

**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership  
Performance and Investment Committee Meeting  
held on 27th October 2021 at 1.30 via Teams**

**In attendance:** Nichola Newton (Chairman), Loren Jones, Ian Traynor, Joe Toward, Peter Skates (part), Ian Brooks, Neil Taylor

**Apologies:** Chris Hindley, Catherine Walker, Stewart Brown, Alex Thompson, Paul Goodwin

**Presentations on:** Medicine Discovery Catapult – Dr Helen Bright, David Moore, Nicola Heron  
Reaseheath Automated Milking – Ed Parrish  
Transport Update – Roy Newton

Item No.	Item	To be Actioned by	By When
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p>NN welcomed attendees and apologies were noted as above Due to the Corona Virus meeting held via Teams</p>		
2	<p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>Declarations of interest: NN declared an interest in the WVR AMET project referred to in the programme manager report.</p>		
3	<p><b>Minutes and actions from the last meeting:</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> September were approved. Actions from the last meeting:</p> <p>CW had suggested that the link on LEP website to the job opportunities portal should be made more prominent. This has yet to be done. The website hosting and maintenance is currently being transferred from one agency to another and a list of improvements will be addressed once the transfer is complete.</p> <p>In terms of strategy updates, John Adlen will be presenting in November (Growth Corridors) instead of Andy Devaney, whose update will be re-scheduled.</p>	<p>IB</p> <p>IB</p>	<p>Nov</p> <p>Fwd Look</p>
4	<p><b>Medicines Discovery Catapult</b></p> <p>HB led a presentation on the progress of the project, explaining that the laboratory design is finalised, and contractors are due on site in November. The facility will provide a state of the art, secure resource for infectious diseases research and medicines development.</p> <p>HB explained that the timetable was tight to achieve full utilisation of the Getting Building Fund allocation by 31 March 2022. Lead times for some of the specialist equipment ranged from 12-24 weeks. Mitigations are being discussed with IB. Questions from members focussed on management of risks e.g. cost inflation, the level of contingency within the budget and responsibilities to make up any</p>		



	<p>Besides the monitoring role for LGF and GPF, P&amp;I members are keen to understand how their function will evolve. IB explained that there will be investment opportunities arising for Growing Places Fund and for EZ within the Growth Corridor.</p> <p>Regarding the risk registers, the committee suggested reviewing upwards the likelihood of some risks to project delivery to reflect the challenges in the supply chain and inflationary pressures.</p>	IB	Nov
8	<p><b>Recovery Plan Update – Transport/Infrastructure</b></p> <p>RN provided an update for transport initiatives and some additional activity relating more generally to infrastructure and digital connectivity. Significant progress has been made allocating £1.2M of LEP funding towards the development of business cases and feasibility studies, all designed to raise the level of “readiness” in the sub-region to anticipated calls for projects by Government in the coming year or two. Many of the projects support transport and sustainable transport (walking/ cycling) projects.</p> <p>Coinciding as it did with the Chancellors Budget /SR speech, RN was able to report announcements of £2Bn towards sustainable transport and £3Bn towards the preparation of Bus Strategies. Consultants have already been appointed locally for Bus Strategy work.</p> <p>RN also gave a short update on HS2, the condition of Crewe station and the need for investment, and the “bid” put forward by Crewe as a location for the Great British Railways HQ (or part of it).</p> <p>The presentation will be circulated to members (since done)</p>		
9	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>IB said that a replacement for Rachel Laver had been identified with an anticipated start date of 8/11/21. IB will seek to arrange introductions with members ahead of the next meeting as part of induction.</p>	IB	Nov