**LEP Strategy Committee**

**MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Meeting Held: Friday 15th March 2019

Wyvern House, Winsford

**Present:**

Robert Mee (Chair) Stephen Kinsey Philip Cox

Robert Davis Graeme Bristow Steve Park

Andy Hulme Chloe Taylor

**Apologies:**

Charlie Seward Frank Jordan

**Attending:**

N/A

**Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Robert Mee welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Charlie Seward (represented by Chloe Taylor) and Frank Jordan.

It was noted that Pete Waterman has stepped down from the main LEP Board (and all Board Sub-Committees) due to business commitments. Recruitment to fill Board vacancies is now underway.

**Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

Robert Davis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Items 4 and 5 as a Board Member of the Cheshire Energy Hub.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 25th January 2019 were agreed. It was confirmed that the Digital Strategy is running behind programme and would be reported to the May meeting of the Committee. All other actions were completed or covered under the Agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Presentation – Science and Innovation Strategy**

Andy Hulme gave a presentation on the key findings and recommendations of the LEP Science and Innovation Strategy. Draft versions of the Strategy had been provided as part of previous meeting agendas.

The Committee discussed a number of the issues raised during the engagement activity undertaken in support of the Strategy, including access to data on innovation activity (including R&D Tax Credits and the Queens Awards for Innovation), the levels of public sector innovation investment being secured in the sub-region, the kind of offer that skilled workers are looking for that might attract them to the sub-region and understanding the international significance of the Cheshire and Warrington Science and Innovation offer.

**Action: Andy Hulme to circulate the slides for information.**

**Agenda Item 5: Strategy Update**

The contents of the report were noted.

It was confirmed that both the Quality of Place Strategy and Housing Strategy were now complete and uploaded to the LEP website.

The need to pull together the various actions and commitments contained within the various supporting strategies to the SEP was discussed. The Committee agreed that a consolidated delivery plan would be beneficial and assist in monitoring of progress.

***Action: AH produce and circulate a draft Delivery Plan for comment by the May meeting.***

The current cross-boundary work programme on energy and automotive was noted.

**The Committee approved the recommendation that the LEP provide £2,500 sponsorship to a proposed Hydrogen Economy event being organised by Liverpool City region on 5th June.**

**Agenda Item 6: Local Industrial Strategy**

Andy Hulme provided an update on progress.

Copies of the LIS Summary Document were shared with attending members. It was confirmed that the document had been circulated to Board Members and uploaded to the LEP website.

The process for developing the thinking behind the LIS and each of the identified workstreams was discussed. A key element will be an initial workshop with those who have been identified and accepted the invitation to lead on the development of the narrative for each workstream.

The broad timescale remains a target of Easter 2019 for an initial outline document and narrative, in depth discussions with Government during May and June and a final version for consideration by Government by the end of July 2019.

The Committee discussed the scope for effective deployment of the LGF Low Carbon Energy Innovation Fund (LCEIF) to support the energy and clean growth priorities identified through the LIS. It was confirmed that an open call for projects will be required to support this process.

Robert Davis asked for it to be noted that he would absent himself from future discussions on the LCEIF to avoid any potential for conflicts of interest.

***Action: Local Industrial Strategy to be a standing item on the Strategy Committee Agenda.***

**Agenda Item 7: Government Announcements**

The launch of the Stronger Towns Fund was noted. As yet details of how the Fund will be allocated have not been released.

Philip Cox provided feedback on the LEP Annual Assessment by BEIS. He confirmed that once again the LEP has been rated as ‘Exceptional’ in terms of Governance and Strategy, and ‘Good’ in terms of Delivery.

It is believed that Government has announced an expansion of its ‘University Enterprise Zone’ programme. Further information will be sought to see if this is relevant to Cheshire and Warrington.

**Agenda Item 8 – Any Other Business**

There were no items raised under AOB.

**Agenda Item 8 – Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Friday 17th May 2019, 9:00am, Room G2, Wyvern House.