



**LEP Strategy Committee
MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: 12th July 2019
Room G1, Wyvern House, Winsford

Present:

Robert Mee (Chair)
Charlie Seward
Peter Skates

Stephen Kinsey
Robert Davis
Andy Hulme

Philip Cox
Steve Park

Apologies:

Graeme Bristow

Claire Heyward

Frank Jordan

Attending:

Roy Newton

Matthew Waterhouse

Richard Salmon

Agenda Item 1: Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting, in particular Peter Skates, who has recently joined Cheshire East Council as Director of Growth and Enterprise.

Apologies were received from Claire Heyward, Graeme Bristow and Frank Jordan.

Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest

Charlie Seward, Peter Skates and Steve Parks all declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 17th May 2019 were agreed (subject to amendment of the date shown on the draft minutes). All matters arising had been addressed or else where covered on the agenda.

It was noted that the Energy Innovation Fund has been launched and has a closing date of 16th August 2019.

Agenda Item 4: Public Speaking Time

Matthew Waterhouse and Richard Salmon spoke on behalf of the A51 Group – which represents Parish Councils along the route of the A51, between Nantwich and Chester. The Group was keen for the Committee to understand the impact on local communities of continued traffic growth along the route of the A51, which is increasingly used as an alternate to the M6 by cars and HGVs.

Whilst appreciating that funding for a study into improvements to the A51 is not in the first tranche of proposed schemes under Agenda Item 7, they are keen for funding to be secured LEP in the near term.

The Chair thanked Mr Waterhouse and Mr Salmon for their contributions.

Agenda Item 5: Strategy Update

The contents of the report were noted.

It was confirmed that Digital Strategy has been completed and work is progressing to produce a digital, interactive summary of the strategy. Work is also underway on one of the key outcomes of the strategy – the development of a Digital Infrastructure Plan for the sub-region.

The Science and Innovation Strategy is substantially complete and is on target for publication at the end of July.

An updated version of the Strategy Programme Delivery Plan was discussed. The changes from the initial draft were welcomed, although it was noted it will have to be further updated once the LIS is completed. It was suggested that the plan could be included with the Board papers.

Action: AH to provide copy of the Strategy Programme delivery Plan for inclusion with the LEP Board Papers.

Agenda Item 6: Local Industrial Strategy

Andy Hulme provided an update on progress.

The engagement programme has now concluded after in excess of 30 events. Work is progressing well on producing Policy Proposition Papers for each of the LIS workstreams and the first four of these have been submitted informally for feedback from BEIS. The remaining papers will be submitted in the next 7 – 10 days and these will then form the basis for further discussion on policy priorities with Government.

The LIS will then be developed in conjunction with Government with an expectation of publication in the autumn.

Agenda Item 7: Criteria for Developing Business Case Criteria

Roy Newton, LEP Director of Transport and Investment presented the report.

In order to build a pipeline of schemes that are ready in the event additional infrastructure funding is made available by Government, the LEP Board has agreed to allocate up to £400,000 per year of funding for business case development.

The fund is available to support development of a range of projects, not just transport, however there is a need to ensure there is clarity on how schemes are prioritised, and funding allocated.

At the headline level it is recommended that projects are prioritised on the basis of: -

- The extent they can demonstrate strategic fit of the proposal against sub-regional strategies and priorities;
- The degree to which the study/business case has routes which have a good chance of securing government/3rd party funding for delivery;
- The amount of funding towards the study/business case development by scheme promoters;
- The degree to which the study/business case is likely to deliver a scheme which offers good value for money

The Committee discussed the need to balance support for schemes that were ready for funding in the short term, and also those which are priorities but will take longer to deliver. The commitment of further funding would be subject to a defined framework for assessment for projects, initially considered by the Growth Directors but subject to agreement by the LEP Strategy Committee.

The Recommendations in the report were approved, namely: -

- i. Agree the assessment criteria for prioritising the funding, subject to any changes agreed by the Committee;
- ii. Agree to only allocate £200,000 of the £400,000 available for this year at this time to give more time for non-transport proposals to come forward;
- iii. Provide provisional approval for funding to be allocated to the three initial projects subject to the development of more briefs:
 - a. £75,000 contribution to the Crewe Hub Access Package Business Case development;
 - b. £75,000 contribution to the Winnington Hill /Bridge Corridor Study;
 - c. £50,000 contribution to the Warrington Last Mile – Town Centre Masterplan;
- iv. and d. Delegate agreement of the detailed briefs and final approval of the three initial schemes to the Chief Executive Officer of the LEP in consultation with the Chair of Strategy Committee.

Agenda Item 8: Government Announcements

It was noted that both Crewe and Winsford Town centres have been successful in securing initial funding from the Future High Streets Fund and will now progress to the next stage of the programme.

Agenda Item 9 – Part B Agenda Items

There were no items for consideration under Part B (non-public)

Agenda Item 10 – any Other Business

There were no items raised under AOB.

Agenda Item 12 – Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next public meeting: Friday 20th September 2019, 9:00am, Wyvern House.