**LEP Strategy Committee**

**Wednesday 26th February 2020**

1. **Apologies**

John Downes

Frank Jordan (represented by Peter Skates)

Robert Davis

1. **Declarations of Interest**

PS, SP, CS non-pecuniary interest in AI5

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 7th February 2020 were approved (noting incorrect date to be amended)**
2. **No members of the public present**
3. **Business Case Prioritisation**

PC presented the report, which was noted.

Highlighted the importance of preparing for when HMG might release further Local Growth Funding, given the current programme finishes in March 2021.

Majority of proposals considered to date have been for transport, however it is important that the wider LEP agenda is supported. As such at this stage only proposing to allocate £300k or the £400k available for 2020-21.

Committee considered the proposed projects.

There was a particular discussion about the proposed work for the A51/A500 corridor study. Question of whether a broader piece of work is needed first to establish if there are other options to ease the issues which are diverting traffic on to this route in the first place.

Committee agreed funding for the following projects from April 2020: -

a) £115,000 contribution to the Crewe Hub Access Package Business Case development (additional to the £125,000 allocated in 2019);

b) £80,000 contribution to the Ellesmere Port Industrial Area: Development and Investment Framework;

c) £70,000 contribution to the development of a Warrington Bus and Mass Transit Strategy

The Strategy Committee agreed that the question around an appropriate piece of scoping work around solutions to the A51/A500 corridor should be referred to the Local Transport Body.

The Strategy Committee also noted the recommendation of the LTB for projects to be considered later in the year as follows: -

1. £21,500 contribution to the Chester City Gateway Masterplan (additional to the £65,000 allocated in 2019);
2. £25,000 contribution to a study for a Northern Powerhouse Rail Station in Central Warrington; and
3. £50,000 contribution to the Warrington Last Mile – Town Centre Masterplan (additional to the £75,000 allocated in 2019).