration and growth programmes in Trafford and across the city region.

**AGREED:**

That Richard Roe and Graig Gaskell be thanked for their informative presentation on UA92.

**LEP/18/52  LEP REVIEW UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report on the recent Ministerial LEP Review - Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnership - exploring reforms to leadership, governance and transparency to ensure LEPs remain independent and private sector led partnerships that are accountable to the communities they support.

Members were advised that GM already complied with the majority of the review recommendations which reflect current GM policy and practice, particularly in regard to geography, representation and transparency. However, there were a number of recommendations that would need to be addressed and Government has committed to provide additional funding to support this process.
The Board noted that GM LEP is in a good position compared to some other LEPs and that this provided a solid platform for the development and delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy.

The Board noted the need to maintain a Board membership representative of the breadth of economic sectors and diversity of the city region’s population. Members were informed that Board membership is due to be refreshed by the end of 2018/19.

AGREED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the review of LEP membership starts immediately.

LEP/18/53 INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

A report was submitted on progress with the implementation of the GM Internationalisation Strategy as well as seeking agreement to the key actions proposed for the next 18 months and the key issues arising, including the potential Brexit impact on its delivery.

The Board was informed that the report was informed by the private sector led Internationalisation and Marketing Board. The Board noted the importance of having a flexible delivery plan particularly in light of the continuing Brexit negotiations.

The Board discussed the importance of building on international relationships, particularly with growing economies such as with China and India to create further investment.

Greater capacity in business engagement would benefit this approach as well as improved promotion of the GM internationally. The role of Manchester Airport was key as an international gateway to Greater Manchester and beyond and needs to be part of a wider, integrated transport network.

Members noted the progress made by the International Strategy and agreed that it is an important tool in driving inward investment and helping to embed GM priorities within wider Government strategy.

AGREED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

LEP/18/54 GMSF AND INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Consideration was given to presentation that updated the Board on the progress being made with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

Members were advised that a further update on the GMSF would be provided at the next Board meeting.

AGREED:
That the contents of the report be noted.

**LEP/18/55 CLEAN AIR PLAN UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report that detailed the timetable and next steps required to progress the outline business case of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.

It was reported that the Government requires local authorities to collect ‘Initial Evidence’ of the NO2 exceedances in each local authority area to determine target areas for action by December 2018. TfGM has been co-ordinating the GM feasibility study on behalf of the GMCA and the ten GM local authorities, working closely with districts, who remain legally responsible for compliance.

The purpose of taking a GM-wide approach was to avoid introducing measures in one part of the conurbation that simply displace NO2 concentrations to other locations, and to ensure that the eventual GM Clean Air Plan complements other GM-wide strategies including the existing GM Air Quality Action Plan and GM Low Emission Strategy.

It was highlighted that diesel run public buses and individual vehicles were a significant contributor to the high NO2 emissions. The Board in noting that many older diesel vehicles were owned by households with lower incomes and that any measures could have a significant impact on those households. Members were advised that further thought was needed on how this issue could be resolved.

Members also welcomed news that GM had been awarded Early Measures Funding to increase the charging infrastructure for Electric Vehicles across GM as part of the GM Clean Air Plan.

The Board also discussed what business could do to help meet the emission targets for NO2. This included flexible working times.

**AGREED:**

1. That the progress on the Outline Business Case for the GM Clean Air Plan be noted.
2. That the Early Measures funding awarded to GM to increase the charging infrastructure for Electric Vehicles and incentivise their uptake, as part of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan be noted.

**LEP/18/56 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Monday 12 November 2018
Monday 14 January 2019
Monday 18 March 2019
Monday 13 May 2019
LEP/18/57 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GM LEP Appointment to the Manchester Growth Company

The Board was asked to approve the reappointment of Vanda Murray to the Manchester Growth Company as a GM LEP representative as her term of office had come to an end.

AGREED:

That Vanda Murray be nominated as one of the LEP’s representatives on the Manchester Growth Company Board.