

## BOARD MEETING

**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting  
held 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 4.30pm at Cheshire College, South and West, Ellesmere Port and by video  
conference call**

**Present:**

Clare Hayward (CH)	Trevor Brocklebank	Cllr Louise Gittins	Cllr Craig Browne
Maggie Chen	Annette McDonald	Peter Broxton	Rupert Collis
Chris Hindley (CHi)	Nicola Dunbar	Alice Choi	
Cllr Russ Bowden			

**In attendance:**

Philip Cox	Ian Brooks	Joe Manning	Andy Devaney
Jane Traverse	Alex Thompson (CEC, s151)	Gemma Davies	

**Apologies**

Loren Jones	Nichola Newton	John Downes	Eunice Simmons
Kath Mackay	Lorraine O'Donnell	Steve Park	Charlie Seward

**Members of the Public (for Part A)**

Helen Boyle (Cadent)			
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**Agenda Item 1: Apologies and Introductions**

1.1 CH welcomed Board Members. Apologies were received as above.

1.2 CH explained that the meeting format had been amended and now included a public session, presentation from Cadent in private session, and a discussion forum.

1.3 CH also announced two changes to board member portfolios. Annette McDonald would be stepping down as chair of the local transport board to lead board representation for sustainable growth, which is an important and wide-ranging theme in our vision. Discussions will continue with the local authorities regarding future arrangements for the LTB chair. Nichola Newton had agreed to join the Finance and Audit committee, following Stephen Kinsey's departure.

**Conflicts of Interest**

1.4 RC mentioned that Fisher German are acting for Cadent Gas. (Item 6)

## **Agenda Item 2: Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

2.1 The minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed with one minor amendment proposed by TB in respect of paragraph 7.4. He suggested the wording be amended to remove any implied suggestion that the £300k level of reserves was a target for the year.

**ACTION: IB**

## **Agenda Item 3: Delivery Plan 2022-23**

3.1 PC introduced the item by reminding the board that they had seen and discussed the substantive content of the delivery plan and that the update provided to this meeting was essentially a version re-formatted for publication. A chair's foreword was in draft, for discussion with CH, which would be added to the final document.

3.2 However, several substantive suggestions were made to update the content of the document including:

- Amendment of the wording for the plan to be "fully up to date" for Covid and the Ukraine, where developments are ongoing,
- Further reference to an inclusive culture in the governance section,
- Reference to supporting active travel,
- Networking with Welsh rail partners on Growth Track 360.

3.3 Board members were asked to provide any final comments by the 17<sup>th</sup> June, and it was agreed that PC would clear the final version for publication with CH and TB.

**ACTION: PC**

3.4 JM said that the LEP / MC will share the plan on social media and asked board members to share within their networks.

## **Agenda Item 4: Shared Prosperity Fund**

4.1 AD summarised the paper regarding work being carried out on the Shared Prosperity Fund. SPF, at £28M over the next 3 years, is considerably smaller than the £140M programme including ERDF and ESF. However, SPF has been allocated with additional flexibility and without a requirement for match funding. Nevertheless, prioritising programmes will be challenging.

4.2 Board members offered their views on priorities:

- Discussions with stakeholders are ongoing and include proposals to address the low rate of business start-up and slow scale up within first 12 months, and to better understand the role of local supply chains. Skills availability remains a major constraint to growth in some sectors.
- CH encouraged decision makers to be bold in identifying where the biggest challenges exist and the proposals which offer the largest impact.
- AM would welcome unlocking opportunities in the rural economy where skills shortages are limiting reaching goals for sustainability and food security.
- AC suggested exploring opportunities to collaborate with LCR and GMCA.

4.3 Ideas are also being promoted regarding efficiencies to the structures to manage the programme. It was accepted that different challenges will likely require different partnerships.

4.4 PC clarified that the LEP is one of several sources of advice to Local Authorities which will struggle to take account of all suggestions. GD confirmed that CWaC will be preparing its plan for consideration in the council before submission to government August. The plan will seek to address various themes, including the evidence base, inequalities and community cohesion.

4.5 RC expressed concern that the current geo-political and economic conditions, which will bring future challenges, may require different interventions. CH thought it would be useful to convene a small group discussion which Alice Choi, TB and PB volunteered to join.

**ACTION: AD**

### **Agenda Item 5: Chief Executive’s Report**

5.1 PC provided a verbal update to his written report. He confirmed that the contracts for the first skills bootcamps were almost complete and that the second lot of tenders (all digital) will be launched w/c 20<sup>th</sup> June.

5.2 He confirmed that discussions continue with the Local Authorities regarding the plans for a business case fund and would revert later in the year.

5.3 PC also congratulated Chester Zoo on winning the Visit Britain Large Attraction of the Year Award. This followed their local success at the Marketing Cheshire Awards which was a requirement of entry to the national nominations.

### **Agenda Item 6: Cadent Presentation**

6.1. The presentation, taken in private session, described the hydrogen village project being led by Cadent.

### **Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business**

8.1 AT mentioned he had been invited by CIPFA to represent them on a BEIS chaired forum working on the relationship and collaboration between central and local government towards net zero.

[BEIS net zero forum set up to ‘clarify expectations’ for councils | Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) \(lgcplus.com\)](https://www.lgcplus.com/news/beis-net-zero-forum-set-up-to-clarify-expectations-for-councils)

8.2 JM shared a list of some upcoming events.

### **Agenda Item 9: Date and Time of Next Meetings:**

Board Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 4:30pm– 6:30pm (Virtual MS Teams)

Board Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> September, 4:30pm– 6:30pm (Virtual MS Teams)

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

Action arising	Action	Who	Complete?
16/3/22	Take forward recommendations to improve interaction with engagement board members:	Board members	Ongoing
16/3/22	Sub-boards to review and comment on relevant sections of delivery plan	Sub-board chairs	Complete
16/3/22	Circulate a list of events (being attended by LEP Board members)	Joe Manning	Ongoing
18/5/22	ESB would welcome views from board members and their networks as to what skills the next round of skills bootcamps should target	Board members	

15/6/22	Revise and republished May minutes	Ian Brooks	
15/6/22	Finalise and publish Delivery Plan 2022-23	Philip Cox	
15/6/22	Convene discussion group re possible interventions for SPF.	Andy Devaney	