

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday 2nd June 2021
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

Present: Cllr Steve Parish (Chair) for items 1 -3

Cllr Laura Crane (Chair) for items 4 onwards, Cllr Paul Donovan, 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
- Jennie Cordwell – Warrington Borough Council (secretariat)

57. Apologies

Apologies were received from Helen Nellist.

58. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

59. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 3rd March 2021 were received as a correct record.

60. Terms of Reference and Appointment of Chairman

The following points were noted;

- Councillor Laura Crane was appointed as Chair for the next 18 months

61. Outcome of LEP Peer Review

The following points were noted;

- Report prepared by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
- This year, CW LEP was paired with Enterprise M3, which covers west Surrey and most of Hampshire
- Details of key challenges for M3 were discussed and compared with challenges for CWLEP
- Both areas had similarities around challenges for economic recovery plans
- M3 have taken a different approach towards growth, promoting some new sectors, where growth is strong, and niche opportunities with areas of specialisms relating to their economy

- Overall discussions were useful with a comparable LEP
- Both LEPs identified and committed to further discussions to explore several areas of mutual interest
- Peer Reviews would continue to be continuing programme, organised through the LEP Network

62 . Scrutiny Committee Effectiveness Review

The following points were noted;

- A work programme for the review had been agreed and appointments for interviews had been sent to those who were required to be involved with the Consultant from Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
- As part of good governance, it was agreed that it was timely to review how effectively and efficiently the committee carries out its functions and whether there is scope for improvements which can be embedded into the way the committee operates
- A workshop session had been booked for 30th June where discussions would take place around the findings and effectiveness of how the LEP was being challenged
- Details of the outcome of the review would be provided at a future meeting.

63. Schedule and Procedure for LEP Sub-board Chairs to attend Scrutiny Committee

The following points were noted;

- The Committee were informed that following a recruitment campaign, 5 new LEP directors had been appointed in April 2021, resulting in new appointments as Sub Board Chairs and vice chairs. In order for Scrutiny Committee to gain a better understanding of the decisions and challenges faced by each sub-board, it was agreed that once the Chairs had been in post they would be invited in turn to attend a Scrutiny Committee meeting
- It was agreed that those invited would be asked to provide a short presentation on the key challenges of the agenda for their committees, followed by an opportunity for questioning, with the Chairs of the Committees also having the opportunity to gather an understanding of the work of the Scrutiny Committee
- The Committee requested the work programmes for each sub board, and previous sets of minutes be provided in advance of each Chair attending the Scrutiny Committee.

Action: IB

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.

An action was taken for the LEP to check how it is publicising the committee meeting dates and to ensure links from the website operate as expected.

ACTION: IB

Nil

65. Work Programme

Details of the work programme were agreed, with the following items added

- Covid Recovery Plan – report on detail / progress in December 2021
- Items 9 & 10 – to be presented to the committee in September 2021

66. AOB

The following points were noted;

- LEP Recovery Plan – a draft document had been published following a number of consultation events. Positive feedback had been received regarding the proposals which included the importance of inclusivity with balanced objectives. Previous versions of the plan had focused exclusively on economic growth, however to ensure sustainability, a broader set of objectives were required. The final version of the plan would be published in the coming weeks.
- In addition, a long term plan for economy recovery would be published to support partners in the coming years. This would include the support work undertaken by the LEP and also Local Authorities on how they can tackle the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on those demographics such as those on low incomes and younger generations.
- A national review of LEP's was announced by Government in March and is currently being undertaken. The review is expected to finalise alongside a White Paper regarding the Levelling Up agenda, which is due to be published in the autumn. Further details would be provided to the Board when available.

67. Future Meeting Dates

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

8 September 2021

1 December 2021

68. **Part II – Matters to be discussed in private**

Nil