



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

**Date:** 5 October 2022

**Time:** 2.00pm

**Venue:** Via Teams link on calendar invite

**Chair:** Councillor Laura Crane from Cheshire East Council

**Membership:** Catherine Barber-Brown, Tracey Walsh, Helen Nellist, Councillor Paul Donovan (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and Cllr S Parish (Warrington Borough Council)

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

**Officer Contact:** Sharon Parker, Democratic Services Manager (Statutory Scrutiny Manager)  
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### AGENDA

Agenda Item		Lead	Timings
<b>Open Meeting</b> - Items during the consideration of which the meeting is expected to be open to members of the public (including the press)			
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Chair	2.00 pm
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	Chair	2.00 pm
3.	<b>Minutes</b> of the Meeting held on 6 July	Chair	2.05 pm
4.	<b>Membership – Rob McKays Vacancy</b>	Update from Philip Cox	2.10pm
5.	<b>LEP Review</b>	Update from Philip Cox	2.15
6.	<b>Briefing from Philip Cox – Levelling Up Agenda</b> Verbal update (Item from Work Programme requested from Committee Members 006/22).	Update from Philip Cox	2.45pm
7.	<b>Care Workers – Recruitment to Board/Committee positions on the LEP and also the wider issues experienced by the</b>	Update from Philip Cox	3.05pm

	<b>Care Sector.</b> (Item from Work Programme requested from Committee Members 001/21).		
8.	<b>Training Working Group</b> Update – Work Programme reference 004/22	Chair/SP	3.20pm
9.	<b>Work Programme and Items Raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b> Attached	Chair / Sharon Parker/LEP Officer	3.30 pm
10.	<p><b>Public Participation</b></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>	LEP Officer	3.35 pm
11.	<b>AOB</b>		3.40pm
12.	<p><b>Proposed - Future Meeting Dates</b> (2pm)</p> <p>Oct – Wed 5th Dec – Wed 7<sup>th</sup>?</p>	Chair	3.45 pm
<b>Part II - Matters to be discussed in private</b>			
13.	Nil		

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

**Wednesday 6th July 2022  
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Present:** Chair Cllr Laura Crane

Cllr Paul Donovan, Cllr Steve Parish, Tracey Walsh, Phil McCabe and Helen Nellist

**Also In Attendance:**

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

**89. Apologies**

Apologies were received Catherine Barber-Brown .

**90. Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

**91. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 26 th of January 2022 were received as a correct record.

**92. Membership**

It was noted that Phil McKay had resigned and that there were a number of vacancies on a couple of the committee across the LEP. Further discussions would take place with PC and IB on the most effective method to fill this particular vacancy. **ACTION**

**93. Briefing from Philip Cox – LEP Review – following the letter received from Ministers on 31 March 2022**

PC outlined the letter which had been sent to all LEPs following the Levelling up White Paper. The letter set some context and background to how LEPs had been set up, the numbers of them – 38 and they total spend to date of £20 billion pounds. It had rankled with some that given the high spend officers had been appointed rather than elected. The letter also stressed the importance of the value of the voice of business but also thought that more should be done to connect democratically elected bodies and that for those appointing mayoral combined authorities Government wants LEPs to be merged. Funding would be devolved and the decisions about spend would be via politicians not LEP Board.

PC also raised the issue of what would happen around the structure of the LEP, the role of Board Members – their role in the future would be different. How would they continue to be influential?

The Committee were also provided with details of changes to financial arrangements and the cuts that had been made. Conversations were taking place with the three Local Authorities about how this could be managed and financially modelling was taking place.

The Committee asked about timescales. PC thought the earliest would be May 2024.

There was also discussion around the continued importance of an external scrutiny function.

**94. LEP Delivery Plan for 2022 -23**

Rebecca Luck provided an overview of the above Plan. The following points were made.

Last six months spent drafting the Plan. Vision at the heart of all that the LEP was doing. Printed now on the website.

The LEP's vision was to be the UK's healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy heart.

The delivery plan was drafted utilising the purpose pyramids for each of the delivery boards, and unlike last year had been subsequently drafted to help identify direct accountability of deliverables for each of the sub-boards.

Despite the LEP and Growth Hub's core funding receiving a sizeable reduction from Government, the drafting of the delivery plan had taken into account the Board's decision to retain staff and capacity throughout the financial year, with the LEP choosing to utilise the financial reserves.

- The Strategy Team are working to develop the economic intelligence base, and subsequently develop the strategy.
- Following the submission of the LEP's proposal to the Department of Education on a Skills Bootcamp programme, the LEP had now been awarded over £1m to deliver 15 Skills Bootcamps (across digital, technical and green skills) to over 260 learners. The first 3 Skills Bootcamps are now actively recruiting for eligible learners.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup> June the Pledge held, at Alderley Park, a Celebration and Next Steps event, which was an opportunity for the Pledge to communicate to all its stakeholders its future "offer."

**Key Risks/Issues**

- The confirmation from Government regarding the reduction in funding
- The evolving role of the LEP, as defined within the Government letter in March

The Committee were complimentary about the KPIs, smart targets and deadlines. HN did though ask that some of the targets were a little looser than others and what were they going to focus on?

Any other comments could be sent through to Rebecca by the Committee.

**95. Training Working Group**

The Chair updated the Committee on work that had been undertaken to date on training. The questionnaire had been issued and members were encouraged to complete. Some had been returned. It was also thought that to further support the work ex members of the Committee be asked to complete. **ACTION**

**96. Work Programme and Items raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The work programme was noted and the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee was invited to attend a Board Meeting of the LEP. **ACTION**  
Constitution to be reviewed at December Meeting.

**97. 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.

Nil

**98. Future Meeting Dates**

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

5 October

7 December ?



AGENDA ITEM 9

Reference Number	Topic/ Queries	Feedback	Scrutiny Committee Comments
		<b>September 2021 Meeting</b>	
Ref 001/21	<p><b>Care workers</b></p> <p>It is hard to fill these vacancies and hard to recruit to but are there representatives of this important area on the LEP structure? If not formally represented on a LEP committee, are there ways we access the sector views?</p>	<p>The Employers Skills and Education Board does not include representatives of every sector in Cheshire and Warrington but it does include employers from a range of sectors as well as representatives of the local authorities and the local Chambers of Commerce who are very aware of the issues around recruitment and retention of people into the care sector. We also have a member of the LEP staff who works part time for the LEP and part time for the NHS so they are in regular contact with the NHS and care sector. Most recently the NHS/care sector have contributed to the current refresh of our Skills Report.</p>	<p>Good information provide but could there be a further update on care workers in six months time.</p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 meeting.</b></p>
Ref 002/21	<p><b>HS2</b></p> <p>To what extent are you relying on HS2 to bring in skills to the area or take them away?</p>	<p>We are in regular contact with HS2 who provide regular briefings on the skills that will be needed for the need for their work in Cheshire and Warrington as well as in surrounding areas. There is some concern</p>	<p>No further action</p>



AGENDA ITEM 9

		<p>amongst local businesses that HS2 will 'poach' staff from them.</p> <p>HS2 are working to ensure local businesses are aware of opportunities to become subcontractors to the HS2 programme. They recently ran a 'Work With Us Wednesday' series of events and earlier this year hosted six webinars on a range of subjects to assist businesses interested in bidding for work on the project, or just finding out more about how public sector supply chains work. The sessions gave viewers further detail on subjects such as how we engage with social enterprises, working alongside Growth hubs and other business organisations; as well as looking at how we foster and encourage innovation.</p> <p>HS2 are also planning to hold their annual 'Meet the Contractor' event, with this year's focus being on businesses further down the supply chain. This means a far more regional focus than normal, which should</p>	
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AGENDA ITEM 9

		provide more opportunities for local businesses to access HS2's supply chain.	
	HS 2 Can there be a more detailed discussion on the impact on all LEP topics?	Further information to be provided.	
Ref 003/21	How do you know what the impact has been? Can a KPI tell you this? What is the quality of support provided to businesses?	This is respect of our engagements with business, not just counting the number of businesses reached.	
		January 2022 Meeting	
Ref 004/22	Establishment of Training Group to look at the needs of the Scrutiny Committee.	Group met – update to be provided at the July meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> July update 5 October update
Ref 005/22	Include links to Sub Board minutes on the Scrutiny Committee agenda	Append links to the minutes for the next meeting.	Completed
Ref 006/22	Levelling Up – 10 minute presentation on where this was up to in the region.	Discussion re availability of officers	5 October 2022
Ref 007/22	Invitation to the Chair of the LEP to attend a future meeting	Discussion re availability of Chair.	tbc



AGENDA ITEM 9

Ref 008/22	Invitation to the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to attend the Board meeting of the LEP.		16 November Board Meeting
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