

# **NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**Thursday 19 September 2019 at 5.00pm**

**Held at Durham County Cricket Club, Emirates Riverside, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3QR**

**DRAFT MINUTES to be ratified at the LEP Board on 28 November 2019**

## **Present:**

Andrew Hodgson	Chair, North East LEP
Gillian Hall	Gillian Hall Consulting Limited
David Land	Drive 2 Business
Ammar Mirza	AmmarM (UK) Limited
Cllr Nick Forbes	Leader, Newcastle City Council
Councillor Martin Gannon	Leader, Gateshead Council
Councillor Peter Jackson	Leader, Northumberland County Council
Cllr Iain Malcolm	Leader, South Tyneside Council
Mayor Norma Redfearn	North Tyneside Council

## **In Attendance:**

Helen Golightly	Chief Executive, North East LEP
Paul Woods	Lead Financial Consultant, North East Combined Authority
Richard Baker	Head of Strategy and Policy, North East LEP
Victoria Sutherland	LEP Senior Economist
Gillian Kelly	Sunderland City Council (Minutes)

## **Apologies**

Farooq Hakim	Oracle
Andrew Moffat	
Heidi Mottram	Northumbrian Water Group
Mark Thompson	Ryder Architecture
Kate Wickham	Gate7 Group
Councillor Simon Henig	Leader, Durham County Council
Councillor Graeme Miller	Leader, Sunderland City Council
Stuart Corbridge	Durham University
Ellen Thinnesen	Sunderland College

**1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND OPENING REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Board Members were made aware that the meeting was inquorate, however the Board's recommendations would be sent to Board members for agreement by written representations after the meeting.

HG

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 25 July 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

With regard to the actions, the LEP Chief Executive advised that the Brexit policy research and the SEP evaluation presentation had been circulated with the agenda papers. The LEP team was in the process of setting up a session with developers in the region on Enterprise Zones and the local authorities had begun a series of presentations providing updates on the sites to the LEP Investment Board in the last few weeks.

**4. SEP DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Board received an update on the delivery plan setting out the progress against Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) actions and the performance against plan targets since 2014.

The covering report set out the highlights and points to note since the last meeting and the Chief Executive drew attention to the live funding calls in relation to Innovation. The calls, closing on 11 October 2019, were for the Innovation Project Development Fund and Incubator Support Fund and would support business case developments and develop the innovation pipeline.

There were ongoing discussions in relation to the Transforming Cities Fund and a Full Business Case was due to be submitted by the end of November 2019. An Energy for Growth funding call had been opened for capital and revenue support to develop against a number of criteria.

The Chair referred to the discussion at the previous meeting regarding the job creation figures from the SEP which were at odds with a report from the Institute for Public Policy Research. He had asked the LEP team to provide

some context for the differing views on job creation and the Board were advised that there was no one way of measuring employment. The SEP used the annual population survey which was available at both LEP and local authority level and therefore felt to be the most appropriate data set. The annual population survey data was published based on home addresses and some workplace analysis. Consistency in data was crucial and the North East LEP felt that these were the best numbers to use over a period of time.

The Institute for Public Policy Research were using a different ONS data set which was also valid but only available at regional level. The data set was designed for the slightly different purpose of monitoring employment in sectors over time.

Board Members requested that this information be put into a written format so that they were able to speak with confidence about the issue should this be required.

**VS**

**The Board NOTED the Programme Delivery Update.**

## **5. STRENGTHENING LEPS REVIEW – OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

The Board received a report asking them to consider the outstanding matters in relation to the Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships report which had been presented to the May meeting. These were: -

- To agree a revised quorum to strengthen governance and enable business to proceed at all Board meetings; and
- To agree a voting mechanism to add clarity to the current Constitution

The current quorum for the LEP Board was ten out of 18 members of which five members should be from the private sector and four from the public sector. It was proposed that the quorum should remain as ten, of which four members should be from the private sector and three from the public. The public sector members should include one member from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and one from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA).

The North East LEP Constitution stated that “the principle of decision making by the Board shall be that, wherever possible, decisions of the Board will be by consensus, without the need for a vote”. It had been proposed that where a consensus could not be reached, a simple majority vote would be taken where the Chair did not have a casting vote. There had been some concerns expressed about this arrangement, however it was suggested that the proposal around the quorum would address these concerns and ensure that there would be representation from both NECA and NTCA in the decision-making process.

**The Board RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) the proposed quorum set out in paragraph 2 of the report be agreed; and**
- (ii) the proposed voting arrangements set out in paragraph 3 of the report be agreed.**

## **6. FUNDING UPDATE AND DECISIONS**

**This report was strictly confidential as it contained commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and was not for wider circulation.**

The Board received a report which: -

- provided a summary of decisions taken under delegation since the last Board meeting; and
- provided a funding programme round up, including steps to identify reserve LGF Programme projects as a contingency measure against underspending in the final year of the programme.

**The Board RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) the funding decisions taken under delegation since the last Board meeting be noted;**
- (ii) the contingency plan set out in 3.6 to mitigate the risk of the LGF lifetime budget underspend be agreed and that the Executive implement as may be required, a mix of options from those set out, with the new projects under delegation being agreed under delegation to the Investment Board;**
- (iii) it be agreed to develop, in consultation with local authority Economic Directors, a process and timescale to develop a more strategic project pipeline in the context of the finalised Local Industrial Strategy and Brexit dynamics; and**
- (iv) the issues highlighted in the Mid-Year Performance review with the Cities and Local Growth Unit be noted.**

## **7. LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

**This report was strictly confidential as it contained commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and was not for wider circulation.**

The Board received a report and presentation setting out the proposed strategic approach and content for the North East Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

**The Board ENDORSED the broad strategic approach and content of the North East Local Industrial Strategy.**

## **8. BREXIT PREPARATIONS**

**This report was strictly confidential as it contained commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and was not for wider circulation.**

The Board received a report providing an update on the work of the North East Brexit Group.

**The Board RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) the stepped up arrangements be noted;**
- (ii) the general and specific ‘asks’ set out in the paper be noted; and**
- (iii) it be agreed to write to the Government seeking confirmation that support for these asks is available as requested.**

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the LEP Board would take place on Thursday 28 November 2019 at 5.00pm.

## ACTION LOG

<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Update</u>
All Board decisions to be ratified through written representation following the meeting.	<b>HG</b>	
Note to be provided summarising the data set information regarding the measurement of job creation.	<b>VS</b>	