MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2019 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Councillor Richard Leese, Andy Burnham, Nancy Rothwell, Lou Cordwell, Richard Topliss, Juergen Maier, Monica Brij, Lorna Fitzsimons, Mo Isap and Fiona Gibson

Strategic Chairs:

Vanda Murray and Iwan Griffiths

Advisors:

Simon Nokes, Mark Atherton, Gemma Marsh, John Holden, Lisa Dale Clough, Matt Berry and Ninoshka Martins (GMCA); Mark Hughes (Manchester Growth Company); Simon Warburton (Transport for Greater Manchester)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor Linda Thomas, Councillor David Birch, Jim Taylor

LEP/19/01 CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair informed the Board that Councillor Sean Anstee and Juergen Maier has been awarded a CBE in the 2019 New Year’s Honour list. The Chair on behalf of the Board took the opportunity to congratulate Sean, Juergen and each individual who has been honoured in Greater Manchester.

LEP/19/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard Leese declared his interest in the agenda in the item regarding the Skills Capital update (Minute LEP/19/06) as Manchester City Council has agreed in principle to loan fund LTE capital project. He also declared an interest in the items regarding the Growth Company Performance Update (Minute LEP/19/06) as a member of the Growth Board.

Monica Brij declared her interest in the item regarding the Skills Capital Update (Minute LEP/19/06) as a co-opted member of the Board of the LTE Group.

LEP/19/03 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2018

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018.

RESOLVED:
1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018 be approved subject to the following correction being made; (Minute LEP/18/55) ‘Simon Nokes’ being replaced with ‘Juergen Maier’.

**LEP/19/04 GM LEP MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

The Chair advised the Board that the LEP membership is reviewed every two years for private sector members and that the review began in October/November last year. He thanked members for their engagement and feedback, which would help strengthen the LEP’s work. Members were informed of Michael Oglesby decision to step down as a member of the GM LEP Board due to poor health. The Board wished to send their best wishes to Michael.

In discussing the sector from which a new member should be recruited, members noted the need for the membership to reflect the breadth of the industrial sectors on its Board as well as represent the diversity of Greater Manchester’s people.

**LEP/19/05 THE FUTURE OF GREATER MANCHESTER**

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester introduced a paper setting out the future of Greater Manchester and the wider policy context which will underpin delivery.

The Mayor went on to thank Lou Cordwell for her collaboration in organising the event that saw the launch of ‘The Future of Greater Manchester’ report.

The Mayor reported that a number of policy initiatives had been developed to provide a comprehensive, consistent and radical policy framework setting out a clear vision for the future.

These plans highlight how we will realise Greater Manchester’s priorities with positive outcomes for the people of Greater Manchester being at the heart of this approach. This helps build confidence but also signals the city region’s ongoing commitment to achieving our ambitions.

The draft GM Spatial Framework is a key element of this policy platform and sends a powerful message to potential partners and investors in GM. It was revised to incorporate a wider focus and a more coherent vision, acting as an enabler to deliver aspirations and telling the broader story.

It sets out a long term plan for sustainable development with a focus on brownfield sites for housing or business needs. The Mayor further reported that the plans sets out proposals to reduce Greater Manchester’s carbon emissions alongside a presumption against fracking.

This approach was linked to the Transport Delivery Plan and the wider 2040 vision to develop an integrated transport offer as the complimentary Infrastructure Framework.

This is allied to the Clean Air Plan which aims to reduce pollution and improve the health of the city region’s residents.

He further alluded to the work being undertaken by Stockport Council on the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) covering the Town Centre West area, which focuses on developing a stronger housing and employment offer.
The following comments were made on the paper:

- Members welcomed the report and conveyed positive feedback received following the launch of the report.

- In discussing the investment options for GM, it was suggested that the Combined Authority could look to developing their tourism links and enhancing GM’s offer to support visitor retention.

- The Board noted the importance of linking the GMSF with other initiatives such as the 2040 Transport Strategy as this would provide the necessary infrastructure for GM to develop and build on. Further to that, a member queried as to whether any innovative plans were in place to facilitate travel around Town Centres. Members were advised of processes to develop further transport options to reflect the needs of a 21st century city region.

- Members felt that having an increased focus on culture may be beneficial to improving the long-term retention of GM residents, particularly with an increase in city centre living.

- A member suggested that it would be worth considering the communications policy going forward as this would ensure a clear message is put across not just to the residents of Greater Manchester but also to potential investors.

- Members agreed that consistent GM standards for taxis could improve the experience of GM residents and visitors whilst supporting GM objectives of reducing carbon emission.

- The Board thanked the team at GMCA and TfGM for their work and requested to be kept engaged on future developments.

In conclusion, he thanked the GM LEP Board members for their feedback and stated that the work done as part of GM’s wider strategies laid the foundation for a strong Local Industrial Strategy going forward.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted

2. That the GM Mayor’s thanks be recorded towards Lou Cordwell for organising the launch of ‘The Future of Greater Manchester’ event that was held on 7 January 2019.

LEP/19/06 BREXIT IMPACTS

Consideration was given to a report that updated members on the details of activities being led by the Growth Company to support businesses in preparing businesses for Brexit, as part of a coordinated GM response to Brexit preparedness.
Mark Hughes highlighted a number of key themes within the report particularly the vital role that SMEs play in the GM economy. However, it was noted that a significant number of SMEs have not fully considered the potential impacts of Brexit and the Growth Company had therefore developed a range of initiatives to support businesses as outlined in the report.

Simon Nokes added that the Combined Authority had brought together a range of partners including to explore how they could work with GMCA to prepare for Brexit.

In discussing the potential impacts of Brexit, the Board acknowledged that complex supply chains present a risk to local businesses and therefore it is important that appropriate contingency plans are put in place.

It was suggested that Greater Manchester should engage further with BEIS and DIT to understand the implications Brexit might have on businesses with supply chains extending into the EU.

It was also noted that export rates from Greater Manchester to the EU are higher than the rest of the UK which added an additional risk to be taken into account.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

LEP/19/07 SKILLS CAPITAL

(Richard Leese and Monica Brij declared an interest in the following item)

Consideration was given to a report that updated members on the latest position on the Round 2 applications for Skills Capital funding from Bolton College, LTE Group, Wigan & Leigh College, Oldham College and the Round 1 application from Bury College.

It was reported that a comprehensive appraisal had been undertaken for each of these bids reflecting HMT Green Book principles.

The Board requested that they were kept informed in the event there was a third round of applications.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted

2. That the LEP decision for approval in principle for LTE & Wigan/Leigh College be delegated to the Chair, in conjunction with the GMCA if a decision is needed before the next LEP cycle.

LEP/19/08 NATURAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

(Richard Leese declared an interest in the following item)

Consideration was given to a report that sought feedback on work undertaken by Eftec consultants, funded through the Natural Course project, to define what a Greater Manchester
Natural Capital Investment Plan could contain and suggest actions to promote accelerated investment in opportunities that protect and enhance Greater Manchester’s natural capital.

Members welcomed the report and noted the importance of having a place-based approach and linking with the GMSF rather than working in isolation. It was suggested that GM could seek to develop visible champions with the view to promoting environment friendly practices to businesses.

The Mayor reported that the revised draft of the GMSF highlights stronger protection for green spaces providing an opportunity for businesses to partner in enhancing these areas and attracting further investment.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**LEP/19/09 GROWTH COMPANY PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report that updated Board members on the performance review of progress against the Growth Company’s Business Plan priorities, objectives and targets during the first half of the year (April to September 2018), as part of the agreed LEP reporting cycle.

The Board welcomed the report and noted the progress made on each of the 7 Strategic Priorities. Members further stressed the importance of building on key Greater Manchester initiatives such as the Made Smarter pilot which would pave the way for future development.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**LEP/19/10 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday 18 March 2019  
Monday 13 May 2019  
Monday 15 July 2019  
Monday 16 September 2019  
Monday 11 November 2019

The following item contains matters relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons or organisations. It is therefore proposed that any discussions on this item is not held in public.

**LEP/19/11 LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

The Board received a report that updated members on the emerging framework for the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and findings from the Independent Prosperity Review.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.
LEP/19/12 GROWTH COMPANY PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report that updated members on the Growth Company’s performance review for the 2018/19 financial year.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.