



**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
Performance and Investment Committee Meeting
held on 22nd January 2020 at 1.30**

In attendance: Chris Hindley (Chairman), Ged Barlow, Nichola Newton,
Paul Goodwin, Ian Brooks, Rachel Laver,

Apologies: Lisa Harris, Peter Skates, Stewart Brown, Alex Thompson,

Presentations on Crewe Heat Network Accelerate by Dan Griffiths and Rachel Waggett
by Charlie Seward and Pat Jackson

Item No.	Item	To be Actioned by	By When
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies Apologies from PS, SB and AT.		
2	Conflicts of Interest CH asked for any conflicts to be declared. PG attending in S151 capacity rather than to represent CEC but mentioned conflict on Crewe Heat Network. NN and CH declared an interest in the Skills Fund.		
3	Minutes from the last meeting: Ran through the actions: RB requested CWAC rep. Will follow up again. Raised issue with receipt of claims and monitoring reports with Charlie Seward. TORs postponed to Feb due to busy agenda. Need to be updated to reflect paper approved by board regarding roles of committees. BCR provided on all Energy Schemes Offer letters still to be written	RB RB RB	Jan Feb Feb
4	Accelerate Update £30m project. £14.8m from DWP, matched with private sector. UOC is the accountable body. LEP will do some of the delivery as sub-contractors to UOC. LEP not directly involved in the contract. Project started 1st of December but the expectation was that it would start at the 1st of April so already quite behind. Will remain a 3-year project but with the delayed start. Carried out survey with employers, 68 responses which helped shape the project. 19,000 learners are expected to be engaged.		

	<p>Currently going through a procurement process to appoint training delivery bodies to a framework.</p> <p>Appointed companies will work with businesses and 3 full time staff will be employed within the growth hub to promote accelerate. Currently running a trial with Bentley. PIV visit in February from the ERDF auditors.</p> <p>Project currently two quarters behind.</p> <p>Employers will pay their contribution first and then the grant funding can be drawn down.</p>		
5	<p>Crewe Heat Network</p> <p>Dan Griffiths on Rachel Waggett gave a presentation. Heat network will take pressure off electricity network which includes the pressure that would put on the electricity network by more electric cars and on the switch from gas boiler.</p> <p>The scheme would enable geothermal to be explored. In Crewe heat is 4 to 5 km down but would cost £4 to £5m to explore.</p> <p>State aid may mean a commercial model is not viable and that will have to be a council led scheme. CEC to confirm.</p> <p>GB asked if the boilers were specified to run on hydrogen. DG confirmed that they will be, to future proof the scheme and space will be made available for a hydrogen fuel cell.</p> <p>Committee agreed to approve the scheme subject to HNIP funding being secured by the end of March or CEC agreeing to underwrite the costs of the scheme.</p> <p>A condition of the grant is also that the boiler must be a dual fuel boiler with the capability to run on hydrogen.</p> <p>RB to issue offer letter</p>	DG	Feb
		RB	Feb
6	<p>Skills bids</p> <p>RB run through each of the 5 projects seeking ratification having been approved by the Employer Skills and Education board.</p> <p>Macclesfield College</p> <p>Macclesfield college bid improved following revision of the costs which reduces the LGF request by £340,000.</p> <p>Important that the college has external booking system and at the facilities are truly available for use by the college and external bodies.</p> <p>Committee agreed the approval of the scheme.</p> <p>Reaseheath college- Controlled Environment Food Production Centre</p> <p>Will the technology proposed isn't unique and there were other schemes operating in the country the project will offer a lot of data for analysis</p>		

	<p>which students can learn from. The scheme will also enable local farmers to look at variables to improve their productivity. The college has an excellent record for delivery having delivered four LGF funded schemes to date. Good BCR. RB confirmed total costs of the scheme were £450k</p> <p>Committee agreed the approval of the project.</p> <p>Warrington and Royal Vale college - AMET centres</p> <p>NN left the room while this project was discussed. all agreed the good strategic fit of this project really good to see that consultation with businesses had been carried out.</p> <p>Committee approved the approval of this project</p> <p>University of Chester- High Performance Cloud</p> <p>There was lengthy discussion about this project. Particularly how well it fitted with the skills agenda and whether the project would be used by the private sector and whether it was in fact distorting the market by providing services either under market value or free.</p> <p>Committee agreed to defer the project requesting further justification of the specification of the 3D printer, clarification of all the costs, clarification that is not distorting the market including state-aid advice and an income and expenditure forecast for 5 years.</p> <p>Carpe Diem - IOTA</p> <p>lengthy discussion about this project unsure about whether colleges and schools from elsewhere in Cheshire and Warrington would travel to Warrington to use these facilities. Concern about the outputs suggested and how realistic they are and that the assumptions used in the business case have not been evidenced sufficiently. This might be achieved by evidence of market testing /consultation.</p> <p>BCR not yet available (but has been requested from economist). RB to provide.</p> <p>Project has been deferred with the request that the business case is strengthened.</p>		
7	<p>Delivery plan review</p> <p>RB ran through the delivery plan monitoring report.</p> <p>The update from the Growth Hub is that they have now been 505 enquiries out of a revised target of 800. 165 businesses have received medium intensity support and 7 have received high intensity support.</p> <p>The team is going to be further bolstered with staff to provide more intensive support. The website is going to be improved to provide better</p>		

	<p>sign posting to other services and therefore provide passive low-level support to businesses.</p> <p>The focus on next year's delivery plan will be on medium to intensive to support and the growth hub team are currently working on developing the figures.</p>		
8	<p>Q3 report</p> <p>The Q3 report will have to be circulated by correspondence as not all the project data had yet been received.</p>	RB	Feb 20
9	<p>Programme manager update</p> <p>RB ran through the report by exception. concern about the Winsford industrial estate project and the ability to spend over £900,000 this quarter Ellesmere Port One Public Estate I started late due to a delay with the traffic orders again putting pressure on spend for this quarter. Warrington West station opened in December and is operating well which is great news.</p> <p>The committee was asked to approve an additional 95 K 2 blue orchid as this would buy additional outputs rather than displace funding already secured. This would leave £986 available in the Energy fund. RB Requested that this money was put towards a video promoting the Energy fund projects.</p> <p>The committee approved both recommendations.</p> <p>Continuing issue with claims and monitoring reports being submitted on time. Officers to raise within their local authorities.</p> <p>Concern that so many skills projects are already behind the profile that they put forward. LEP officers to work with the project leads to ensure spend this quarter. Great progress has already been made with the AstraZeneca project which shows what can be achieved in a short space of time.</p> <p>Biggest risk in the LGF program now is achieving £25m of spend by the end of the quarter. Spend is currently £19.5 m for the year to date.</p> <p>CWAC Are responsible for 70% other forecast spend to the end of March. This has been raised at the directors meeting.</p> <p>Options for achieving spend will be considered more fully at the February meeting.</p>	PG/PS/ CH/SB	Feb
9	<p>AOB - Agree to look at moving some meetings back to allow time for claim information to be received so that information can be accurately reported at P&I meetings</p>	RB	Feb