**LEP Strategy Committee**

**MINUTES**

Meeting Held: Thursday 20th April 2017,

The Base, Warrington

**Present:**

Robert Davis (Chair) Philip Cox Pete Waterman

Charlie Seward Andy Farrall Robert Mee

Nigel Schofield Carol Young Andy Hulme

**Apologies:**

Louise Morrissey Frank Jordan

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Robert Davis welcomed members to the meeting. An Apology had been received from Louise Morrissey and Frank Jordan (represented at the meeting by Carol Young).

**Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes, Actions and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2017 were approved.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Agenda Item 4: Strategy Work Programme Update**

The contents of the report were noted.

Andy Hulme provided an overview of the work undertaken on the SEP since the March meeting. It was confirmed that further detail to expand on key areas of the strategy will be contained in specific delivery plans which will cover: transport, skills, energy, quality of place, digital, housing and science and innovation. The first four of these will be completed by the end of October 2017.

Philip Cox confirmed that due to Purdah requirements, publication of the SEP will be held back until after the general election. The intervening period will be used to make final amendments to the drafting, write the Executive Summary and undertake some design work to produce a finished version.

The Committee discussed the draft, and welcomed the progress that had been made. The discussion highlighted some further areas for consideration in the final draft, including: -

* A short series of ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ would be helpful for Board members to highlight key features of the SEP and how it is relevant to different sectors
* More explicit acknowledgement of BREXIT and the potential implications for the sub-regional economy
* More explicit reference to how growing the economy can support efforts to tackle deprivation
* Drawing out the importance of delivery plans reflecting the needs of the economy and business, especially in terms of skills
* The potential for further work to look at how technology might shape the economy by 2040
* Recognising that the key factors in providing business confidence could be grouped as ‘labour’, ‘productivity and technology’ and ‘connectivity and trade’

There was a discussion on the areas of focus within the Skills Strategy which is currently under development. It was agreed that a presentation by the LEP’s Employment and Skills Manager would be of value.

**Action: Pat Jackson (LEP Employment and Skills Manager) to be invited to the next meeting of the Strategy Committee**

**The recommendation that: ‘*The Committee approve that the current working draft of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) be submitted to the April LEP Board for consideration with a recommendation that it be adopted’*, was approved**.

**Agenda Item 5: Any other business**

It was noted that Robert Davis, Nigel Schofield and Louise Morrissey were all stepping down from the LEP Board at the end of their current terms. Andy Hulme expressed his appreciation for their support and input to the Strategy Committee.

**Date, Time and Venue of next meeting.**

Next meeting to be arranged post General Election.