



**LEP Strategy Committee  
MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
Wyvern House, Winsford

**Present:**

Robert Mee (Chair)

Charlie Seward

Stephen Kinsey

Steve Park

Philip Cox

Andy Hulme

**Apologies:**

Clare Hayward

Robert Davis

Graeme Bristow

Pete Waterman

Frank Jordan

**Attending:**

N/A

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**Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Robert Mee welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Robert Davis, Clare Hayward, Pete Waterman, Frank Jordan and Graeme Bristow.

**Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were declared.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were agreed. All actions were completed or covered under the Agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Strategy Update**

The contents of the report were noted.

It was considered that further work was need to ensure that the key messages and priorities in the **Digital Strategy** are coming through strongly enough.

The Committee discussed the potential for closer working at the sub-regional level to drive forward the digital agenda and understanding how we create smarter places and smarter businesses. It was agreed that options should be developed for the creation of a specific working group off the back of the Strategy to take the agenda forwards.

***Action: AH to review and revise the Digital Strategy and re-circulate for comment, including options for creation of a Digital Working Group.***

### **Agenda Item 5: Local Industrial Strategy**

The contents of the report were noted.

It was confirmed that the session held on 14<sup>th</sup> December to review the emerging evidence base was very positive, with the Committee expressing confidence in the work undertaken to date and the initial emerging messages.

The Committee discussed the insights work that has been developed as a follow on from the LIS evidence base.

It was acknowledged that because of the nature of ONS data, and also the issue that some measures (e.g. GVA per hour worked) are not available at the sub-regional level on a sector basis, further work was required to better understand what is happening in certain key sectors. For example, this is being addressed in part through a more detailed deep dive into the logistics sector by ESRC, funded by BEIS which we hope will help identify some of the root causes for productivity underperformance across a number of sectors.

The Committee discussed the purpose of the 'position statement', confirming that this is to be used to start the wider engagement process, pulling together the key headlines from the evidence base and insights pack. It will be an opportunity to ask for further local evidence or data to provide further insight and granularity. It was made clear that whilst initial focus may be on a small number of specific sectors, the intention is to surface issues that may be cross-cutting to the whole economy. However it was suggested and agreed that the term 'position statement' could be misleading and as such referring to the document as an 'update report' or similar might be more appropriate.

It was noted that the engagement programme is now ramping up with the first of a series of larger scale events taking place at the end of January.

The Committee was supportive of the work undertaken to date and the proposed next steps.

***Action: Draft update document to be shared with the wider Board.***

### **Agenda Item 6: Government Announcements**

It was noted that the Future High Streets Fund was launched before Christmas. This is a Fund targeted at Local Authorities (as opposed to the LEP) to support them to develop plans to make their towns and high streets fit for the future.

LEP has been advised that its bid to form a Digital Skills Partnership has been positively received but a formal announcement is still awaited.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Any Other Business**

Noted that the LEP is looking to ensure that up to date and easily accessible information on Brexit planning is available on the Business Growth Hub website. Further thinking on this is also being undertaken at the NP11 level.

Committee discussed the potential for the British Business Bank to offer effective support to business needing to invest to prepare for leaving the EU. It was agreed to raise the matter with BEIS.

***Action: AH / PC to raise with Martin Wood (BEIS)***

### **Agenda Item 8 – Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 9:00am, Room G2, Wyvern House.

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