



Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 26 January 2022

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Via Teams link on calendar invite

Chair: Councillor Laura Crane from Cheshire East Council

Membership: Catherine Barber-Brown, Tracey Walsh, Helen Nellist, Councillor Paul Donovan (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and Cllr S Parish (Warrington Borough Council)

Small Business Group (ex officio members) – Phil McCabe and Rob Mckay.

Officer Contact: Sharon Parker, Democratic Services Manager (Statutory Scrutiny Manager)
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AGENDA

	Agenda Item	Lead	Timings
Open Meeting - Items during the consideration of which the meeting is expected to be open to members of the public (including the press)			
1.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	2.00 pm
2.	Declarations of Interest	Chair	2.00 pm
3.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 08 September 2021	Chair	2.05 pm
4.	Items Raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Chair / Sharon Parker/LEP Officer	2.15 pm
5.	Digital Connectivity Board Presentation	I Brooks/ Nicola Dunbar	2.30 pm
6.	LEP Board Minutes – Committee are invited to review the board minutes and identify areas for review.	I Brooks	3.15

7	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Members of the Public may speak on any matter relating to the work of the Committee. During public speaking time, members of the public may ask questions of the Committee and the Chairman in responding to the question may answer the question, may decline to do so, may agree to reply at a later date or may refer the question to an appropriate person or body.</p> <p>Questions will be asked and answered without discussion. In order for officers to undertake any background research, members of the public who wish to ask a question at a Committee meeting should submit the question at least a day before the meeting.</p> <p>Members of the public are to be able to put questions direct to the Committee via social media platform Twitter: @candwlep</p>	LEP Officer	3.30pm
8	<p>Work Programme – Attached – please see in conjunction with item 4.</p> <p>To agree the annual work programme for 2021</p>		3.45
9	AOB		
10.	<p>Proposed - Future Meeting Dates (2pm)</p> <p>April – Wed 6th</p> <p>July – Wed 6th</p> <p>Oct – Wed 5th</p>	Chair	3.55 pm
Part II - Matters to be discussed in private			
11.	Nil		

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday 8th September 2021
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

Present: Chair Cllr Laura Crane

Cllr Paul Donovan, Cllr Steve Parish Tracey Walsh, Catherine Barber-Brown, Yvette Hastings, Rob McKay, Phil McCabe

Also In Attendance:

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

70. Apologies

Apologies were received from Helen Nellist.

71. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

72. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 2nd of June 2021 were received as a correct record.

73. Centre for Public Scrutiny Review – Recommendations for Actions

The Committee were updated on the findings of the Centre for Public Scrutiny Review on the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The seven recommendations were discussed in turn with the following actions

Rec1	To develop a deeper training & induction plan for committee members	<p>Training in general – picked up via the presentations that were given at each meeting.</p> <p>Additional skills such as questioning skills could be provided via the CfPS but also look at case studies of good scrutiny and how they did else where? SP to look at.</p> <p>Task & Finish Group to look at training including induction – interest from Chair and CBB – discuss at Dec meeting.</p>
Rec2	To increase the importance and prominence of work programming and member involvement in its development	Review work programmes of each individual body so not missing potential areas and try and have forward visibility of what is coming up. Go back through to see if there is anything missing and also review the current work programme of the Committee to see if anything can come off.
Rec3	To build relationships between the main board and scrutiny committee	Members of the Board are attending the Scrutiny Committee (Two attended the September meeting). The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee is also attending the Board meeting
Rec4	To trial task and finish groups	Potentially going to set up a Training and Induction Task & Finish Group.
Rec5	To consider membership of the committee, increasing the challenge it provides	Have already reviewed and increased the small business sector but what about the larger business sector, third sector and pressure groups such as health watch?
Rec6	To consider formalising the feedback loop	Committee very keen to be note where the committee have identified an area of concern and see what the impact of this has been.
Rec7	To assess recommendations and actions in a year	Review in 12 months.

74. Business Growth Board

Alice Choi and officers provided an overview of the Business Growth Committee:

- **Relevant support officers and structure**
- **Progress over the last year including** – new chair/members, more strategic approach, peer network responsibility, Covid business recovery strategy, commissioned work on improving export and leading work on investment and expansion.
- **Responsibilities and decisions** – oversight of Growth Hub, Business Growth Strategic Leadership, mechanism to support strategic vision and leadership, matching business demand to the supply of business support and ensuring strong private sector leadership/representation and public sector support.
- **Selected 2021/22 KPIs**
- **Key themes of healthy, sustainable, inclusive and growing which were split into goals under each theme.**

Further work requested by the Committee

Ref 21/09 1

How do you know what the impact has been? Can a KPI tell you this? What is the quality of support provided to businesses?(CBB)

75. Employers Skills and Education Board

The following points were noted;

- **Governance Structure**
- **Key activities of the Employers' Skills and Education Board included** – leading the education strategy and delivery programme, developing a digital skills action plan, inspiring young people about new technologies and career opportunities, engaging with partners to influence national policies, commissioning data and labour market analysis and encourage and facilitate collaboration between local colleges and other partners.
- **Key priorities** – young people, employers and economically inactive and unemployed
- **Key decisions** – skills report, data and labour market intelligence workplan, pledge, accelerate, local growth fund skills investments and jobs portal and support for online job fairs.
- **Influencing and informing others** – data and labour market information has been used by – pledge partners, local colleges and other training providers, jobs portal and local partners.
- **Work programme for the next 12 months set out in the Skills Report and Action Plan.**
- **Key challenges** – changing nature of the labour market, 1000 hard to fill vacancies, deficit of 7000 level 3 skills, gap between the achievements of the young people in receipt of free school meals and those not is too big, where young people live links to their level of attainment and gender disparities.
- **Key performance indicators** – more young people studying subjects in demand, address the gap in attainment, 7k more with level 3 qualifications, address gender disparities, 2500 kickstart placements by December 2021.
- **Skills to deliver Cheshire and Warrington's vision for growth, inclusion, sustainability and health.**

Further work requested by the Committee

Ref 21/09 2

Care workers – it is hard to fill these vacancies and hard to recruit to but are there representatives of this important area on the LEP structure? (CBB)

Ref 21/09 3

HS2 – to what extent are you relying on it to bring in skills to the area or take them away? CBB

Ref 21/09 4

HS2 – more detailed discussion on the impact on all LEP topics? CBB

Ref 21/09 5

Warrington West Station – Cllr S Parish - –“as the LEP put a few million pounds into Warrington West station, it might be right for the LEP to query whether under present proposals it had got best value?

Warrington is badly affected by the Manchester Rail Recovery Proposals (and other bits of Cheshire to a lesser extent) and the Task Force seems to be controlling what happens to services well beyond the troublesome Castlefield corridor. Attached is my summary for the TfN Scrutiny Committee on Thursday. Stockport and Chester / Helsby / Frodsham also lose direct services to Manchester Airport but that may be from other factors. “

The example of Warrington West new station (WAW)

Built with “third party” funding – i.e. public money rather than railway money

£20.5m (from initial estimate of £12m) – DfT, LEP, Warrington BC

Business case of 2 tph; Northern franchise bid offered 3 tph

Opened December 2019 with 2 tph because of timetabling (and a nonsense bit of modelling that said 2 tph would not impact on the Castlefield corridor congestion but 3 tph would)

Service reduced to 1 tph during lockdown (withdrawal of Liverpool-Warrington-M/c Airport express)

2 tph reinstated this week (6 September 2021)

Proposal that Northern relinquish their Airport service (one of the 2tph at WAW) for TPE to take the slot

Spring 2021: Manchester Rail Recovery Task Force propose options that severely affect Warrington including splitting the local Manchester-Liverpool services at Warrington Central (WAC), which would leave WAW with only 1tph to Manchester without a change at WAC. WAC-Manchester would have only 1tph stopping service (plus 1 fast and 1 semi-fast)

Summer 2021: TPE publish ECML draft timetables for May 2022 (now postponed) and include a draft timetable for their Southern (Hope Valley) route.

That proposes that TPE's Cleethorpes to Manchester Airport service (under the Covid timetable already terminating at Manchester Piccadilly) would run to Liverpool with extra stops at Urmston and Irlam to replace the second local train between Manchester and Warrington – but it excludes the stop at WAW of Northern's existing Airport service

This would mean the new £20m station would have no direct train to Manchester (the main destination) outside peak hours

TPE seem to be saying the Manchester Task Force can dictate where they stop their trains

Who gave the Task Force these powers to control TOCs' operational and commercial interests, or have they just assumed the powers?

Stopping at WAW has no impact on other trains, just a 3 min later arrival and 3 min later departure from Liverpool. That does cut down the turn round time, and it's been suggested that extra time may be needed to recover from delays on westbound services (i.e. before getting to Manchester) – but if it's not a punctual service before getting to Manchester, it doesn't sound wise to put it through the Castlefield corridor, where the problems are mostly caused by trains arriving late at Manchester

Local publicity in Warrington: [Chapelford could lose regular direct service to Manchester | Warrington Guardian](#)

The LEP reported that there were no contractual relationships regarding the services. This could be a matter that the Scrutiny Committee wished to review.

64. Public Participation

To receive questions from members of the public 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at Overview and Scrutiny meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking.

65. Work Programme

Details of the work programme were agreed.

66. Future Meeting Dates

Decision – The following dates were noted, due to commence at 2.00pm, via Teams.

1 December 2021

68. Part II – Matters to be discussed in private

Nil



**Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Title: Items Raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Prepared by: Sharon Parker

Date of Report: 26 January 2022

1. Executive Summary

To feedback to the Committee items/topics raised by Members following presentations held at the previous meeting on 08 September 2021.

2. Recommendations /Actions Requested

That the committee:

- (i) Comments on the structure of the report and suggest amendments as necessary.
- (ii) Considers each reference point and determines what action is to be taken.

2.1 At its meeting held on 08 September 2021 the Committee considered two presentations:

- (i) Employers Skills and Education Board – This looked into the LEP Governance structure; the key activities of the Employer’s Skills and Education Board; the priorities; key decisions of the last 12 months; the way in which the board are influencing and informing the decisions of others; outlined the work programme of the next 12 months; the key challenges the board envisage when delivering the plan; and the KPIs (medium to long term).
- (ii) Business Growth Committee – This presentation looked at the structure of the Business Growth Committee; outlined the progress they had made over the previous year; their responsibilities and decisions; their 2021/22 KPIs; and their 2021/22 goals.

2.2 In line with scrutiny function Members asked a series of questions relating to the topics. The topics highlighted below are areas that the Committee sought further information.

3. Future Topic Discussions

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider the topics outlined in the table below, whether they have enough information or whether they wish to delve further into a topic area.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Reference Number	Topic/ Queries	Feedback	Scrutiny Committee Comments
Ref 001/21	<p>Care workers</p> <p>It is hard to fill these vacancies and hard to recruit to but are there representatives of this important area on the LEP structure? If not formally represented on a LEP committee, are there ways we access the sector views?</p>	<p>The Employers Skills and Education Board does not include representatives of every sector in Cheshire and Warrington but it does include employers from a range of sectors as well as representatives of the local authorities and the local Chambers of Commerce who are very aware of the issues around recruitment and retention of people into the care sector. We also have a member of the LEP staff who works part time for the LEP and part time for the NHS so they are in regular contact with the NHS and care sector. Most recently the NHS/care sector have contributed to the current refresh of our Skills Report.</p>	
Ref 002/21	<p>HS2</p> <p>To what extent are you relying on HS2 to bring in skills to the area or take them away?</p>	<p>We are in regular contact with HS2 who provide regular briefings on the skills that will be needed for the need for their work in Cheshire and Warrington as well as in surrounding areas. There is some concern amongst local businesses that HS2 will 'poach' staff from them.</p> <p>HS2 are working to ensure local businesses are aware of opportunities to become</p>	

AGENDA ITEM 4

		<p>subcontractors to the HS2 programme. They recently ran a ‘Work With Us Wednesday’ series of events and earlier this year hosted six webinars on a range of subjects to assist businesses interested in bidding for work on the project, or just finding out more about how public sector supply chains work. The sessions gave viewers further detail on subjects such as how we engage with social enterprises, working alongside Growth hubs and other business organisations; as well as looking at how we foster and encourage innovation.</p> <p>HS2 are also planning to hold their annual ‘Meet the Contractor’ event, with this year’s focus being on businesses further down the supply chain. This means a far more regional focus than normal, which should provide more opportunities for local businesses to access HS2’s supply chain.</p>	
	<p>HS 2 Can there be a more detailed discussion on the impact on all LEP topics?</p>	<p>Further information to be provided.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM 4

Ref 003/21	How do you know what the impact has been? Can a KPI tell you this? What is the quality of support provided to businesses?	This is respect of our engagements with business, not just counting the number of businesses reached.	
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BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting held 15th September 2021 at 4.30pm by video conference call

Present:

Clare Hayward	Trevor Brocklebank	Cllr Craig Browne	Cllr Louise Gittins
Stephen Kinsey	Annette McDonald	Peter Broxton	Nicola Newton
Chris Hindley	Nicola Dunbar	Alice Choi	

In attendance:

Philip Cox	Ian Brooks	Joe Toward	Maggie Chen
Lorraine O'Donnell (until 5.30pm) (CEC)	Alex Thompson (CEC, s151)	Steve Park	Peter Skates (CEC)
Gemma Davies (CWaC)	Melissa Crellin		

Apologies

Rupert Collis	John Downes	Eunice Simmons	Cllr Russ Bowden
Loren Jones	Kath Mackay		

Members of the Public (for Part A)

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Agenda Item 1: Apologies and Introductions

1.1 Clare Hayward welcomed Board Members. Apologies were received as above.

Agenda Item 2: Conflicts of Interest

2.1 Conflicts of interest were noted from Stephen Kinsey and Craig Browne in relation to Agenda item 10, Life Sciences Fund 2.

Agenda Item 3: Public Presentation

3.1 There were no public presentations.

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th July 2021.

4.1 The minutes of 14th July 2021 were agreed.

4.2 Actions had been completed.

Agenda Item 5: Board Away Day Conclusions

5.1 PC presented a summary of the key findings and recommendations arising from the board away days. The slides distilled down and set out the immediate priorities for the LEP and the role board members can play.

5.2 AM cautioned against focussing innovation too narrowly on Green Energy and Life Sciences. There are other very strong sectors in the sub-region. PC explained that we are currently preparing a proposal for an Innovation Deal, emphasising the sub-region spends more per head on R&D than any other part of the UK, but which needs to draw out one or two sectors.

5.3 The summary received strong support from board and the slides will be distributed to board members and be made available on the website.

ACTION: PC

5.4 The presentation included a final version of the LEP "Purpose" pyramid and a similar example prepared by the board of Marketing Cheshire which describes their support of the overall aims. Chairs of the policy / decision making sub-boards were tasked to work with their members to prepare a pyramid for each sub-board. AC said that the Business Growth board had begun some work, using the "anchors" of Healthy, Sustainable, Inclusive and Fast-Growing, and whether this should change to reflect the priorities of Skills, Innovation, Regional Strategy, Infrastructure and Net Zero. It was agreed that pyramids needed to address the elements of the vision and the priorities. PB mentioned that the Growth Corridors' Board had developed a "plan-on-a-page" which would prove helpful in deriving a purpose pyramid.

ACTION: Sub-board Chairs

Agenda Item 6: Board Sub-Committee Reports

6.1 The board heard updates from the sub-board chairs by exception.

6.2 Marketing Cheshire Board. Trevor Brocklebank received ratification for the re-appointment of two MC board members, Eleanor Underhill and David Walker, who had reached the end of their first terms. No objections were raised.

6.3 TB went on to describe some of the achievements over the summer, including record visitor numbers at Chester Zoo, the Tour of Britain cycle race which we had supported by providing the helicopter script, Chester winning staycation city of the year, and the application for the Sandstone Ridge / Trail to be given A.O.N.B status. MC are also sharing best practice and good ideas across the towns of the sub-region.

6.4 Digital Connectivity Board. ND reported that the first meeting of the sub-board had now been held and the draft Terms of Reference were presented to the board for ratification. SK proposed one clarification to the drafting; exchanging "split vote" to "no overall majority". This change will be made and the T.o.R were approved.

6.5 ND added that a meeting had also been held with Esther McVey MP, who offered her support by tabling a Parliamentary Question in support of the sub-regions digital ambitions, making an introduction for us to the Minister for Digital Infrastructure and to keep Digital at the forefront of discussions with Cheshire and Warrington MPs.

6.6 Local Transport Board. AM said the LTB was reviewing its' T.o.R. to ensure the sub-region has a strong voice on planning matters, and programmes such as integrated rail strategy and bus strategy. She said HS2b is progressing, but more public engagement is needed to explain the benefits, engage "hearts and minds" and bring positive messages to the wider North-West. It was agreed the LEP's recently appointed PR Agency, Social, could be approached to assist.

6.7 Cllr Louise Gittins is until January 2022 acting chair of Transport for the North, a “vote” for Cheshire, and an opportunity to promote the transport agenda for the sub-region. The various transport programmes, especially HS2, will create many skilled jobs for Cheshire and Staffordshire and the skills “Leads” had met recently at Crewe Alexandra Stadium.

Agenda Item 7: Chief Executive's report

7.1 Philip Cox provided a written update to the Board, and provided additional detail as follows:

7.2 Following the PM’s speech, devolution has been gaining more traction and support. A meeting had been held with MHCLG officials which indicated the Government wished to press on with two or three deals in the North (but not Cheshire and Warrington), and the Cheshire and Warrington authorities would need to consider carefully how to proceed. The board recognised the wide spectrum of views held locally in respect of devolution, that there are different possible models, and different routes to obtaining a democratic mandate. AM reported that when devolution is discussed at Business Leaders, the business community have limited understanding of what a “deal” might offer.

7.3 Hot off the press was the ongoing cabinet reshuffle. PC explained that the outcome could have a material effect on the LEP Review given the range of opinions held by Government Ministers towards LEPs. In general, he felt from what had been announced so far, the reshuffle would shift the balance of opinion and influence in favour of LEPs and the functions they perform.

7.4 PC also mentioned that the independent review of Destination Management Organisations (DMO) led by Nick de Bois had been published. The recommendations, if accepted by Government, could provide additional funding and there is an opportunity for MC to be a “Top-Tier” Tourist Board.

Agenda Item 8: COP-26

8.1. Melissa Crellin presented slides outlining the programme of events associated with the COP-26 conference taking place between September and November. The sub-region will use the opportunity to promote a range of successes and achievements including being the:

- First hydrogen production plant in the UK
- First glass furnace in the world to use hydrogen and green electricity - Encirc
- First to have an all-electric vehicle manufacturing plant in the UK – Vauxhall
- First hydrogen refuelling station in the NW – Storengy/CEC
- First plastic to hydrogen recycling unit consented in the UK – Protos (Peel)
- First most densely monitored low voltage network in the UK (and possibly the world) for smart energy innovation – EA Technology/SPEN/Energy Innovation District
- (subject to planning) First sustainable aviation fuel pipeline direct to airport in the UK/world – Fulcrum Northpoint

8.2. The board agreed that the legacy of COP-26 should establish the sub-region as a hub for low carbon energy generation, technology and innovation and a place at the forefront of achieving Net Zero. We are also aiming to have the world’s first net zero industrial cluster by 2040.

8.3. There are two key green Zone events; one focusing on industrial decarbonisation, to be held at the Heath, and one focussing on Smart Cities, at a location in Manchester. Board members were asked to hold the dates if they could.

8.4 MC will circulate twitter hashtags etc to board members to help share and promote local activities. AC recommended MC also talk to Engagement Board members who can assist in social media channels and engaging the younger generations’ voice.

ACTION: MC

8.5 The Board supported the LEP sponsoring the programme (£5k) and encouraging other businesses to engage in sponsorships.

8.6 AM said Sky News will be running a series of lead in stories to COP-26 and Social may help secure some examples for the sub-region.

Agenda Item 9: Economic Summit/AGM Update on Preparations

9.1 PC provided a verbal report on progress towards the Economic Summit / AGM on 19th October, 2021. Board Members should have received an invitation.

Agenda Item 10: Life Sciences Fund 2

10.1 IB updated the board that consensus had been reached by the co-investors to the creation of a second Life Sciences Fund, that legal counsel had been appointed and preparations for procurement of a fund manager were beginning. The board approved the ongoing involvement of the LEP on the basis outlined in the paper.

10.2 PB expressed a concern that as described in the paper, the fund appeared to favour investments in Cheshire to Alderley Park. He sought assurances that all of Cheshire and Warrington would be included, and that opportunities would be available for the University of Chester as it grows and develops its' medical faculty. The board also stressed the importance of promoting wider outcomes for diversity and inclusivity. IB and SK explained that the fund will be established to allow investment and promote Life Sciences across the sub-region. IB also explained that as part of the procurement process Fund Managers will be asked to describe their proposals for delivering the wider benefits and that the monitoring will include the fund managers reporting on a range of criteria.

Agenda Item 11: A.o.B

11.1 PC provided an outline of the successful Peer to Peer cohorts which are currently running and asked Board members to promote, through their networks, that we will be establishing a further 4 networks shortly. An updated brochure is being prepared with a testimonial from a local business. AC would especially like representation from manufacturing or technical sectors.

Agenda Item 12: Date and Time of Next Meetings:

Board Discussion Forum: 20th October 2021, 4:30pm– 6:30pm in person at Chester Zoo (details to follow)

Board Meeting: 17th November 2021, 4:30pm– 6:30pm (Virtual – MS Teams)

BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting held 17th November 2021 at 4.30pm by video conference call

Present:

Clare Hayward	Trevor Brocklebank	John Downes	Eunice Simmons
Stephen Kinsey	Annette McDonald	Peter Broxton	Loren Jones
Chris Hindley	Nicola Dunbar	Alice Choi (from 5pm)	Kath Mackay

In attendance:

Philip Cox (until 5.15pm)	Ian Brooks	Joe Manning	Maggie Chen
Charlie Seward (CWaC)	Alex Thompson (CEC, s151)	Steve Park	Jane Traverse (CEC)
Melissa Crellin			

Apologies

Rupert Collis	Joe Toward	Cllr Louise Gittins	Cllr Russ Bowden
Nicola Newton	Cllr Craig Browne		

Members of the Public (for Part A)

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Agenda Item 1: Apologies and Introductions

1.1 Clare Hayward welcomed Board Members. Apologies were received as above.

Agenda Item 2: Conflicts of Interest

2.1 No conflicts of interest were noted.

Agenda Item 3: Public Presentation

3.1 An email from Mr Lee Peters to Cllr Louise Gittins was discussed. Mr Peters had commented on paragraph 3.2 of the paper published for item 7 of the agenda (Spending Review), raising his concerns that the BDUK proposals for investment in digital in Cheshire would not bring benefits before 2025, and that the LEP should be under no misunderstanding that the scale of investment remained insufficient to address the entire challenge of poor connectivity and broadband speeds to rural areas

3.2 It was agreed that the LEP would draft a response to Mr Peters, on behalf of Cllr Gittins. We will convey that the Local Authorities and LEP board recognise the ongoing need for investment in digital and will be seeking to explore all options, not just those available from BDUK, to accelerate projects and expand their scope.

ACTION: IB/Catherine Walker

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2021.

4.1 The minutes of 15th September 2021 were agreed.

4.2 Actions had been completed.

4.3 Before commencing the agenda, CH commended the team on the successful engagement the sub-region had been able to achieve with COP-26 and associated events. We had many opportunities to participate, including several places on panels, and PR coverage which gave opportunities for our voice to be heard. Although a team effort special mention was given to Melissa Crellin, Norbert Magos, Nicola Said and the teams at Social and Font.

Agenda Item 5: Board Sub-committee Reports

5.1 Local Transport Board. A focussed slot was provided to AM. Analysis of the Spending Review suggested that while the headline figures for DfT indicated strong investment, much of the funding was directed towards HS2 and funding for other initiatives was likely to be limited. We welcomed funding towards developing bus service improvement plans and the support for Warrington's transition to an All-Electric Bus Fleet. With the imminent publication of the Integrated Rail Plan and various leaks of its content in preceding days, it appeared that the region would retain most, if not all, the planned investments but, disappointingly, there would be revisions in respect of the Northern Powerhouse Rail and connections to the Northeast. RN is developing "lines to take". No decision has been reached on the location of the HQ for Great British Railways.

5.2 Employers Skills Board. The recent meeting had re-iterated that national issues are also playing out locally, with retail, hospitality, social care and transport suffering acute labour shortages. There is increasing evidence that many candidates are receiving multiple job offers, and that others are making employment choices aligned to values and lifestyle. Employers are facing a battle for talent and need to keep abreast of changing recruitment practices. MC commented on a COP fringe meeting which concluded that graduating students are "turning the tables" and effectively interviewing employers.

5.3 Cheshire College South and West is leading the regional application for an Institute of Technology, an interview for which is taking place with DfE on 1/12. This could deliver a £30M investment to the sub-region, with possible announcements before Xmas. ES suggested that the bid emphasises the strong links between HE, FE and the University and the strong collaboration to deliver vocational qualifications. KM will pass on the board views of points to raise at the DfE meeting.

ACTION: KM

5.4 Strategy Programme Board. JD reported that the key to the next strategy developments will be the publication of the Levelling Up white paper and the LEP review. We expect these shortly. In preparation, the T.o.R for the SPB were being reviewed and a piece of work is being commissioned to consider how the broader vision aims of healthy, sustainable and inclusive, should be captured in local plans. There is consensus that Levelling Up proposals, or a bid for a County Deal, will require a strong evidence base which addresses policy aims beyond simply economic growth. MC has been tasked with drawing up a specification for the work, which will be agreed with Growth Directors and the SPB prior to commencing the procurement exercise. The board also considered an investment proposal for GPF, but concluded the scale, terms and nature of the investment represented to great a demand and risk on LEP resources.

5.5 PB sought an update regarding the GM and Cheshire Life Sciences Fund 2. IB explained that good progress has been made with the lawyers to complete draft contracts which will accompany an exercise to procure fund managers. The procurement is expected to launch in November. IB confirmed that he

KPIs addressed the board previous comments for metrics on investment in Cheshire more widely than Alderley Park, on the number of apprenticeships and the diversity of applicants.

5.6 Growth Corridors Board. PB reported that the board is expecting to review two new investments at its' upcoming meeting(s). LJ referred to Rolls Royce's recent announcements regarding small nuclear modular reactors and that they will be seeking six manufacturing locations. He has advocated consideration of / by Cheshire and Warrington.

5.7 Business Growth Board. AC reported on ongoing work by the board to formalise five strategic imperatives to set priorities going forward.

5.8 Engagement Board. IB agreed to discuss the next recruitment campaign with MC.

ACTION: IB

5.9 Marketing Cheshire. TB updated the board on the Marketing Cheshire Awards and promotional activity by Destination Chester and Destination Cheshire.

5.10 Finance and Audit. The committee is next due to meet in December. However, IB updated the board that Ministers and HMT had authorised payment of the second tranche of LEP core funding (£250k) without conditions attached. This represents a welcome shift in attitudes towards LEP funding compared to earlier in the year when different ministers were in post.

Agenda Item 6: COP-26 Review

6.1 CH reflected on the strong representation at COP-26 and the associated fringe events and that we had multiple opportunities for the sub-regional voice to be heard and to assert regional issues alongside those of the major cities.

6.2 A clear and consistent message from COP is the role and leadership business will need to take to decarbonise their activities and achieve the net zero targets. As a partnership organisation the LEP has a role to play, not least in helping maintain the momentum from COP and to keep raising our profile beyond the boundaries of the sub-region. AM thought some sectors lacked leadership or were looking to others to help facilitate their journey towards net zero. She thought there is a gap on where to get advice. SME's need practical advice.

6.3 SP offered to take forward a conversation about improving housing standards, where local authorities have a key role to play. He recognised the need for a collaborative approach with developers to "raise the bar". Residents have a large gap of understanding when considering sustainable technologies. This might form the basis of a future discussion at the board.

Action: SP

6.4 COP-26 raised the issue of joined up finance and the role of financiers such as the Green Finance Institute in driving change. JD expressed a view that lenders can instigate improvements through their lending decisions but that many banks lack a basic understanding of sustainable development.

6.5 ES reported on a meeting with the skills minister and the need to create a green skills plan. The UoC is partnering with Cambridge on a case study project to refurbish a Victorian building.

6.6 The board agreed that C&W should continue to develop and promote the uniqueness of the sub-region's progress, and a maintain a strong message that investment has to be "green and fair", i.e., sustainable and inclusive. We are seeking to build a portfolio of 15-20 case studies that can showcase C&W.

6.7 Reference was made to an initiative by Andy Burnham and Steve Rotherham to establish a NW Young Persons "Parliament". The Engagement Board might seek to link with this.

Agenda Item 7: Spending Review

7.1 MC presented an analysis of the Spending Review. We were seeking feedback to understand better the reasons for successful and failed bids for Levelling Up funding.

7.2 JM outlined the ongoing work preparing for publication of the Levelling Up white paper. There has been a shift in language towards more widespread policy categories and “people-based” outcomes, compared with the more traditional economic metrics and regional productivity measures of local growth policy. Our work on delivering for the sub-region seeks to address outcomes we can achieve with existing powers and structures through to those ambitions which can only be achieved with more powers and funding. The LEP is working on behalf of the sub-region, to support a Levelling Up proposition for Government.

Agenda Item 8: Chief Executive’s Report

8.1. Report was taken as read. Much of the report had been covered by earlier items on COP-26, Spending Review, and Levelling Up. Highlighted ongoing challenges that businesses are reporting due to increased costs of operating, from energy to supply chain challenges.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion Forum

9.1 The feedback from the Skills discussion was provided under item 5.

9.2 The December forum will focus on Levelling Up and will be a hybrid virtual / in person meeting. Those meeting in person will be at Alderley Park. Details will be forwarded in due course.

Agenda Item 10: A.o.B.

10.1 None.

Agenda Item 11: Date and Time of Next Meetings:

Board Discussion Forum: 15th December 2021, 4:30pm– 6:30pm in person at Alderley Park (details to follow)

Board Meeting: 19th January 2022, 4:30pm– 6:30pm (Virtual – MS Teams)

Dates for 2022 have been circulated and will be published on the website.

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-2023

Work Programme Topic	Purpose of the item	What is the Committee being asked to do? Expected outcome/s	Link to National Policy & Local Context	Lead Officer	Date of Meeting
<i>Theme –</i>					
Marketing Cheshire Engagement Board Growth and Science Corridors Local Transport	To receive a presentation from each of the Boards and to scrutinise key actions and comment as appropriate				tba
Training Group	To consider a task and finish group being set up by the Scrutiny Committee to review training provided.				
Any matters previously identified by the Scrutiny Committee following presentations from September 2021 onwards					