**LEP Strategy Programme Board**

**MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Friday 25th March 2022

Via Microsoft Teams

**Present:**

John Downes (Chair) Nicola Dunbar Steve Park

Rupert Collis Philip Cox Stephen Kinsey

Steven Gleave Melissa Crellin

**Apologies:**

Charlie Seward Robert Davis Connor Diskin

Jayne Traverse Eunice Simmons Peter Skates

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome, Introductions & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Charlie Seward, Jayne Traverse, Peter Skates, Robert Davis, Eunice Simmons, and Connor Diskin.

The Chair raised a discussion point from the main LEP Board about whether SPB would prefer to hold in-person vs virtual meetings and canvassed for views from the Strategy Programme Board to feed back to the other Board chairs. It was agreed that it made sense to meet virtually except when there are substantive items for workshopping/discussion, and that these should be in person.

The order of items 7 and 8 was switched around so that 8 preceded 7.

**Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest given.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Strategy Committee held 16th November and Matters Arising**

The minutes for 16th November were accepted as a true record of the discussions.

***Matters Arising***

*29th June* Item 5 – business case development fund – reporting on progress with spend/delivery will be available in the next financial year once financial monitoring has been completed – and can be added to a future agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Public Speaking Time / Open Session**

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 5: Strategy Programme Board ToR and draft purpose pyramid**

The Chair outlined that the LEP Strategy/ies now appear very out of date and that it would be useful to update them to provide clear messages to the subregion’s businesses. There may also be a case for making the strategy / plan punchier, more direct and engaging for business.

In the ToR SK asked whether there should be a reference to the public in the section on meetings.

**Action: MC to review with Ian Brooks and update if needed.**

The rest of the updated ToR were agreed and will be adopted.

The draft purpose pyramid sets out that it is the Strategy Programme Board’s role to lead economic strategy and evidence on behalf of the LEP Board, with a particular focus on key sectors and innovation as well as net zero/clean growth, and to ensure coordinated plans which deliver strong economic foundations.

It was agreed that the Board would be able to make use of the other Boards’ purpose pyramids to inform strategic planning (timescale 2-5 years) and that a purpose pyramid for the Strategy Programme Board would be part of the suite of LEP plans. The purpose is for internal use but as papers go on the website, it would be in the public domain. There was a discussion about page one being helpful but page two not making sense for this Board.

Further comments were requested on the draft purpose pyramid prior to the next meeting.

**Action: Members to provide comments on Strategy Programme Board purpose pyramid (reminder to be emailed).**

**Agenda Item 6: LEP Delivery Plan – Strategy Programme Board slide**

The delivery plan is a one year document and has been drafted to provide clarity on LEP activity pending the government’s feedback further to the LEP Review. The Board discussed the delivery plan and queried the order of the points made on the Strategy Programme Board slide. The Board’s feedback was to update the plan with strategy at the top and net zero under that.

**Action: MC to convey to Rebecca Luck to update**

**Agenda Item 8: Levelling Up/County Deal and updating Evidence Base and Forward work programme**

PC outlined that the results of the LEP Review are not yet available and there isn’t yet clarity on future funding streams and budgets, though the LEP is expecting a letter from government imminently. The letter will define the LEP’s future role and is therefore pertinent to this conversation. Levelling Up work with the three Councils and LEP is ongoing supported by Metro Dynamics.

MC gave an overview of emerging findings from the Metro Dynamics evidence base update work. It was agreed that the LEP would need to review the evidence presented for correctness and allow Metro Dynamics to finalise. Once this is complete, this would then provide the opportunity for presentation of the findings to the Strategy Programme Board for review and discussion of the policy implications, prior to future work on an updated subregional economic strategy/plan.

**Action: Workshop to be organised (as next meeting) for discussion on the evidence base and policy implications**

**Agenda Item 7: Life Sciences Cluster Research**

Due to members having to leave for other meetings it was agreed to defer this item to a subsequent meeting.

**Agenda Item 9: Part B - Non-public items**

There were no non-public items of business.

**Agenda Item 10: AOB**

* Members noted that the Levelling Up White Paper referred to a forthcoming health white paper, stating that ‘the UK Government will set out a strategy to tackle the core drivers of inequalities in health outcomes in a new White Paper on Health Disparities in England in 2022. This will set out a bold ambition for reducing the gap in health outcomes, with a strong focus on prevention and disparities by ethnicity, socioeconomic background and geography’. This is relevant to the new subregional vision for healthy, sustainable and inclusive growth.
* The Chair asked for ESG to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Action: MC to add to the agenda.**

* RC mentioned that he attended the Handelsbank Economic Forecast Summit where James Sprawl, UK Chief Economist for Handelsbanken plc, gave an excellent speech, and that James may be amenable to speaking at future LEP events. James was also previously Director of Policy at IoD and has experience as an adviser to PM Boris Johnson.

**Agenda Item 11: Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Confirmed that the next meeting would be an in-person discussion likely to be in May, focusing on the evidence base update with policy discussion.

Meeting schedule to be confirmed.