

Official minutes of meeting

Growth Corridors Board

29 November 17:00-19:00

Location: Microsoft Teams

Item	Action
<hr/> Part A: Public items <hr/>	
1. Attendees and apologies	
Attendees:	
Board members:	
Loren Jones (Chair)	
Chris Farrow	
Linda Hilton	
Cllr Tom Jennings	
Cllr Nick Mannion	
In attendance:	
John Adlen	
Philip Cox	
Stephen Fitzsimons	
Charles Jarvis	
Apologies:	
Cllr Richard Beacham	
Tony Bochenski	
Rob Charnley	
Nicola Heron	
Martin Wood	

Item	Action
2. Declarations of interest	
a) Cllr Tom Jennings and Stephen Fitzsimons declared an interest in Birchwood Park on behalf of Warrington Borough Council.	
b) Cllr Nick Mannion and Charles Jarvis declared an interest in Alderley Park.	
3. Minutes and matters arising	
The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting	
4. Public speaking time	
No requests were received from members of the public to attend or speak at the meeting.	
5. Governance	
a) Chair of Growth Corridors Board	
Peter Broxton has stepped down from the Growth Corridors Board. Vice-Chair Loren Jones will take over as Chair going forward. The Chair extended his thanks to Peter for his service to the Board. Philip Cox provided overview of LEP review, review of sub-boards over next period. Slimming down of sub-boards, move towards advisory network, establishment of task and finish groups.	
b) Progress against Purpose Pyramid	
John Adlen presented the progress against the Purpose Pyramid to the Board. It was noted that progress against all objectives had either been completed or were on track.	
6. Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone	
a) Investment programme update	
John Adlen updated the Board on the EZ investment programme, reporting that there had been no significant changes to the programme in the last period.	

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b) Investment pipeline

John Adlen updated the Board on the EZ investment pipeline, noting that there are currently four schemes in the pipeline:

- **Vortex** (Newport Business Park) – The developer has submitted a revised appraisal for the scheme, which was considered under Item 11a.
- **Enviroo** (Protos) – revised investment case has been received, but consideration by the Board has been postponed until the January 2023 meeting at the request of the applicant.
- **Waste to Hydrogen Plant** (Protos) – no progress had been made against this scheme.
- **Quadrant Phase 3** (Birchwood Park) – DWF have been instructed to draw up the necessary legal agreements.
- **Alderley Park** – the scheme was considered under Item 11b.
- **Thornton Science Park** – no progress to report.

7. High Speed Growth Corridor

A Senior Officers Group has been established with Department for Transport (DfT), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Homes England, Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA), Cheshire East Council and the LEP to develop further the plans for maximising the impact of the arrival of HS2 services at Crewe. Warrington Council have appointed AECOM to undertake some high level masterplanning around Bank Quay Station.

8. Marketing and promotion

No Items.

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9. Cluster and sector development

a) Life sciences

John Adlen provided a verbal update to the board on the ongoing work with the life sciences sector.

b) Energy

John Adlen provided a verbal update on the work of the SIGC and other net zero work.

10. Town centres

Local Authority officers provided an update on their respective town centre programmes.

Part B: Non-public items

11. EZ investment cases

a. Vortex

The Board considered an updated report on the Vortex scheme in Ellesmere Port. The Board approved a maximum investment of £2.7m in the Vortex scheme and instructed the Growth Director and Finance Director to conduct further negotiations with VBP Ltd within the parameters set out by the Board. The Growth Corridors Board delegated authority to the Chair of the Growth Corridors Board to authorise the final investment and sign the legal agreements on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

b. Alderley Park Labs

The Board considered a report from Aspinall Verdi on the estimated retained business rates from the proposed labs at Alderley Park. The Board instructed the Growth Director to conduct further discussions with Alderley Park Ltd with a view to arriving at an agreed position in terms of forecast future retained business rates from the scheme.

c. Blocks 22-24 additional funding

The Board considered a request from Alderley Park Ltd on cost overruns on the Blocks 22-24 scheme, which had been incurred due to the Category 3 lab sponsored by the Medicines Discovery Catapult not progressing. The Board approved an additional £200,000 investment into the Blocks 22-24 scheme to contribute towards the cost overruns from the existing underspend within the Getting Building Fund.

12. AOB

There being no other business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.