

BOARD MEETING

**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Board Meeting
held 16th November 2022 at 4.30pm by video conference call**

Board Members:

	Present	Apology		Present	Apology
Clare Hayward	x		John Downes		x
Trevor Brocklebank	x		Chris Hindley	x	
Russ Bowden		x	Loren Jones	x	
Craig Browne	x		Kath Mackay	x	
Louise Gittins	x		Annette McDonald	x	
Peter Broxton	x		Nichola Newton		x
Alice Choi	x		Eunice Simmons	x	
Rupert Collis		x			

Attendees:

	Present	Apology		Present	Apology
Philip Cox	x		Steve Park		x
Joe Manning	x		Charlie Seward	x	
Ian Brooks	x		Jane Traverse	x	
Maggie Chen		x	Alex Thompson	x	
Yulanda Duff		x			

Members of the Public (for Part A)

Donna Ridgway – HM Land Registry

Agenda Item 1: Apologies and Introductions

1.1 CH welcomed Board Members. Apologies were received as above. Apologies were also received from Cllr Laura Crane, who had intended to join the meeting.

Agenda Item 2. Conflicts of Interest

2.1 PB and KM have a continuing conflict in respect of the GMC Life Sciences Fund.

Agenda Item 3: Public Presentation

3.1 Donna Ridgway, Engagement Manager of the HM Land Registry, attended but, following connectivity issues, will be invited to return at a later date.

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2022 and Matters Arising

4.1 The minutes were agreed and the table of actions attached to these minutes has been updated. Completed actions from previous meeting have been removed.

4.2 CB expressed the shared disappointment triggered by the delays to Great British Rail. He commended the highly collaborative approach to the bid for the GBR HQ to be located in Crewe. PC offered to compose a letter to ministers from LA leaders and the LEP encouraging an early return to the legislative programme.

4.3 IB updated the board on the concerns raised at October's board meeting in respect of the additional investment in the GMC Life Sciences Fund. Re-assurance has been received that the expertise supporting the fund and investee companies will not be diluted. Praetura have been recruiting to support the fund since winning the bid and will add further resource should the fund grow in size. Negotiations continue over the most efficient structuring of a co-investment arrangement and Praetura are continuing with their due diligence of the potential co-investor. The legal obligations placed on Praetura by the FCA ensure this will be thorough. The organisation is a wealth fund of £10.5BN representing a large group of families of Asian origin, which share a common ethos of commercial philanthropic investing and "do no harm". Some do not wish to promote or advertise their involvement. Not all families invest in all the opportunities. They are investing heavily into opportunities that mitigate climate change and sectors that improve healthcare and quality of life. Board members would encourage the investor to update their website to promote their values for sustainability and inclusion and, ideally, remove references to investing in oil and gas.

4.4 The discussion of values prompted reminders of the need to enthuse local people in the decarbonisation projects, e.g. Hynet, which has associated infrastructure requirements. The criteria of the investment funds under LEP "supervision" will also be kept under review.

Agenda Item 5: Chief Executive's Report

5.1 PC highlighted several aspects of his written report, in particular the progress in respect of plans to re-open the Middlewich line to passengers. CH suggested a future agenda item for the board to update on the range of transport projects including Middlewich, Ellesmere Port to Helsby, Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2.

5.2 A guide to support completion of gifts and hospitality returns will be sent to Board members.

ACTION: IB

Agenda Item 6: Sub-Board Updates

6.1 Growth Corridors Board. PB described that a re-launch and re-branding of the Science Corridor is being planned. Several investment cases have come forward recently. LJ also mentioned the competition which is underway for Innovation Launchpads and a bid being prepared for the Science Corridor cluster of companies / institutions. Funding on offer is £7.5M. The board noted that on occasion boundaries between geographic bids can become blurred, e.g. a possible overlap between LCR and CWaC.

6.2 Employers' Skills and Education Board. KM outlined that work on the institute of Technology is progressing. While DfE is backing the infrastructure investment, local colleges will be at risk for any cost

overruns. Funding for the Pledge beyond the existing contracts which end in August 2023 remains a concern in the absence of any certainty of Government resources. Skills Bootcamps now have 10 live programmes and additional funding has been requested for a top-up in 2022-23. A proposal for 2023-24 is being compiled for submission at the end of November. Work is being commissioned to understand better why sectors with high vacancy levels seem reticent to engage with the Bootcamp and Pledge programmes.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

7.1 There was a proposal for February’s discussion forum to be in person.

7.2 Where possible, the events list will include where the LEP has a speaker.

ACTION: JM

7.3 LG mentioned the very successful opening of the Chester Market.

7.4 JM reported the range of new adverts prepared in conjunction with Transport for Wales.

Agenda Item 8: LEP Review

8.1 A separate note of the discussion will be issued.

Agenda Item 9: Date and Time of Next Meetings:

Discussion Forum: 14th December 2022, 4:30pm– 6:30pm (Virtual MS Teams)

Board Meeting: 18th January, 2023 (TBC) 4:30pm– 6:30pm (Virtual MS Teams)

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action arising	Action	Who	Complete?
16/3/22	Take forward recommendations to improve interaction with engagement board members:	Board members	Ongoing
16/3/22 & 16/11/22	Circulate a list of events (being attended by LEP Board members) including invitations for LEP speakers	Joe Manning	Ongoing
18/5/22	ESB would welcome views from board members and their networks as to what skills the next round of skills bootcamps should target	Board members	Ongoing
13/7/22	Expressions of interest to join Warrington Hospital Site Evaluation Panel	Board members	Final “call”
13/7/22	Possible Board / EZ site tour	Loren Jones	Ongoing
13/7/22	Collate/correlate attainment data and FSM for WVR	Nichola Newton	Ongoing
13/7/22	Organise T&F group to explore attainment gap	Pat Jackson	Ongoing
19/10/22	Share Hynet Briefing	Philip Cox	Ongoing
19/10/22	Seek clarifications from Praetura and board approval to the LSF2 investment opportunity (by correspondence if timescales require)	Ian Brooks	Ongoing
16/11/22	Issue Gifts and Hospitality Guide	Ian Brooks	