



**Minutes of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
Performance and Investment Committee Meeting
held on 26th May 2021 at 1.30 via Teams**

In attendance: Chris Hindley (Chairman), Loren Jones, Paul Jackson, Ian Traynor, Alex Thompson, Stewart Brown, Catherine Walker, Nichola Newton, Peter Skates, Ian Brooks, Rachel Laver.

Apologies: Joe Toward,

Presentations on: **Growth Hub**- Andy Devaney
Warrington Smart Grid – Paul Gilligan and Steve Hassall

Item No.	Item	To be Actioned by	By When
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies from JT</p> <p>Due to the Corona Virus meeting held via Teams</p>		
2	<p>Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>CH asked for any conflicts to be declared.</p> <p>Declarations of interest: None declared</p>		
3	<p>Minutes and actions from the last meeting:</p> <p>Actions from the last meeting:</p> <p>PS had meeting with LEP staff and other CEC colleagues to discuss alignment of recover plans.</p> <p>Jobs Portal extended for 3 months. Sarah Williams and Ian Traynor had looked at metrics and added more. IT confident that there will be more meaningful data after the three month extension. Loren to also meet with Sarah.</p> <p>Outputs inputted into quarterly report, but will reported on separately at the next meeting.</p> <p>The MDC new lab at Alderley park progressing but may have issues completing by the end of the year due to long lead times with some of the kit. RL to continue to monitor closely.</p> <p>Not received bus depot update. RL asked SB to chase. Important that monthly reports are submitted on time.</p> <p>Northgate tunnel claim now finalised, also need to ensure monthly reports are submitted.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>SB</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>May</p>

	<p>CH queried whether a heat map could be produced showing all the LEP projects as previously discussed. RL had raised it already, siting the Net Zero map as a good example. Nicola Said said it would be looked at. Committee all agreed it was a good idea and should be pursued. RL to see if we could build on the Net Zero one and should contact Ged Barlow. Andy Devaney mentioned if could potentially be done through CRM.</p> <p>RL had sent full set of papers and reports for one project so LJ and IT could see the whole process. LJ asked for a session to go through the papers and look at the RAG ratings and rationale. IT to attend too. RL to arrange.</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>	<p>June</p> <p>June</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Growth Hub Update</p> <p>Andy Devaney gave an update on the Growth Hub.</p> <p>LEP has received funding from BEIS for Peer Networks which is being rolled out.</p> <p>500 businesses have received support through the Business Grant Recovering scheme which has been administered by Blue Orchid on behalf o the LEP.</p> <p>12 staff now in Growth Hub team. Two seconded from Marketing Cheshire and one from Dept for International Trade.</p> <p>COVID impacted focus of Growth Hub which became the go to for businesses, focus also had to shift to Brexit support.</p> <p>Increased the number of case studies on website which has helped inform businesses type of support available.</p> <p>The target for enquiries for the year was 1500, the actual number was closer to 4,000.</p> <p>10% of Cheshire and Warrington businesses engaged with the Growth Hub which has helped build the reputation and develop strong relationships with partners.</p> <p>Secured funding for Peer to Peer networks and employed someone to help recruit businesses. Aim it to engage 100 businesses.</p> <p>Interaction with Local Authorities works well. Conscious of adding value and not duplicating what the LAs offer.</p> <p>Survey to be carried out with businesses that have received support, to be completed by end of June.</p> <p>Focus this year is on how to engage with the 45k businesses that haven't engaged with the hub to find out what help can be made available which would be useful.</p>		

5	<p>Warrington Smart Grid</p> <p>Over of Leapfrog given which is a registered charity.</p> <p>Smart Grid project is to install heat batteries into SMEs which can be charged in off peak hours and then used in peak, helping reduce pressure on the National Grid and saving the SMEs money from peak tariffs. Tariffs will move to 48 30 min slots per day so the batteries will help optimise use of cheaper tariffs.</p> <p>Batteries can also be charged from solar</p> <p>Payback period is 5-6year for a 10 year asset.</p> <p>Heat batteries going into 93 homes.</p> <p>Working with Groundheat to retrofit 33 houses.</p> <p>IT to introduce Leapfrog to BOC.</p>	IT	June
5	<p>Local Growth Fund presentation</p> <p>RL ran through a LGF presentation highlighting the range of projects that has been supported over the last five years.</p> <p>All funding is now fully spent. Over the next year the focus needs to be on ensuring all the schemes that have received funding, compete and achieve the contracted outputs.</p>		
6	<p>Risk</p> <p>The committee confirmed that they had reviewed the risk register and were happy with it. The board will review the risk register at the next meeting.</p>		
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>Next meeting 23rd June. Whether to hold it in person was discussed and it was deemed too early and high risk for now. NN and CH both said they had larger meetings rooms which could be used to facilitate social distancing when the committee were happy to meet in person.</p> <p>NN and RL to have a separate discussion about LGF reporting requirements</p>	RL /NN	June