Board Members:

Mike Blackburn (In the Chair)

Andy Burnham, Nancy Rothwell, Richard Topliss, Monica Brij, Lorna Fitzsimons, Fiona Gibson, Lou Cordwell, David Birch and Juergen Maier.

Strategic Chairs:

Iwan Griffiths, Vanda Murray

Advisors:

Eamonn Boylan, John Holden, John Wrathmell, Simon Nokes, Lisa Dale-Clough, David Rogerson, Matt Berry (GMCA), Suzanne Jones (CLGU), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company) and Simon Warburton (Transport for Greater Manchester)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mo Isap and Sir Richard Leese

GM LEP/19/26 CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

Update on the Board Away Day

The GM LEP Away Day took place on 13th May

- The session involved a positive wide-ranging discussion. This included future structuring of LEP agendas and highlighting the usefulness of listing the groups that the GM LEP is involved with including linkages and the formal role that the GM LEP play with each.

- The production of a newsletter was discussed, with both internal and external focus of briefing GM LEP and informing partners what the Board are focusing on.

- The Board discussed their focus for the next 6 month period which will help inform the LEP Annual Delivery Plan.
Board Members presented feedback from the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy launch event at the Advanced Propulsion Centre which took place on 16th May. GM is ready to launch its LIS with the LEP Board keen to ensure this happens shortly once a date is agreed with Government.

**Action:** The GMCA to liaise with BEIS to agree a suitable date for the GM launch of the LIS.

**GM LEP/19/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Juergen Maier declared a general interest: From 1st May 2019 he will be Chairman of the Digital Catapult organisation.

**GM LEP/19/28 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2019**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2019.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2019 be approved

**Update of outstanding Actions:**

- Links to the GM LEP recruitment advert were circulated to Members
- The organogram will be reworked following Member comments at the social event on 13th May.

**GM LEP/19/29 Spending Review Submission**

John Wrathmell, Assistant Director Policy & Strategy, GMCA presented the item to the Board. The report sets out what is currently known about the Government’s plans for a Spending Review in Autumn 2019. It also sets out GM’s emerging priorities and the process for developing GM’s detailed Spending Review submission.

The Board noted that transport remains a key priority for the city region and it is important that this is not lost in wider discussion on infrastructure. This covers not just long term, inter-city priorities such as HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail but also more immediate measures focused on improving intra-city transport. This may require both revenue and capital funding along with the devolution of adequate powers to ensure local transport can succeed.

More broadly, the Board suggest that the Spending Review submission should align with the framework laid out in the Local Industrial Strategy as it was supported by a clear evidence base in the Independent Prosperity Review.
GM LEP/19/29 GM LEP Business Plan

John Holden, Assistant Director Policy & Strategy, GMCA presented the item to the Board. The 2018 national LEP Review set out that LEPs are required to publish an annual delivery plan. The aim of this document is to set out key actions and performance indicators to assess the impact of their Local Industrial Strategy, funding and interventions. There is a requirement to publish this by the end of May 2019.

It was noted that this Delivery Plan does not supersede existing plans including the Greater Manchester Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy but highlights the key priorities of the LEP as required by the LEP Review.

The Board suggested that it would be useful to have a full report on the progress of the LGF funded projects set out in the draft plan. It may also be useful to include case studies of key projects to demonstrate impact and the positive results of devolved funding.

RESOLVED

- GM LEP Commented and noted the draft 2019/20 GM LEP Delivery Plan;
- GM LEP Delegated the authority to the Executive Director for Strategy & Policy to finalise the Delivery Plan, in consultation with the Chair of the GM LEP;
- GM LEP agreed that the final GM LEP Delivery Plan should be published on the GM LEP website by the end of May.
- A report on the LGF Programme to be brought to a future LEP Board meeting

GM LEP/19/30 Skills Capital - Part A

Simon Nokes provided an update on the next round of Skills Capital funding decisions which are focused on improving college infrastructure in GM (Oldham College and an update on the recommencement of the Bury Skills Capital project).

The Board noted the importance of quality careers advice in schools, particularly with intervention at the right age utilising private sector expertise. This helps young people get a clearer picture of their opportunities which may not be available without business input as well as allow employers to prepare young people for the world of work.

However, challenges remain with a fragmented skills system that does not always reflect the needs of the developing GM economy. Any skills gap could potentially act as a barrier to further investment with business looking to areas with a more developed skills base. In particular, the Board highlighted the importance of apprenticeships as a pathway to work and noted the activity of devolved skills and employment programmes in aiming to boost apprenticeship numbers.

Action: A report on the GM Skills and Employment System to be brought to a future LEP Board meeting
RESOLVED:

- That the report be noted
- Delegate the GM LEP decision for Approval in Principal for Oldham College & re-commencement of Bury College to the Chair in conjunction with the GMCA.
- GM LEP agree to launch the remaining Skills Capital allocation for a final round.

GM LEP/19/31 Local Growth Deal (1, 2 and 3) – Six Monthly Transport Progress Update – TfGM

Simon Warburton, Transport Strategy Director, TfGM updated the Board on the latest 6 monthly summary which gives an indication of progress against major transport schemes, minor schemes and additional works.

The update identifies good progress across the breadth of the programme with a number of schemes in delivery or nearing completion.

Two areas of challenge were identified at Stockport Interchange and Salford Central Train station.

The Stockport scheme was paused to accommodate the development of a mixed used residential scheme but is now back on track. Similarly, TfGM has been working with the rail industry to develop the platform proposals at Salford Central Station to mitigate any delays to delivery. Network Rail has advised that the design and delivery of the Network Rail renewal scheme on platforms 1 and 2 will be undertaken in the next investment period from 2019 to 2024, starting in spring 2019.

GM LEP/19/31 Future Meetings

Monday 15 July 2019
Monday 16 September 2019
Monday 11 November 2019
1. GMS Implementation Plan Update - Part B

Simon Nokes updated the Board on the 6 monthly update on the GM Strategy which gives a narrative on achieving key targets in the City Region. The activities are rated based on whether they are on track to be achieved by 2020. This will be taken to the next GMCA meeting for discussion.

RESOLVED:
That the report be noted

2. Skills Capital - Part B

The Board noted the Part B report setting out the detailed financial background to the Part A report.