

Official minutes of meeting

Growth Corridors Board

25 October 2022 15:30-17:30

Location: The Glasshouse, Alderley Park

Item	Action
Part A: Public items	
1. Attendees and apologies	
Attendees:	
Board members:	
Peter Broxton (Chair)	
Chris Farrow	
Nicola Heron	
Linda Hilton	
Loren Jones (Vice-Chair)	
In attendance:	
John Adlen	
Stephen Fitzsimons	
Apologies:	
Cllr Richard Beacham	
Tony Bochenski	
Philip Cox	
Gemma Davies	
Charles Jarvis	
Cllr Tom Jennings	
Cllr Nick Mannion	
Martin Wood	

Item	Action
2. Declarations of interest	
	a) Stephen Fitzsimons declared an interest in Birchwood Park on behalf of Warrington Borough Council pertaining to item 7.
	b) Peter Broxton declared an interest in a company that has made an application to the Cheshire and Greater Manchester Life Sciences Fund.
3. Minutes and matters arising	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.
4. Public speaking time	
	No requests were received from members of the public to attend or speak at the meeting.
5. Investment Zones update	
	John Adlen updated the Board the Investment Zones bids that had been submitted by the three local authorities.
6. Innovation Launchpads update	
	John Adlen made a presentation to the Board on Innovation Launchpads and the proposed bid from Cheshire and Warrington. The Board endorsed the proposed bid.
7. Governance	
	a) Progress against purpose pyramid
	John Adlen updated the Board on progress against the Purpose Pyramid.
8. Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone	
	a) Investment programme update
	John Adlen updated the Board on the EZ investment programme, reporting that there had been no significant changes to the programme in the last period.

b) Investment pipeline

John Adlen updated the Board on the EZ investment pipeline, noting that there are currently four schemes in the pipeline:

- **Vortex** (Newport Business Park) – The developer has informed the LEP that the viability gap is likely to be significantly lower than the £3.8m investment previously applied for. A meeting is scheduled with the developer for 27 October.
- **Enviroo** (Protos) – awaiting revised investment case. A meeting is scheduled with the applicant for 25 October.
- **Waste to Hydrogen Plant** (Protos) – awaiting revised investment case.
- **Quadrant Phase 3** (Birchwood Park) – this scheme was considered under item 13a.
- **Alderley Park** – have received a more detailed estimate of the retained business rates from the scheme, which Cushman & Wakefield are currently assessing.
- **Thornton Science Park** – preferred development partner is still undertaking their due diligence on the site.

9. High Speed Growth Corridor

John Adlen updated the Board on the progress of discussions with government regarding the High Speed Growth Corridor proposals and investment in the Crewe HS2 Hub. A joint working group has been established with the Department for Transport (DfT), Department for Levelling Up Homes and Communities (DLUHC) the Infrastructure Planning Authority (IPA), Cheshire East Council (CEC), Cheshire and Warrington LEP (C&WLEP) and Homes England to further develop the case for investment in Crewe.

10. Marketing and promotion

John Adlen made a presentation to the Board on plans to refresh and relaunch the marketing for the Science Corridor, which included a shift away from focusing on the Enterprise Zone to more of a focus on the scientific and technological developments within the Science Corridor and the organisations and individuals leading those new discoveries/developments. The aim was to relaunch the Science Corridor at a symposium in early 2023.

Item	Action
11. Cluster and sector development	
a) Life sciences	The LEP is currently working with Chester Zoo and the University of Liverpool's Leahurst campus on the development of an animal life sciences cluster around the Chester/Ellesmere Port area. A roundtable has been arranged for the end of November to bring together key players in the animal life sciences sector.
b) Energy	The SIGC report has been finalised and recommendations shared with Sub-Regional Leaders Board and a delivery plan is currently being developed.
12. Town centres	
	Stephen Fitzsimmons gave a verbal update on Warrington Town Centre, stating that footfall was nearly back to pre-covid levels and Warrington market was receiving c.30,000 visits per week.

Part B: Non-public items

13. **EZ investment cases**
- a. **Quadrant Phase 3**
- The Growth Corridors Board previously approved an investment of £232,076 to provide enhanced sustainability measures on the development of two speculative industrial units totalling 38,500 sq ft at Birchwood Park. The applicant provided more detailed QS costings for the environmental enhancements, which have increased to £310,110. However, the Board still considered the investment to represent value for money and approved the investment subject to a satisfactory Subsidy Control legal opinion. The Board instructed the Growth Director to proceed with the drafting of the necessary legal agreements and delegated authority to the Chair of the Growth Corridors Board to authorise the final investment and sign the legal agreements on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
14. **AOB**
- There being no other business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.