

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD AT 16:00 ON MONDAY 18 MARCH 2019 AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER

Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Councillor Richard Leese, Andy Burnham, Nancy Rothwell, Richard Topliss, Monica Brij, Lorna Fitzsimons, and Fiona Gibson

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths

Advisors:

John Holden, Matt Berry (GMCA), Mark Hughes (Manchester Growth Company) and Simon Warburton (Transport for Greater Manchester)

Manchester University Guest Speakers

Jessica Bowles, Diana Hampson, Professor Luke Georghiou

Apologies:

Apologies were received from David Birch, Lou Cordwell, Vanda Murray, Juergen Maier and Mo Isap

LEP/19/13 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

LEP/19/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard Leese declared his interest in agenda Item LEP/19/19 University of Manchester: North Campus as Manchester City Council has land holdings in North Campus.

Nancy Rothwell declared her interest in Item LEP/19/19 University of Manchester: North Campus and Item LEP/19/20 Commercialisation of Graphene/2D materials as the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester.

LEP/19/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2019

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2019.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2019 be approved
LEP/19/16 Clean Air OBC

Simon Warburton, Transport Strategy Director at Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) introduced the item. The following points were included:

- On 1st March 2019 a paper on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan Outline Business Case (OBC) was taken to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, prior to submitting the OBC to Government.
- Whilst air quality has been generally improving over time, particular pollutants remain a serious concern in many urban areas. These are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and its harmful form nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and particulate matter (PM). Diesel vehicles are the primary source of NO₂ emissions at roadside.
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan is being developed to address nitrogen dioxide exceedances at roadside and takes a Greater Manchester-wide approach to avoid introducing measures in one part of the conurbation that simply displace pollution to other locations, and to ensure that (as far as possible) the eventual package of measures agreed complements other Greater Manchester strategies.
- Following the issue of the Strategic Outline Case in March 2018, a process of refining the shortlisted measures and developing a range of options to reduce NO₂ to within legal Limit Values in the “shortest possible time” across Greater Manchester has been undertaken (overseen by a GM Steering Group).
- The proposals outlined in the OBC introduce a Clean Air Zone with penalties for particular categories of high polluting vehicles in 2021. These vehicles include buses and coaches, heavy goods vehicles, and taxis and private hire vehicles. Private cars are not currently within scope. The proposals introduce penalties for Light Goods Vehicles and minibuses in a later phase (proposed date of 2023), as a longer period is needed for sufficient compliant vehicles to become available and affordable.
- The OBC proposes that the Clean Air Zone is supported by a set of Clean Vehicle Funds and other supporting measures. Engagement work is ongoing with taxi and haulage firms, and with small businesses to understand how different Clean Vehicle Funds and other support could work.
- Public consultation on the proposed Clean Air Plan is expected to commence in May 2019, and a Final Business Case will be produced by the end of the year.

A member asked how enforcement of penalties against non-compliant vehicles will take place. It was clarified that enforcement will use vehicle information stored by the DVLA, and number plate recognition cameras installed on the Strategic Road Network as well as mobile camera units.

A member highlighted the importance of ensuring small businesses are not impacted and that they receive the necessary support.

The network of electric vehicle charging points in the city region will be expanded, although it is unlikely that these can remain free to use indefinitely. There may be options for self-financing the installation of new points in some instances.

RESOLVED:

Members noted and commented on the report submitted to GMCA on 1 March 2019.

LEP/19/17 LEP Annual Delivery Plan

Jessica Bowles from Bruntwood facilitated a discussion around the LEP Annual Delivery Plan.

Members were asked to highlight areas of key successes, and areas for future work/improvement.

Areas of success

- The integration between the LEP and the Combined Authority has been a success in GM, which needs to be maintained.
- The LEP has been integral to numerous successful GM initiatives (e.g. full fibre programme, Made Smarter, digital marketing, manufacturing and textiles programmes, Northern trade and investment work, development of investment funds) – there is a need to make sure that members are kept up-to-date on progress with the implementation of these.
- The development of the local industrial strategy has been a positive experience, with LEP members having active involvement. As part of this the establishment of the GM Foresighting Group has provided new thinking and external challenge. This is continuing to support the implementation of the local industrial strategy.
- LEP Agendas have maintained focus on the work that is most urgently required rather than the 'nice to do's'. The trade off between statutory role of the LEP and getting involved in new projects can be challenging.

Areas for future work/development and improvement

- Issues around productivity and inclusive growth are critical and need to continue to be at the heart of the LEP's work programme. There is the potential for greater focus on how the activities of the LEP benefits all parts of the economy – for instance by looking at frontier and foundational sector – and geographies across the whole city region.
- The importance of the health devolution agenda was raised, and this is something that should be picked up in more detail as part of the implementation of the GM local industrial strategy.
- The problem of gender balance in senior management was highlighted, with few female leaders. There is an opportunity that the LEP could lead on to deliver improved productivity growth by championing diversity.
- In the context of the UK leaving the European Union, there will be a need to identify opportunities, and respond to the challenges, that the new environment creates.
- A greater understanding of the cause and effect of what the LEP does, and monitoring of impact, would be helpful to ensure that LEP meeting time, and member's own time, is used most effectively.
- The 2019 Spending Review is a critical milestone in 2019 and the LEP should have an active role in shaping the GM submission.
- There is a need to facilitate better information sharing and communications to LEP members to ensure that LEP members are aware of the activities being undertaken as part of the wider LEP agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

LEP/19/18 LEP Board Membership Review

It was stated that the current GM LEP Chair was appointed in 2011 and so has served for eight years. With a proposal that they remain in post for a further year to the limit of nine years given the critical stage that the GM local industrial strategy is at and the UK's departure from the EU.

The current board vacancies in the GM LEP will be filled via recruitment with adverts for the positions currently being distributed. LEP members are welcome to pass on names of individuals who may be suitable and eligible to apply. Interviews will be conducted at the end of April with appointments made by the end of May.

The question as to whether GM businesses see themselves as being truly represented by the LEP was raised. It was felt that the board are more reflective of the GM business base and population than has been the case previously, but more work can be done. There is a need to think about how the board is constructed and representation from particularly groups of stakeholders (e.g. colleges, businesses from outlying parts of Greater Manchester and so on).

Action: John Holden to distribute links to the LEP recruitment advert to Members in order that they can issue to interested parties.

Action: An organigram will be drawn up to illustrate the linkages between the LEP and the other related groups and work streams.

RESOLVED:

- All agreed that the Chair (Mike Blackburn) remain in post for a further year
- Members will distribute the advert to their networks to ensure a high quality of candidates.

LEP/19/19 University of Manchester: North Campus

Diana Hampson, Director of Estates and Facilities, University of Manchester introduced the item. She stated that the University of Manchester North Campus is intended to be a World-class 'game changing' innovation community. Development will take place over a 10-15 year period bringing in around 6,000 jobs into the region.

A member noted that when selling the offer that the City Region makes to prospective higher education students that this should be expanded from just being focussed on study opportunities to be reframed to include post graduate opportunities such as employment, housing and generally building a life in the conurbation. The offer of incubation space was discussed with this already being part of the current offer for post-graduate students.

Greater Manchester was stated as being one of four world epicentres in terms of the biggest in textile technology. Building this narrative will help bids for infrastructure funding.

RESOLVED:

Members welcomed the development and the contents of the report were noted.

LEP/19/20 Commercialisation of Graphene/2D materials

Professor Luke Georghiou, Deputy President & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Manchester delivered a presentation to the group.

The following points were highlighted:

- Cutting-edge scientific work continues, centred on the National Graphene Institute
- Over 100 industrial partnerships have been established to date placing £18.5m of research
- Spin-outs and start-ups include 2-D Tech, Nanoco 2-D, Grafine and Atomic Mechanics
- December 2018 HRH the Duke of York opened the Masdar Building for the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC), which includes industrial scale state-of-art equipment
- Three graphene suppliers immediately took up the option of partnership and residence in the building including inward Australian investor
- Plans are being progressed to create the world's first graphene cluster in the city, including:
 - University of Manchester has established a working group with city and business representatives to look for ways to accelerate commercialisation and ensure retention of economic benefits in GM
 - Commissioned international consultancy to advise and their model shows the potential for a £1.2bn contribution to the city region's GVA and 8-11k jobs by 2030.
 - Identified missing elements in GM innovation ecosystem, notably investment capability and recommended initial modest Angel Fund (c.£5m) to develop prospects for a £100m Venture Fund at a later stage
- Follow-up actions include engaging Steer Associates to work with key stakeholders to develop an implementation plan and challenging Manchester's angel investment community to respond – this has been taken up by the Manchester Tech Trust
- Focus is on function ahead of form. Key functions
 - Commercial collaborative development & demos with industry
 - Intellectual property feasibility, fast-tracking to market
 - Direct contract services to market
- GM Industrial Strategy giving weight to positioning as a world leading region for innovative firms to experiment with, develop and adopt advanced materials in manufacturing

A member asked where GM is positioned in terms of Graphene as an intellectual property. It was clarified that around 25 patents are owned, although other countries such as Korea and China have many more. It was stated that GM still has the largest portfolio in terms of the innovative work in this area.

RESOLVED:

Members welcomed the work underway to commercialise Graphene and noted the contents of the report.

LEP/19/21 High Street Fund

An overview was provided of Greater Manchester bids into the Future High Streets Fund was presented. It was highlighted that retail proposals will not be the solution to the changing use of town centres where high street shops have suffered hardship in recent times and that work is underway in all districts to develop a more diversified offer. Housing is expected to play a much larger role in underpinning these areas with a public realm management approach.

The High Street Fund is part of an increasing national focus on issues affecting towns. This has been recently enhanced with the development of the Stronger Towns Fund, which is expected to come on stream in 2021.

RESOLVED:

- That the contents of the report be noted.
- LEP members supported the proposed bids outlined in Section 6 and Appendix 1
- That the outcome of the bids to be taken to a future GM LEP meeting.

LEP/19/22 Skills Capital 2019-20

Members discussed the item which set out a number of applications for Round 2 of the Skills Capital programme.

RESOLVED:

- That the contents of the reports be noted.
- The group agreed to delegate the LEP decision for Approval in principal for Bolton College & Wigan/Leigh College to the Chair, in conjunction with the GMCA if a decision is needed before the next LEP cycle.

LEP/19/23 Growth Company Business Plan

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

LEP/19/24 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 13 May 2019
Monday 20 May 2019 (social meeting)
Monday 15 July 2019
Monday 16 September 2019
Monday 11 November 2019

Action: Explore the benefit and feasibility in swapping the social meeting to the earlier date in May.

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/19/25 LEP Business Investment Strategy

An updated investment strategy for the non-housing funds that are directly managed by the GMCA was provided.

RESOLVED:

- That the contents of the reports be noted.
- The LEP approved the Investment strategy detailed in the report.