

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

**Wednesday 26th January 2022  
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Present:** Chair Cllr Laura Crane

Cllr Steve Parish Tracey Walsh, Catherine Barber-Brown, Yvette Hastings, , Phil McCabe and Helen Nellist

**Also In Attendance:**

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

**80. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Rob McKay and Cllr Paul Donovan.

**81. Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

**82. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 were received as a correct record.

**83. Items raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee were updated on the feedback of the previous meeting's presentations on employers Skills and Education Board and Business Growth Committee. In line with the recommendation 6 of the Scrutiny Review – to consider formalising the feedback loop a new process had been drawn up to record feedback.

The Committee commented as follows:

Careworkers – ref 001/21

Good information provided but could there be a further update in six months' time on the topic. **AGREED**

Skills Boot Camp was to be introduced following provision of funding from the LEP. CBB asked whether there were any ways the third sector could access the boot camps. More creative solutions may be needed such as the Altrincham approach. Important that the message went out quickly to enable the numbers to attend. One issue had been in the care sector was not just the cost of the attendance at the training but the back filling of the post when on training. **AGREED**

**HS 2 – ref 002/21 – to what extent are you relying on HS2 to bring in skills to the area or take them away?**

Interesting information provided but what was happening longer term? What was it supplementing?

PC outlined the key position of Crewe and the Great British Railway, this not only improves economics but also markets Crewe and attracts key suppliers. Other factors were the life sciences in Liverpool, cluster of green energy firms and strong position near to Manchester Airport.

CBB also mentioned that it was not just about business but also about sustainable health.

**Business Hub - Impact of KPIs - re 003/21**

HN – could case studies be looked at to review impact?

CBB – Survey people that use the service?

**Agreed** – set up a Training Working Group. SP to email for interest and start the process off.

**84. Digital Connectivity Board Presentation**

Ian Brooks made the following points:

The Board had recently been formed and had met in August 2021 following a recruitment drive.

The Sub Board was supporting the Digital Infrastructure Plan.

The plan followed on from the 2019 Digital Strategy and had recently been signed off by the LEP Strategy Committee in December 2020.

It set a vision and four objectives which were supported by an initial set of target measures. It was supported by a range of GIS mapping.

The superfast picture was that of July 2021 the overall level of superfast broadband coverage for Cheshire East as an Authority was just over 96% which was close to the national average of 97%. Given the rural nature this figure was thought to be good.

The gigabit picture was 28% as of July 2021 which was below the average of 40% in England. It was hope to have 85 % coverage by 2025.

The challenges were outlined which included the geography, urban centres, built environment barriers and socio economic barriers.

The delivery arm of Cheshire West, Cheshire East, Warrington and Halton had completed the first phase with the current phase aiming to roll out gigabit – capable full fibre broadband to over 4000 properties across rural or hard to reach areas of Cheshire.

The three priorities were to - coordinate all stakeholders, develop a pipeline of activities to provided connectivity solutions and commit ongoing resources to deliver, ensure capabilities and experience retained.

**No specific actions arising from the presentation.**

85 LEP Board Minutes

Actions

Include links to the Sub Board minutes too to the Scrutiny Agenda.

Levelling Up – what happened with this? What assurances does the Scrutiny Committee have that it is happening? PC to report back on

Invite the Chair of LEP to a future meeting to discuss how she thinks scrutiny fits in and what opportunities it has.

10 minute presentation at the next meeting from PC on the levelling up agenda

**86. 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.

**87. Work Programme**

Details of the work programme were agreed.

**88. Future Meeting Dates**

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

6 April

6 July

5 October

