

**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership**

**Performance and Investment Committee Meeting**

**held on 24th March 2017 at Thornton Science Park**

**Present:** Ged Barlow (Chair) Howard Hopwood Martin Ashcroft

Peter Bates Steve Park Susie Woodward-Moor

**Apologies:** Francis Lee Alison Knight

**In attendance:** Rachel Brosnahan Mark Livesey Kerry Billington

For presentation on **Thornton Energy Demonstrator Building**- Paul Vernon, Richard Farrow, Maud Duthie, Heather Thompson

**For Sydney Road Bridge Presentation** – Mike Odling, Alec Curley, Daragh Foley

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| Item No. | Item | To be Actioned by | By When |
| 1. | Welcome, Introductions and Apologies |  |  |
| 3 i | The meeting started with a tour of The Energy Demonstrator Building by Paul Vernon and a short presentation. (presentation can be circulated on request). He talked about a number of businesses that were interested in moving into the building but only two leases signed so far. UOC are currently subsidising the building. The first tenant to move in, in April. 5 posts were due to be created as part of the project. People have been appointed to the posts of Admin, Centre Manager and Business Development Manager so far.  SP suggested that it may be worth putting a business club together to generate interest and that this had worked well in Warrington.  Following the presentation the Thornton team left and the committee discussed their concerns with the project. The concerns centered around the fact that the building was currently empty and the short term leases (30 day notice).  The group felt that co-ordination across the science offering was required and that they shouldn’t try to compete with Oxford and Cambridge. Howard suggested that we should see if the Enterprise Zone Committee could help the project and raise its profile.  The committee agreed the following actions:   * RB to meet with Paul in April to start discuss concerns with the project, * RB to discuss the proposed Income and Expenditure with Paul and to request updated figures as there seems to be a number of errors and inconsistencies. RB to also request breakdown of income and quarterly projections which relates to their tenant pipeline ( with dates). * RB to review original business case and see how projections compare | RB  RB  RB | End of April  End of April  14.04.17 |
| 2 | **Conflicts of Interest**  GB asked for any conflicts to be declared. PB declared interest in Sydney Road Bridge. |  |  |
| 3 ii | **Sydney Road Bridge (PB stepped out)**  Mike Odling (MO) gave a brief presentation on the bridge scheme. Everyone was in agreement that it was needed and the disruption it would cause was a necessary evil.  It was acknowledged it was a complicated project as it involved going across the West Coast mainline and diverting a 132kv power cable belonging to Scottish Power. MO confirmed that Network Rail (NR) had agreed to give possessions in Autumn 19/ early 19. In addition to the 132kv cable that needs to be diverted there are several 32kv cables running across the bridge that need to be diverted.  The scheme links into the Crewe Green roundabout project which will be completed first. To do both at once would cause too much disruption.  MO confirmed that they are currently doing some public consultation and that they will focus on consulting with businesses next.  Jacobs have produced a model covering the whole of Crewe and delays have been incorporated into the economic case.  The BCR is 3.2. Anything over 2 would be considered good and something DfT would consider funding.  Scottish Power want to change the transformer adjacent to the bridge so this may delay the scheme until 2019.  MO stated that under the current proposal that the council will adopt and maintain the bridge. The group discussed the need to go back to NR to see whether they would make a contribution as they will effectively be making a saving by not owning and having to maintain the bridge. Also a conversation should be had with Scottish Power as they will be getting an upgraded cable.  NR currently drawing up a transfer agreement.  The committee **confirmed conditional approval** of the scheme as detailed in the paper circulated. | MO | 30.04.17 |
| 3 iii | **West Cheshire Estate reconfiguration Update**  The college want 100% grant to reconfigure the internal space. The open plan layout of the building is such that classrooms are just divided by screens so that you can hear several different classes being taught at once. Ofsted have made it a requirement that the space is changed and improved but the college is in £23m of debt.  Due to the college’s debt they have no match funding which they can contribute, therefore the funding ratio usually expected of £2:£1 for LGF cannot be achieved. DBEIS has said that the LEP can waive this requirement at their discretion but PB would like to try and get them to confirm it in writing. ML to see if he can get anything in writing but happy that the LEP has authority to proceed with a 100% grant.  KB will get further detail on the project plan and costs over the next few weeks.  HH questioned how success of the project would be measured. It would be through better learning outcomes, improved Ofsted reports and better space utilisation. In addition the debt will be written off as a direct result of the intervention.  Agreed that ML would send a letter of comfort to the college and seek confirmation that the debt would be written off. | ML  KB/RB  ML | 14.04.17  31.03.17  07.04.17 |
| 4 | **Minutes from the last meeting: 24th February 2017**  All agreed the minutes subject to KB changing the minutes to show that Alan Dickin left the meeting following the Warrington West presentation. |  |  |
| 5 | **Action Log**  Action 59 (LA’s to feedback on their experiences of tender responses for construction work) to be put back to April  Action 61- Board membership recruitment update. ML updated the group and confirmed that final board member interviews were taking place w/c 27th March. Philip Cox will meet all the LEP board members separately to see if they’re interested in staying involved at a committee level.  HH and MA agreed to stay on to help with handover to new board members.  Need to resend meeting invites to HH and MA  Group agreed happy for meetings to be held at Wyvern House  KB agreed with DBEIS that we would review the Monitoring and Evaluation plan by June | RB  RB | 07.04.17  30.06.17 |
| 6 | **Strategy Group Update**  Minutes and Agenda to continue to be circulated to group. Anything pertinent will be flagged. | RB | ongoing |
| 7  i  ii.  iii  iv | **Performance monitoring**  **Risk register** – Agreed that risks would only be reported by exception  **Local Growth Fund 3** – Profile been bought forward by DBEIS who haven’t explained why. We’re looking at what schemes can now be bought forward.  Resend the email with LGF3 update to SWM  **GPF** – No change to Cheshire Green project. Contract being finalised.  RB in early discussions with Jodrell Bank about a £1m loan to extend the car park, which will help unlock a £17m scheme to extend visitor facilities, including new exhibition space, a planetarium and new café and teaching space. Manchester University has already secured first stage approval form Heritage Lottery Fund for a £12m grant but the car park project has to be funded before they will finalise a grant offer.  European Structual Investment Funds – content of FL paper noted. ML confirmed that we’re ahead of schedule with the funds but that perhaps we need to think more about how we invest in projects and are more strategic about finding new projects. | RB | 07.04.17 |
| 8 | **LGF1/2**  Reaseheath have some claims which are being looked at now as that projects have issues with planning and the forecast expenditure is being amended. PB ok with the £20m variance but would like a quarterly claim profile moving forward  The group acknowledged that once the projects had started on site it was much easier to manage profiles but also any schemes involving DfT, NR and HA were likely to be complex and subject to delays.  ML confirmed that C&W were ahead of others LEPs in terms of performance and that the DTI had offered funding to pay for two posts to promote exports with the Growth Hub.  The slow start to the life sciences fund has impacted profile but RB updated that the fund was now beginning to build a decent pipeline so investments should start to be made at a high more consistent rate.  Reaseheath update - Some issues with planning permission. The funding for the additional investment for accommodation project is due to come back to P&I for revised application in May 17  Warrington West – Waiting for new Stations fund to complete funding package  Ellesmere Port to present in May for an update. Projects costs increased from £21m to circa £30m project. £8.332 is allocated from the LEP. This is the most complex project in terms of getting all the partners on board. | RB  RB | 24.04.17  May 17 |
| 9 | **Cheshire and Warrington Growth Hub**  Need to link better with the Growth Hub and see how value can be added, ML thinks Growth Hub should be within the LEP to help join up working.  SP suggested perhaps it was worth looking at how the Cheshire and Warrington Growth Hub worked (delivered by Blue Orchid)  The apprenticeship Levy has helped to change thinking.  SWM felt there was a need to do more marketing around Cheshire and Warrington as a place to live and work. The group as a whole felt most young people had a preference to living in Manchester and commuting out if need be. This needed to be looked at and need to offer the right type of housing and transport links. | RB | 24.04.17 |
| 10 | **AOB**  SWM would like papers to be sent using sharepoint from now on if possible due to the size of the emails.  GB thanked the KB for all her efforts and wished her luck for the future. | RB | 24.04.17 |