

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday 20th January 2020

Present: Councillor Steve Parish (Chair), Tracy Walsh, Catherine Barber-Brown, Helen Nellist and Cllr Paul Donovan.

Also In Attendance:

- Philip Cox – Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Ian Brooks – Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Paul Clisby – Warrington Borough Council (secretariat)
- Sharon Parker – Warrington Borough Council (secretariat)

1. Appointment of Chair

It was **agreed:**

Cllr S Parish be appointed Chair and Helen Nellist Deputy.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Brian Roberts (Cheshire East).

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 7 March 2019 were received as a correct record.

5. Feedback on the actions following the last meeting

Discussion on the appointments process for the Committee.

6. General Governance/Constitutional Matters:

Agreed:

- (1) The Chief Executive of the LEP would seek nominations from the smaller business community to ensure a blend of membership on the Committee. Appointments would be revisited after one year.
- (2) Informal meetings to be held at 1pm in advance of the main meeting at 2pm.
- (3) Quorum to remain at 4 but there should be one representative from each sector present (Local Authority, business and smaller business community).

Noted:

- (1) £25k would be set aside from April 2020 to enable the Committee to commission work as appropriate.
- (2) Access to information – all board papers were publically available. Dates of meetings were to be forwarded to committee members.

7. Review of the Implementation of Strategic Economic Plan/LIS in full – Presentation

The Committee received a presentation on the above. Information was provided on:

- Review of Strategic Economic Plan
- Background to Local Industrial Strategy
- Approach to Cheshire and Warrington's Local Industrial Strategy
- Key messages
- Timescales to completion

Questions were asked as appropriate by the Committee Members.

8. Review of Progress of the Programmes that the LEP manages

The Committee received a presentation from Rachel Laver on the above.

- The LEP had received £127m of Local Growth Funding (LGF).
- Funding was allocated to specific projects rather than a pot of funding allocated at the LEPs discretion.
- Three main themes were – Transport, Skills and Energy.
- Schemes tended to be enabling schemes that helped open up development and create jobs and housing.
- Detailed information was provided on the allocations over the period 2015/16 to date together with key outputs and the current financial position.

9. Public Participation

To receive questions from members of the public in accordance with Governance Procedure Rule 6. A total period of 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at Panel meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking.

No questions were received.

Discussion on how easy was it for the public to engage and how involved were they in other committee meetings of the LEP?

10. Work Programme

Agreed

A work programme be drafted up and shared with the committee members in advance of the next meeting. The programme would initially commence with those items identified in the term of reference. In addition the committee identified the following topics which may be items that could be added.

- (1) Merging of the European funding and Local Growth Fund by the end of 2021 – how will this be spent, scale and prioritised, particularly on the disadvantaged in the area?
- (2) How does the LEP ensure that there is equality in spend/spread of monies reflecting deprivation wards and disadvantaged areas. What is the oversight for this?
- (3) What is the LEP budget compared to the Regional Development Agency?
- (4) Devolution – how would this work with mayoral combined authorities?
- (5) Understanding of the work programmes of other committees to avoid duplication.
- (6) Brexit – What is the impact of this?
- (7) Unhealthy growth – How does the LEP Board ensure that growth is Healthy for the C&W population
- (8) Understand how the actions and investments underway/planned/funded map against the LIS?

11. Future Meeting Dates

Decision – To note the following schedule of meetings, commencing at 2.00pm, at Wyvern House.

Dates for 2020/2021:

- 5th March, 4th June, 3rd September, 3rd December 2020.

12. Part II – Matters to be discussed in private

Nil