**LEP Strategy Committee**

**MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Wednesday 25th April 2018

Wyvern House, Winsford

**Present:**

Robert Mee (Chair) Stephen Kinsey Graeme Bristow

Robert Davis Andy Farrall Charlie Seward

Andy Hulme

**Apologies:**

Frank Jordan Clare Hayward Pete Waterman

Gary Steen Philip Cox

**Attending:**

N/A

**Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Robert Mee welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were recorded from Clare Hayward, Frank Jordan, Philip Cox, Gary Steen and Pete Waterman.

**Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

Robert Davis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 4.

Charlie Seward declared an interest in Agenda item 4 as a Director of Qwest.

Graeme Bristow declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 as a Board member of Make it Macclesfield.

The Committee agreed that all should remain during these items to input to the discussion.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2018 were approved.

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

*AI 4 – Matters Arising – National Policy Announcements*: Proposals on developing a mechanism for providing strategic oversight on infrastructure issues were still pending.

*AI7 – Growing Places Fund –* update required on the items originally due for consideration at the January meeting (Committee agreed these can be dealt with via correspondence if required).

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

**Agenda Item 4: 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 has been undertaken and a revised draft will be circulated to the Committee for consideration in advance of the next meeting.

Drafts of the Energy and Quality of Place Strategies had been circulated for comment in advance of the meeting.

It was agreed that the Energy Strategy offered a key opportunity to create some genuine propositions to interest Government and realise the potential of the sector in the sub-region. Cross boundary opportunities were also recognised. The Committee confirmed that it was happy with the Energy Strategy and initial delivery plan, as drafted, and that the Strategy could progress to the main Board for consideration prior to issuing for wider consultation.

There was an extended discussion regarding the Quality of Place Strategy. Whilst acknowledging the work undertaken in developing the Strategy, the Committee felt further sharpening of the key messages (including the role of the LEP in Quality of Place) was needed before the Strategy could be shared for wider comment.

***Action: Andy Hulme to circulate the revised SEP for comment***

***Action: Subject to Board approval, Andy Hulme to prepare and circulate a public-facing version of the Energy Strategy for wider public consultation.***

***Action: Robert Mee to meet with Andy Hulme and Philip Cox re: Quality of Place Strategy.***

It was noted that work has started on the development of the LEP’s Science and Innovation Strategy and a workshop was being held on Friday 27th April 2018 at Sci-Tech Daresbury. An outline was also being drafted for the proposed Digital Strategy and this would be shared with the Committee at the next meeting.

There was a discussion about the role of the Strategy Committee once the SEP and supporting strategies were all in place. It was suggested that as well as a key role in monitoring the implementation and progress of the SEP, Strategy Committee also has an important role in communicating our strategy, and in acting as a conduit to business, especially once work gets underway on the Local Industrial Strategy.

Andy Hulme updated the Committee on recent conversations with BEIS about the development of a Local Industrial Strategy for Cheshire and Warrington. Initial activity to scope out what that might mean for Cheshire and Warrington was being undertaken and would be included as an item on the next meeting agenda.

***Action: Industrial Strategy to be included in the next Strategy Committee meeting agenda.***

***Action: Future agenda item – How we communicate our strategy / activity and what are our audiences.***

**Agenda Item 5: Future Meeting Dates**

It was noted that the current schedule of Strategy Committee meeting dates on Thursday mornings is causing difficulties for a number of Committee members. It was suggested that dates be reviewed and aligned to LEP Board meeting dates where possible.

***Action: Andy Hulme to circulate proposed new meeting dates.***

**Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business**

There were no items raised under Any Other Business.

**Agenda Item 7: Date and Time of Next Meeting**

TBC, Wyvern House, Winsford.