



**LEP Strategy Committee  
MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
Wyvern House, Winsford

**Present:**

Robert Mee (Chair)  
Charlie Seward  
Andy Hulme

Stephen Kinsey  
Graeme Bristow

Philip Cox  
Andy Farrall

**Apologies:**

Robert Davis

Frank Jordan

**Attending:**

John Adlen

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**Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Robert Mee welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Frank Jordan (represented by Carol Young), Steve park (represented by Andy Farrall) and Robert Davis.

**Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

Stephen Kinsey declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 as Addleshaw Goddard represents one of the parties involved (though he is not personally involved). Charlie Seward declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 as CWAC is a potential party to the project.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were agreed.

**Agenda Item 4: Presentation – Warrington Means Business**

Andy Farrall gave a presentation on the ongoing work to refresh Warrington’s economic growth strategy – ‘Warrington Means Business’. The previous version had been published in 2016 and a refresh is being undertaken to ensure that the strategy reflects the changing context locally and sub-regionally.

One of the key outcomes from the refresh will be to address the demand for land for housing and employment including reflecting the findings of the LEP Housing Strategy research which highlighted the need for higher levels of town centre residential accommodation.

Warrington has undertaken extensive updates to the policy framework supporting Warrington Means Business, including the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan.

The revised strategy also includes a strong focus on culture and quality of the environment, including increasing opportunities for sustainable transport.

The Committee expressed its thanks to Andy for his informative and comprehensive presentation.

### **Agenda Item 5: Strategy Update**

The contents of the report were noted.

The format of the draft Delivery Plan was discussed. It was noted that there was still work to do in terms of allocating owners to individual actions (including which of these might sit outside of the LEP) and to pull out a summary of those actions that were due for completion in the current financial year. Some actions also require sharpening up in terms of focus.

It was noted that the LEP's Digital Strategy has been finalised. The Committee supported the proposal that rather than a more 'traditional' summary document that a more interactive, digital version be trialled.

***Action: AH produce and circulate a final version of the Delivery Plan for comment by the July meeting along with a summary of 2019/20 actions.***

### **Agenda Item 6: Local Industrial Strategy**

Andy Hulme provided an update on progress.

Work is progressing across a series of workstreams to develop a clear vision and set of priorities and interventions for the LIS.

Cheshire and Warrington is still on track for a submission to Government for consideration at the end of July. In advance of that a series of 'Policy Positions' are being drawn up aligned to the workstreams which will be used to support specific discussions with individual Departments within Government. In order to allow the Strategy Committee to have a meaningful opportunity to review and comment on the emerging draft LIS it was agreed that a further private session of the Strategy Committee would be arranged for the end of June.

It was noted that the West Midlands LIS had been published and that the GM LIS is due for release in June.

***Action: AH to arrange a further private session of the Strategy Committee for the end of June.***

### **Agenda Item 7: Evergreen II**

The contents of the report were noted.

The proposal relates to the establishment of a specific Cheshire and Warrington Evergreen Fund. Due to national and European restrictions, interest from the original Evergreen Fund cannot be used for purposes outside that Fund. The proposed new Fund, whilst self-financing in terms of running costs in the longer term will not have sufficient income at the outset to cover the cost of procuring and commissioning a Fund Manager.

It was noted that whilst the composition of the Board to oversee the Fund has still to be finalised, there would be representation for each of the local authority partners and the LEP.

The Strategy Committee confirmed that it would be content, in principle, for up to £200k of retained Business Rates to support the first two years running costs of the Fund but also noted that formal spending approval would be requested following the completion of the tender process for the fund manager.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Government Announcements**

Further to a query raised at the previous meeting, John Adlen confirmed that having reviewed the criteria around University Enterprise Zones, these did not appear to offer any significant benefits over and above those available in the existing EZ, and would therefore be of limited value.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Low Carbon Energy Innovation Fund**

The Committee approved the recommendations set out in the report on proposed priorities for deployment of £4.15m of Local Growth Fund via the LEP's Low Carbon Innovation Fund. Criteria for bidding to the Fund will now be drafted and a first round of calls for projects issued via the LEP website in June 2019.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Growing Places Fund**

This Agenda Item was discussed under Part B of the Agenda, and as such a separate non-public minute of the discussion has been produced.

#### **Agenda Item 11 – any Other Business**

There were no items raised under AOB.

#### **Agenda Item 12 – Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Next public meeting: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 9:00am, Wyvern House.