



**LEP Strategy Committee
MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Thursday 25th January 2018
Wyvern House, Winsford

Present:

Robert Mee (Chair)
Robert Davis
Julian Cobley

Philip Cox
Andy Farrall
Andy Hulme

Stephen Kinsey
Chloe Taylor

Apologies:

Frank Jordan
Graem Bristow
Lisa Harris

Clare Hayward
Gary Steen

Pete Waterman
Charlie Seward

Attending:

Nigel Wilcock, Mickledore (AI 3, only)

Agenda Item 1: Apologies

Robert Mee welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were recorded from Clare Heyward, Frank Jordan (represented by Julian Cobley), Charlie Seward (represented by Chloe Taylor), Gary Steen, Pete Waterman and Graeme Bristow.

Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest

Robert Davis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3 and Agenda Item 6.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation: Energy Strategy

Nigel Wilcock of Mickledore gave a short presentation on the emerging LEP Energy Strategy, setting out the key findings and areas of potential LEP action.

Key points from the presentation and subsequent discussion included: -

- As a sub-region we consume much higher levels of non-domestic energy than other areas, mainly due to the industrial cluster at Ellesmere Port
- The existing electricity network is at or near capacity in large parts of the sub-region so our growth plans will require reinforcement of the network.

- Current challenges to carbon reduction tend to be commercial rather than technological. As such there may be a role for the LEP / Local Authorities to help de-risk low carbon investment or act as a first mover in terms of some of the infrastructure.
- There are risks to the long-term stability of the nuclear cluster in Cheshire and Warrington
- Mickledore has identified four key areas which the LEP could influence:
 - Heat and energy efficiency
 - EV infrastructure
 - Localised power generation
 - Grid
- There is a significant number of households (particularly in southern parts of Cheshire East and Cheshire West) that are off the gas grid. This presents particular challenges – and opportunities – for carbon reduction.
- The thinking on the Cheshire and Warrington Low Carbon Innovation Fund was outlined.

Andy Hulme confirmed that the group Steering the study would be meeting in the next two weeks to provide feedback on the draft with a view to completing the Mickeldore report by mid-to-late February. A short summary document including the action plan would be developed for publication by the end of March.

The Committee thanked Nigel for his presentation and expressed support for the key findings he outlined. It was noted that the recommendations relating to planning regulations being used as a driver for faster adoption of low carbon technologies need to be understood quickly so that they can be incorporated (if appropriate) into emerging Local Plans and Local plan reviews.

Action: Andy Hulme to forward the draft report to the local authority Executive Place / Development Directors for review.

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2017 were approved.

The matters arising were covered under the agenda with the exception of: -

AI 3 Quality of Place: It was noted that a presentation was being arranged for the full LEP Board in February.

AI 6 Business Growth Hub: Philip Cox confirmed that the LEP has received notification from BEIS that funding for the Business Growth Hub will continue for a further two years and at current levels.

AI 7 National Policy Announcements: following a brief discussion on the challenges of pulling together the proposed Infrastructure Group, it was agreed that an outline proposal would be developed setting out how various strands of strategic-level infrastructure thinking could be pulled together into a workable structure.

Action: LEP Executive to work with Sub Regional Directors to develop a proposal on strategic infrastructure oversight

Agenda Item 5: Open Meetings / 2018 Meeting Schedule

The contents of the report were noted.

The Committee discussed its commitment to demonstrate transparency in its discussions and decision making. The proposed meeting schedule for 2018 was agreed and the Committee opted to treat all of its meetings as open to the public. Any sensitive or commercially confidential issues would be dealt with via the use of Part I and Part II agendas (the latter being confidential and closed to the public).

Action: Dates of Strategy Committee meetings to be made available on the LEP website.

Agenda Item 6: Strategy Work Programme

The contents of the report were noted, including the current position in regard to the development of the supporting delivery plans to the SEP.

Andy Hulme confirmed that a 'light touch' review of the SEP would be undertaken in February to ensure that it remained factually correct and to reflect any changes (such as the change of name from HCA to Homes England).

There was a discussion over the potential areas of activity for the 2018/19 work programme. The Strategy Committee was supportive of the broad areas of activity set out in the report, in particular the proposal to develop appropriate KPIs / management information to support the delivery of the sub-regional prospectus. It was noted that the accelerated rate of growth experienced in 2016 could make the infrastructure activity more pressing.

Agenda Item 7: Growing Places Fund

This item was carried forward to the February meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Ellesmere Port Sub Station Negotiation position

Due to a delay in receiving relevant information from the LEP's legal advisors, this item was carried forward to the February meeting.

Agenda Item 9: National Policy Announcements

The following items were noted: -

- Major Route Network consultation (DFT)
- DEFRA 25-year Environment Plan
- TfN Strategic Plan consultation
- Update on 5G Policy
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/next-generation-mobile-technologies-an-update-to-the-5g-strategy-for-the-uk>
- OfCom Connected Nations report
https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0024/108843/summary-report-connected-nations-2017.pdf
- Automotive Sector Deal launch
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/automotive-sector-deal>
- Careers Strategy
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-strategy-making-the-most-of-everyones-skills-and-talents>

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

There were no items raised under Any Other Business.

Agenda Item 11: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd February 2018, Wyvern House, Winsford.