

**BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 18th May 2016, CWaC HQ, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NP**

**Present:**

Christine Gaskell (Chair) Howard Hopwood Cllr Samantha Dixon

Louise Morrissey Clare Hayward Robert Mee

Nigel Schofield Ged Barlow Martin Ashcroft

Prof Tim Wheeler Meredydd David

**Apologies:**

Cllr Rachel Bailey Robert Davis Pete Waterman

Cllr Terry O’Neill Jamie Christon

**Attending / Observing:**

Philip Cox (LEP Chief Executive) Andy Farrall Andrew Ross

Charlie Seward Katrina Michel

**Agenda Item 1: Apologies and Introductions**

* 1. Apologies were received from Cllr Terry O’Neill, Cllr Rachel Bailey, Robert Davis, Pete Waterman, Jamie Christon

**Agenda Item 2: Conflicts of Interest**

2.1 No conflicts of interest were declared.

**Agenda Item 3: Public Presentation**

3.1 No members of the public asked to address the Board.

**Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st March 2016**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of 31 March were accepted as a true and correct record.

4.2 All the actions had been discharged and there were no matters arising.

**Agenda Item 5: Chief Executive's report**

5.1 The Chief Executive took members through his report and invited Andy Farrall to update the Board on discussions with Central Government about devolution. Members agreed that in the event of a devolution deal, the Board would play an important role in explaining it to the business community.

5.2 In discussion a number of other points were made about the Chief Executive’s report:

* Howard Hopwood said he was concerned that the LEP was not devoting sufficient resources to communication and stakeholder engagement. The Chief Executive said that the LEP devotes £150,000 per annum to this activity, around 12% of its budget, and that other budgets would need to be reduced to accommodate any additional spending.
* Andy Farrall commented that it was important that the Strategic Economic Plan is updated to ensure that it is reflected in the forthcoming update of the Warrington Local Plan.

**Agenda Item 6: Review of Delivery of the Local Growth Fund**

6.1 Kerry Billington introduced her review of the delivery of projects funded via the Local Growth Fund, highlighting early successes such as the progress with the new Chester bus station, and early investments made by the Life Science Fund.

6.2 In discussion the following points were made:

* The Board asked how C&W’s delivery performance compared with other LEPs.
* It is important to recognise the role that Place Teams have played in shaping projects.
* It was agreed that the LEP should work with Place Teams to help them understand how to develop projects that could attract funding via the LEP.

**Action:**

1. **Kerry Billington to provide a note for the next meeting of the Performance and Investment Committee setting out the LEP’s delivery performance relative to that of other LEPs.**
2. **Executive team to use the forthcoming CWaC Development Board conference to begin a dialogue about how the Place Teams can engage with the LEP to develop their areas.**

**Agenda Item 7: Board Sub-committee Updates**

7.1 Ged Barlow as Chair of the Performance & Investment Committee, Robert Mee as Chair of the Enterprise Zone Board, and Philip Cox on behalf of Robert Davis as Chair of the Strategy Committee, summarised the recent work undertaken in their committees. Minutes of the meetings of these committees held since the last full Board meeting were circulated with the papers for the Board meeting.

**Agenda Item 8: Any other business**

8.1 Charlie Seward briefed the Board on the recent meeting with the Chancellor about a Growth Deal for North Wales. Samantha Dixon and Charlie Seward had represented the LEP at the meeting. Charlie said that the Chancellor had invited parties back for a further meeting after the summer.

**Agenda Item 9: Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

• 4.30pm-6.30pm, 13h July 2016, venue to be confirmed

**Summary of Actions:**

1. **Kerry Billington to provide a note for the next meeting of the Performance and Investment Committee setting out the LEP’s delivery performance relative to that of other LEPs.**
2. **Executive team to use the forthcoming CWaC Development Board conference to begin a dialogue about how the Place Teams can engage with the LEP to develop their areas.**