

**BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting**

**held on 9th November 2016 at CWaC HQ, Chester, CH1 2NP**

**Present:**

Howard Hopwood (Vice Chair) Cllr Samantha Dixon Cllr Rachel Bailey Prof Tim Wheeler

Pete Waterman Robert Mee Robert Davis Ged Barlow

Meredydd David Martin Ashcroft Nigel Schofield

**Apologies:**

Christine Gaskell (Chair) Louise Morrissey Jamie Christon

Clare Hayward Terry O’Neill Mark Livesey

**Attending / Observing:**

Philip Cox (Chief Executive) Andy Farrall Charlie Seward

Frank Jordan Katrina Michel

**Agenda Item 1: Apologies and Introductions**

1.1 Apologies were received from Christine Gaskell, Louise Morrissey, Jamie Christon, Clare Hayward, Cllr Terry O’Neill and Mark Livesey.

**Agenda Item 2: Conflicts of Interest**

2.1 Meredydd David declared an interest in the report from the Strategy Committee under item 7.

2.2 Tim Wheeler, Pete Waterman and Nigel Schofield declared an interest in item 8 and left the meeting before the item was discussed.

**Agenda Item 3: Public Presentation**

3.1 No request from a member of the public had been received seven days before the meeting.

**Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2016**

4.1 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4.2. The Chief Executive confirmed that all of the actions arising from the previous meeting had been discharged. In particular he reported that, following an open competition, the LEP had identified a preferred candidate for the Science Corridor Growth Director and was concluding their formal appointment.

**Agenda Item 5: Chief Executive's report**

5.1 Philip Cox took the Board through his report and briefed the Board on initial discussions with DCLG/BEIS about the conclusion of the bidding round for funding form the Local Growth Fund.

**Agenda Item 6: HS2 Golborne Link and Connectivity**

6.1 Roy Newton introduced his paper, describing how it was expected that the Government would announce that Phase 2b of HS2 would include the Golborne Link, diverting the line around Warrington. Andy Farrall described the adverse economic impact of the link for Warrington and the North West economy more generally. He also highlighted that the link would, in time, divert Liverpool trains away from Crewe, undermining the hub role of Crewe station. Charlie Seward emphasised the benefits to the C&W economy of a connectivity strategy based around rail hubs at Crewe, Chester and Warrington.

6.2 Following discussion the Board agreed that, in conjunction with the local authorities, an urgent piece of work should be undertaken to produce clear evidence of the economic implications of the Golborne Link, and alternative ways in which HS2 could achieve the objectives it believes the Link delivers.

**Action: A detailed report to be produced by early December to form the basis of a response to the Government’s announcement.**

**Agenda Item 7: Reports from the Board Sub-committees.**

7.1 **Strategy Committee**:

The Board noted the minutes of the Strategy Committee held on 13 October.

7.2 **Finance & Audit Committee:**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February, and agreed with Martin Ashcroft’s recommendation that for the purposed of the Statutory Accounts, the LEP is a Going Concern, subject to budgeting decisions taking account of the need to retain a minimum level of reserves of £150k.

The Board also noted that the Statutory Accounts are ready for signing. It was agreed that they would be circulated electronically to Board members. Subject to there being no objections, the Board delegated to the Chair and one other Board member, authority to sign the accounts.

[HSBC resolution here]

7.3 **Performance & Investment Committee:**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 22 August. Nigel Schofield declared his role as a Governor of Macclesfield College. He noted that the minutes state that new risks have been added, including that Macclesfield College’s response to the ABR would reduce the LEP’s influence on their curriculum. Nigel stated that the Governors of the College were clear that they would not allow this to happen.

7.4 **Employers Skills Board:**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting of the Employers Skills Board held on 28 September.

7.5 **Housing Strategy Board:**

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting of the Employers Skills Board held on 19 October.

**Agenda Item 8: Board Appointments**

8.1 The Board discussed the paper setting out the process for recruiting replacements for Board members whose terms are expiring.

* The composition of the new Board needs to properly represent Cheshire and Warrington and its businesses. The proposed appointment panel would need to be properly briefed on this requirement, and it was therefore agreed that the Executive team would produce a brief for the panel to be agreed by the LEP Board.
* The role should be described as being a Board member, rather than a non-executive director.
* The LEP Board should be given the role of approving the recommendations from the appointment panel.

8.2 Subject to these comments, the Board approved the recruitment process and authorised the Executive team to take on recruitment consultants to help manage and administer the process.

**Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business**

9.1 There was no other business