

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 6 July 2022

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: [Via Teams link on calendar invite](#)

Chair: Councillor Laura Crane from Cheshire East Council

Membership: Catherine Barber-Brown, Tracey Walsh, Helen Nellist, Councillor Paul Donovan (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and Cllr S Parish (Warrington Borough Council)

Small Business Group (ex officio members) – Phil McCabe.

Officer Contact: Sharon Parker, Democratic Services Manager (Statutory Scrutiny Manager)
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AGENDA

| Agenda Item | | Lead | Timings |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Open Meeting - Items during the consideration of which the meeting is expected to be open to members of the public (including the press) | | | |
| 1. | Apologies for Absence | Chair | 2.00 pm |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest | Chair | 2.00 pm |
| 3. | Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2022 | Chair | 2.05 pm |
| 4. | Membership To note the resignation of Rob McKay and suggestions for replacement (small business representation) | Chair | 2.15pm |
| 5. | Briefing from Philip Cox - LEP review – following the letter received from Ministers on 31 st March. LEP Delivery Plan for 22-23 (document to be provided). | Philip Cox Rebecca Luck | 2.25pm |
| 6. | Training Working Group Update | Chair/SP | 2.55pm |
| 7. | Work Programme and Items Raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Attached | Chair / Sharon Parker/LEP Officer | 3.05 pm |

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| 8. | <p>Public Participation</p> <p>To receive questions from members of the public in accordance with Governance Procedure Rule 6. A total period of 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at Panel meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking.</p> <p>Members of the Public may speak on any matter relating to the work of the Committee. During public speaking time, members of the public may ask questions of the Committee and the Chairman in responding to the question may answer the question, may decline to do so, may agree to reply at a later date or may refer the question to an appropriate person or body.</p> <p>Questions will be asked and answered without discussion. In order for officers to undertake any background research, members of the public who wish to ask a question at a Committee meeting should submit the question at least a day before the meeting.</p> <p>Members of the public are to be able to put questions direct to the Committee via social media platform Twitter: @candwlep</p> | LEP Officer | 3.255 pm |
| 9 | AOB | | 3.40pm |
| 10. | <p>Proposed - Future Meeting Dates (2pm)</p> <p>Oct – Wed 5th Dec – Wed 7th?</p> | Chair | 3.50 pm |
| Part II - Matters to be discussed in private | | | |
| 11. | Nil | | |

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday 26th January 2022
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

Present: Chair Cllr Laura Crane

Cllr Steve Parish Tracey Walsh, Catherine Barber-Brown, Yvette Hastings, , Phil McCabe and Helen Nellist

Also In Attendance:

- Philip Cox - Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Ian Brooks – Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Sharon Parker – Warrington Borough Council (secretariat)

80. Apologies

Apologies were received from Rob McKay and Cllr Paul Donovan.

81. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

82. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 8th of September 2021 were received as a correct record.

83. Items raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee were updated on the feedback of the previous meeting's presentations on employers Skills and Education Board and Business Growth Committee. In line with the recommendation 6 of the Scrutiny Review – to consider formalising the feedback loop a new process had been drawn up to record feedback.

The Committee commented as follows:

Careworkers – ref 001/21

Good information provided but could there be a further update in six months' time on the topic. **AGREED**

Skills Boot Camp was to be introduced following provision of funding from the LEP. CBB asked whether there were any ways the third sector could access the boot camps. More creative solutions may be needed such as the Altrincham approach. Important that the message went out quickly to enable the numbers to attend. One issue had been in the care sector was not just the cost of the attendance at the training but the back filling of the post when on training. **AGREED**

HS 2 – ref 002/21 – to what extent are you relying on HS2 to bring in skills to the area or take them away?

Interesting information provided but what was happening longer term? What was it supplementing?

PC outlined the key position of Crewe and the Great British Railway, this not only improves economics but also markets Crewe and attracts key suppliers. Other factors were the life sciences in Liverpool, cluster of green energy firms and strong position near to Manchester Airport.

CBB also mentioned that it was not just about business but also about sustainable health.

Business Hub - Impact of KPIs - re 003/21

HN – could case studies be looked at to review impact?

CBB – Survey people that use the service?

Agreed – set up a Training Working Group. SP to email for interest and start the process off.

84. Digital Connectivity Board Presentation

Ian Brooks made the following points:

The Board had recently been formed and had met in August 2021 following a recruitment drive.

The Sub Board was supporting the Digital Infrastructure Plan.

The plan followed on from the 2019 Digital Strategy and had recently been signed off by the LEP Strategy Committee in December 2020.

It set a vision and four objectives which were supported by an initial set of target measures. It was supported by a range of GIS mapping.

The superfast picture was that of July 2021 the overall level of superfast broadband coverage for Cheshire East as an Authority was just over 96% which was close to the national average of 97%. Given the rural nature this figure was thought to be good.

The gigabit picture was 28% as of July 2021 which was below the average of 40% in England. It was hope to have 85 % coverage by 2025.

The challenges were outlined which included the geography, urban centres, built environment barriers and socio economic barriers.

The delivery arm of Cheshire West, Cheshire East, Warrington and Halton had completed the first phase with the current phase aiming to roll out gigabit – capable full fibre broadband to over 4000 properties across rural or hard to reach areas of Cheshire.

The three priorities were to - coordinate all stakeholders, develop a pipeline of activities to provided connectivity solutions and commit ongoing resources to deliver, ensure capabilities and experience retained.

No specific actions arising from the presentation.

85 LEP Board Minutes

Actions

Include links to the Sub Board minutes too to the Scrutiny Agenda.

Levelling Up – what happened with this? What assurances does the Scrutiny Committee have that it is happening? PC to report back on

Invite the Chair of LEP to a future meeting to discuss how she thinks scrutiny fits in and what opportunities it has.

10 minute presentation at the next meeting from PC on the levelling up agenda

86. Public Participation

To receive questions from members of the public 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at Overview and Scrutiny meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking.

87. Work Programme

Details of the work programme were agreed.

88. Future Meeting Dates

Decision – The following dates were noted, due to commence at 2.00pm, via Teams.

6 April

6 July

5 October



**Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Title: Training Working Group

Prepared by: Sharon Parker

Date of Report: 6 July 2022

1. Executive Summary

To feedback to the Committee on the Training Working Group.

2. Recommendations /Actions Requested

That the Committee:

Notes the work of the Working Group to date and comments as appropriate.

3. Background information

At its meeting in January 2022 Members agreed to set up a working party to look at the topic of training and members of the LEP Scrutiny Committee. In particular they wanted to understand what the **training needs** of members were so that they could fulfil their role on the Scrutiny Committee.

Membership was Cllr Laura Crane, Catherine Barber- Brown, Ian Brooks and Sharon Parker (Secretariat).

The Group met and decided that they wished to focus on two topics – **what scrutiny was and the work of the LEP?**

They also looked at the Type of training including non face to face eg Local Government Association Handbooks for Scrutiny. Together with the **level of training** ie at an induction level and the current position of members 1.5 years into their role.

Members agreed that a short questionnaire should be issued to members seeking their views. The Questionnaire is attached. It would be useful if current members completed it. The document is to be sent to past members too.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the Working Group considers the responses of the individual members and reports back to a future meeting of the Committee.

LEP Scrutiny Committee
Questionnaire

This questionnaire will be circulated to current and previous members of the LEP Scrutiny Committee to understand the training needs of members in order to fulfil their role on the Scrutiny Committee

What training have you undertaken on Scrutiny?

What style of training do you prefer (theoretical on in practice)?

How effective do you feel the LEP scrutiny function is?

What support do you feel would be the most effective?

Is there any other form of support you would welcome?

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**Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Title: Items Raised by the Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

Prepared by: Sharon Parker

Date of Report: 6 July 2022

1. Executive Summary

To feedback to the Committee items/topics raised by Members following presentations held at the previous meetings on 08 September 2021 and 26 January 2022.

2. Recommendations /Actions Requested

That the committee:

- (i) Comments on the structure of the report and suggest amendments as necessary.
- (ii) Considers each reference point and determines what action is to be taken.

2.1 At its meeting held on 08 September 2021 the Committee considered two presentations:

- (i) Employers Skills and Education Board – This looked into the LEP Governance structure; the key activities of the Employer’s Skills and Education Board; the priorities; key decisions of the last 12 months; the way in which the board are influencing and informing the decisions of others; outlined the work programme of the next 12 months; the key challenges the board envisage when delivering the plan; and the KPIs (medium to long term).
- (ii) Business Growth Committee – This presentation looked at the structure of the Business Growth Committee; outlined the progress they had made over the previous year; their responsibilities and decisions; their 2021/22 KPIs; and their 2021/22 goals.

2.2 In line with the scrutiny function Members asked a series of questions relating to the topics highlighted within the table. Responses were provided by officers and the Scrutiny

Committee commented further as applicable. One of the areas in particular was the topic of care workers which the Committee asked if it could be revisited in six months time.

3.1 When the Committee met on 26 January 2022 they received a presentation on Digital Connectivity and discussed the LEP Board minutes. Actions agreed by the Committee were to include links to the Sub Board minutes, a presentation on Levelling Up and to invite the Chair of LEP to a future meeting.

3.2 in addition the Committee agreed to establish a Working Group on training

4. Topic Discussions

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider the topics outlined in the table below, whether they have enough information or whether they wish to delve further into a topic area.

AGENDA ITEM 6

| Reference Number | Topic/ Queries | Feedback | Scrutiny Committee Comments |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| | | September 2021 Meeting | |
| Ref 001/21 | <p>Care workers</p> <p>It is hard to fill these vacancies and hard to recruit to but are there representatives of this important area on the LEP structure? If not formally represented on a LEP committee, are there ways we access the sector views?</p> | <p>The Employers Skills and Education Board does not include representatives of every sector in Cheshire and Warrington but it does include employers from a range of sectors as well as representatives of the local authorities and the local Chambers of Commerce who are very aware of the issues around recruitment and retention of people into the care sector. We also have a member of the LEP staff who works part time for the LEP and part time for the NHS so they are in regular contact with the NHS and care sector. Most recently the NHS/care sector have contributed to the current refresh of our Skills Report.</p> | <p>Good information provide but could there be a further update on care workers in six months time.</p> <p>5th of October 2022 meeting.</p> |
| Ref 002/21 | <p>HS2</p> <p>To what extent are you relying on HS2 to bring in skills to the area or take them away?</p> | <p>We are in regular contact with HS2 who provide regular briefings on the skills that will be needed for the need for their work in Cheshire and Warrington as well as in surrounding areas. There is some concern amongst local businesses that HS2 will 'poach' staff from them.</p> | <p>No further action</p> |

AGENDA ITEM 6

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| | | <p>HS2 are working to ensure local businesses are aware of opportunities to become subcontractors to the HS2 programme. They recently ran a ‘Work With Us Wednesday’ series of events and earlier this year hosted six webinars on a range of subjects to assist businesses interested in bidding for work on the project, or just finding out more about how public sector supply chains work. The sessions gave viewers further detail on subjects such as how we engage with social enterprises, working alongside Growth hubs and other business organisations; as well as looking at how we foster and encourage innovation.</p> <p>HS2 are also planning to hold their annual ‘Meet the Contractor’ event, with this year’s focus being on businesses further down the supply chain. This means a far more regional focus than normal, which should provide more opportunities for local businesses to access HS2’s supply chain.</p> | |
| | <p>HS 2 Can there be a more detailed discussion on the impact on all LEP topics?</p> | <p>Further information to be provided.</p> | |

AGENDA ITEM 6

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|------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Ref 003/21 | How do you know what the impact has been? Can a KPI tell you this? What is the quality of support provided to businesses? | This is respect of our engagements with business, not just counting the number of businesses reached. | |
| | | January 2022 Meeting | |
| Ref 004/22 | Establishment of Training Group to look at the needs of the Scrutiny Committee. | Group met – update to be provided at the July meeting | 6 th July update |
| Ref 005/22 | Include links to Sub Board minutes on the Scrutiny Committee agenda | Append links to the minutes for the next meeting. | |
| Ref 006/22 | Levelling Up – 10 minute presentation on where this was up to in the region. | Discussion re availability of officers | |
| Ref 007/22 | Invitation to the Chair of the LEP to attend a future meeting | Discussion re availability of Chair. | |