



Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 2 September 2020

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Via Teams (link to be sent via email)

Chair: Councillor S Parish (Warrington Borough Council)

Membership: Catherine Barber-Brown, Tracey Walsh, Helen Nellist, Councillor Paul Donovan (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and Cllr Laura Crane from Cheshire East Council.

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

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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 2 June 2020	Chair	2.05 pm
4.	Membership of the Committee (1) Small Business Group – confirmation of nominations (2 representatives to the Scrutiny Committee) as ex officio members - Phil McCabe and Rob Mackay. . (2) Cllr Laura Crane appointed as representative for Cheshire East	Chair	2.15 pm

5.	<p>Review the implementation of the strategic economic Plan and identify opportunities for improvement.</p> <p>To receive a presentation on refreshing its vision and how it approaches recovery from Covid-19. (Slide attached)</p>	Philip Cox	2.20 pm
6.	<p>To commission and review mid-term and end of term evaluations of programmes and projects.</p> <p>To receive a report on the recently announced £15.5M award to C&W for the Get Building Fund.</p>	Roy Newton	2.50
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>	Chair	3.20
8.	Work Programme – Attached	Chair	3.25
9.	<p>Future Meeting Dates (2pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 December 2020. 	Chair	3.35
Part II - Matters to be discussed in private			
10.	Nil		

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday 3rd June 2020
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

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

Also In Attendance:

- Phillip Cox - Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Ian Brooks – Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Andy Devaney – Growth Hub
- Sharon Parker – Warrington Borough Council (secretariat)

13. Apologies

No apologies were received.

14. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

15. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 5th March 2020 were received as a correct record.

16. Membership of the Committee

Noted:

- (1) Awaiting confirmation from Cheshire East re Councillor Suzanne Brookfield as the representative.
- (2) Cheshire Business Group has been asked to nominate 2 representatives to the Scrutiny Committee as ex officio members.

17. Presentation by Growth Hub on Business Support, Impact of Brexit and resilience measures

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

The Growth Hub had changed its focus to that of more account management. Details were provided on targets to be achieved eg export levels, head count, research, winning new contracts.

Since March 2020 due to Covid-19, however, this had changed to a service being very reactive. Previously the team dealt with around 50-75 businesses per month this had increased to 1000 level of enquiries.

Shift in focus – still a long way to go.

The Committee discussed in detail the information provided and asked:

1. **Pledge** – did the Hub link in with the Pledge?

Yes it was all joined up.

2. What were the **three top searches on the site?**

Finance, skills and access to talent.

3. **Inclusivity Agenda** – have you got access to information that would provide details on this?

Have got information regarding where people come from but not on the disadvantaged side – this needs more work.

18. Cheshire and Warrington LEP – Response to Covid-19

Phillip Cox provided a presentation on the following: Developing a plan for restart and recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The phases were – immediate, restart and recovery.
- Timings for each phase were provided.
- Current focus was on the restart phase. A quarter of the work force had been furloughed, support was being provided for those looking for work and those trying to find their way through the welfare system.
- The LEP was chairing the Local Resilience Fora
- Details of the restart phase was provided together with the key aspects, including – step by step approach to increase confidence, in line with Government, practical solutions, working in partnership, alongside the business community and being able to monitor and adapt.
- Some context was outlined to the Committee – 54% of the British population thought lockdown was taken off too early, not all young people were going back to school.
- The strategic aims and delivery priorities were outlined – protect people and jobs, increase confidence amongst business, workforce and consumers, build towards achieving the vision to be the UK's healthiest most sustainable growing economy. Discussions were taking place with the Leaders Board and the LEP Board on the priorities.

- Examples were provided which included issues around digital inclusion – 2500 secondary age children did not have access to a computer. Likely to be more problems on the high street.
- The delivery framework was outlined for the period May to June 2020 together with the potential aims and opportunities.

The Committee asked about the following issues:

1. **Mental Health** – what was being done to support this as part of the recovery programme?

Andy Devaney outlined the national and local support in this area but it was something that the LEP would be focussing on over the next few weeks. Webinars were an example of a potential solution.

2. **Veterans** – how were they being supported? Better to go to them rather than the other way around.
3. **Free Ports** – clarification on this and whether it would be possible for the region? Could Businesses collaborate to support this?

Phillip Cox outlined what a free port was ie an area that could import raw materials, and turn out a product again without duty being payable. The products had to be sold in the UK. It was considered that there was no reason why it not be done in the region eg Crewe, Ellesmere Port or Manchester Airport.

Government were currently consulting on the model for a free port and were inviting bids.

Supply Chains – has Covid made Businesses think about more local or have different supply chains eg food supply?

The lock down period had presented some issues for businesses and some may need to rethink. Agriculture within the region was only around 1% so there was not a big opportunity for businesses to use this more.

Use of Canal Chains – could this be made better use of?

It was a work in progress.

19. 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.

Nil

20. Work Programme

Agreed.

Discussion around looking at (1) impact of items on the agenda meeting and (2) how they are displayed.

Action SP to speak with the Committee outside of the meeting.

21. Future Meeting Dates

Decision – To note the following schedule of meetings, commencing at 2.00pm, at Wyvern House. Pre meeting at 1.30pm.

Dates for 2020/2021:

- 2 September 2020, 2 December 2020.

22. Part II – Matters to be discussed in private

Nil

Cheshire and Warrington: the most healthy, sustainable inclusive and growing economy in the UK

Healthy	Sustainable	Inclusive	Growing
<p><i>We will deliver locally on the government’s healthy ageing mission to ‘achieve an additional five years of healthy, independent life by 2035, while narrowing the gap between the experience of the richest and poorest’</i></p>	<p><i>We will demonstrate leadership on sustainable growth. We recognise the value of our natural environment and will work to ensure that whilst securing sustained growth the environmental benefits of our activities outweigh the costs.</i></p>	<p><i>Cheshire and Warrington will be a place where people, regardless of their background or circumstances, are helped to ‘live their best lives’</i></p>	<p><i>We will be the UK’s fastest growing economy, making the most of new opportunities inside and outside of the EU, driven by innovation and a top location for people and business to live, work, invest and relax</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halve levels of inactivity by 2030 • Achieve scores of >8 and increasing on the ONS Population Survey Personal Wellbeing measure of Life Satisfaction • Reduce the difference in life expectancy at birth between most and least deprived by 50% by 2035 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce our Carbon Footprint by at least 2.5MtCO₂ per year through development of a Net Zero industrial cluster in Ellesmere Port by 2030 • Net Zero economy by 2050 • Sustainability Commission established in 2020 • Double use of sustainable transport and walking by 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate in work poverty by 2030 • Halve the number earning below the real living wage by 2025 • ↑ % workers and residents engaged in learning • ↓ % residents experiencing digital exclusion • Strengthen our talent pipeline to ensure equality of opportunity for women and girls and our BAME and LBGTQ+ communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double size of economy by 2040 • Employment and economic activity levels above 2019 rates by 2025 • GDP per hr growing c.f. rest of UK • Combination of public and private sector R&D spend >3% of our GDP, with Cheshire and Warrington participating fully in relevant national programmes.

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – January to December 2020

Work Programme Topic	Purpose of the item	Origin of Item	Lead Officer	Date of Meeting	Comments
1.	Review the decision making of each of the sub-committees and Board of the LEP to ensure due process has been followed and there is a transparent audit trail.	Terms of Reference		5/03/20	Presentation on the Governance Structure of the LEP including the roles and work programmes of other committees
2.	Review the progress of the programmes that the LEP manages including but not limited to: Local Growth Fund, Growing Place Fund, European Programme and the Growth Hub. The Committee should identify and/or consider issues raised, promote best practice and make recommendations for improvement if appropriate.	Terms of Reference		20 th Jan 2020 3 June 2020	Presentation by Growth Hub on Business Support, Impact of Brexit and resilience measures.
3.	Review the implementation of the strategic economic Plan and identify opportunities for improvement.	Terms of Reference		2 September 2020	Review of how delivery addresses sustainability, inclusivity, healthy growth, social value. Impact of

					devolution and mayoral combined authorities.
4.	Review the output and outcome information of the programmes to ensure that the LEP activities are having a beneficial impact on the economy of the LEP area.	Terms of Reference		20 th Jan 5 March 2020	To review the combined outputs of all LEP programmes.
5.	To make recommendations for consideration to the Board and or committee with respect to the discharge of any functions.	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	
6.	Review and advise the LEP board on matters of transparency, ensuring that the LEP is meeting the highest standards of transparency and, in particular, the required standards as set down by the Central Government.	Terms of Reference		Deleted from 3 June 2020. New date to be agreed.	Presentation on the requirements laid out in the Local National Assurance Framework and how they are being fulfilled. To include diversity
7.	To commission and review mid-term and end of term evaluations of programmes and projects.	Terms of Reference		2 September 2020	Review of projects underway and in the pipeline mapped against the LIS, and areas of deprivation.

8.	To liaise with other LEP's over the development and dissemination of best practice.	Terms of Reference		Deleted from 3 June 2020. New Date to be agreed.	Paper on the Peer Review of the LEP with the Black County LEP
9.	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?	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	
10.	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?	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	See items 1 and 7
11.	What is the LEP budget compared to the Regional Development Agency?	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	
12.	Devolution – how would this work with mayoral combined authorities?	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	See item 3
13.	Understanding of the work programmes of other committees to avoid duplication.	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	See item 1.
14.	Brexit – What is the impact of this?	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	See item 2.

15.	Unhealthy growth – How does the LEP Board ensure that growth is Healthy for the C&W population	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	See item 3.
16.	Understand how the actions and investments underway/planned/funded map against the LIS?	LEP Scrutiny Committee		tbc	See item 7
17.	Impact of Covid-19	LEP Scrutiny Committee		3 June 2020	