

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

**Performance and Investment Committee Meeting**

**Held on 21st September 2022 at 1600 via Teams**

**In attendance:** Chris Hindley (Chair), Nichola Newton (Deputy), Alex Thompson, Rebecca Luck, Catherine Walker, Stewart Brown

**Apologies:** Loren Jones, Ian Brooks, Peter Skates, Ian Traynor

**Presenters:** Pat Jackson, Sarah Williams

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| **Item No.** | **ITEM** | | |
| 1. | **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**  The Chair noted the apologies as above. | | |
| 2 | **Conflicts of interest**  No Conflicts of interest were declared. | | |
| 3 | **Minutes & Actions arising**   * Committee approved the minutes from its 20th July meeting. * **LGF Skills University of Chester, HPPC**   + The board acknowledged receipt of the oflline update from the University of Chester for their Local Growth Fund Skills Project (HPPC) and welcomed the proportional increase in quarterly activity; with CH noting that if this effort were extrapolated the original targets seemed more achievable.   + RL noted that an upcoming best practice session was scheduled for all LGF Skills Projects to learn from each other around business engagement, which is a target that many projects have struggled with. It was also noted that the balance of school activity may still be a little too high, considering the direct impact that would have on the economy, particularly in regards to primary school engagement.   + RL noted that the HPPC project intended to present an update to P&I in January, where it would review its targets and determine if an amended project change request was necessary. * **IB’s Financial paper**   + While AT acknowledged that the financial paper went some way to addressing the concerns previously raised in July’s meetings, there was an acknowledgement that the future funding of the LEP is changing. We therefore need to ensure the funding from partners is clear, and in particular where the money will be coming from, and whether they will deliver true value for money.   + AT acknowledged that it is a subject of upcoming LEP board meetings regarding the future of the LEP.   + NN confirmed that she has now chaired her first F&A and that prior to that meeting met with PC and confirmed that financial proposals were planned to be discussed at the away day. | | |
| **ACTIONS** | **OWNER** | **BY WHEN** |
| RL to add HPPC project to the forward plan for January | RL | Jan 2023 |
| 4 | **P&I Delivery Plan Framework**  RL presented the recommended delivery plan framework for P&I to follow, with the intention that this prevented any duplication of effort or focus with the delivery sub-boards, and provides the necessary review and challenge of what the LEP has committed to deliver.  The Committee approved the framework. | | |

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|  | **ACTIONS** | **OWNER** | **BY WHEN** |
| To develop an associated slidepack structure to support the new framework. Enabling a consistent approach for any presenter being called to P&I, and allowing any member to be able to interrogate the delivery, even if in an area outside their knowledge and expertise. | RL | Oct 2022. |
| 5 | **Delivery Plan Deep Dive: Skills**   * PJ & SW presented their update on the skills, education and employment area. * CH asked that considering the introduction of the Skills Bootcamp programme what was the team not doing as a result, or equally if the team had received additional resource what would they be able to deliver on top of their current activity? * PJ advised that there were a few contributing elements that allowed the team to pick this type of activity up:   + The pledge team are now able to operate independently;   + The team are able to work more efficiently with better use of technology;   + All interventions and discussions are tackled more strategically and holistically, allowing minimal increase to number of relationship interactions;   + Additional resource from RL in supporting the delivery of the programme;   + Not progressing non-urgent items like LGF Skills Evaluation. * PJ also highlighted the strength of employer engagement across the skills programme, including: strong representation on the Employers Skills & Education Board & DSP Board; 450 employers connected to the Pledge; active referral pathways within the growth hub on skills related enquiries. | | |
| **ACTIONS** | **OWNER** | **BY WHEN** |
| N/A |  |  |
| 6 | **Programme Manager Report**  RL highlighted that there was now a sizable fund available in the Growing Places Fund (GPF), following the repayment from Cheshire Green, of around £10m. RL confirmed that two items were due to be presented to the Strategy Programme Board in relation to GPF:   1. A strategic discussion about any priority axis or application that the Board would like the fund to be used for, to ensure that it isn’t deployed in an ad hoc fashion; 2. A requirement to utilise GPF to provide the LEP’s contribution to the GMC Life Sciences Fund by Praetura, as with the potential introduction of a new investment partner, the LEP’s requirement to input its funding was earlier than anticipated.   No notable updates to provide regarding LGF or GBF, as these projects are now running on a bi-annual return.  RL took the Committee through a summary of the Skills Bootcamp Programme, making particular note of the new open bid framework that had been developed, in part as a response from our FE colleges to maximise flexibility and minimise bureaucracy.  NN welcomed this change.  RL confirmed the sole programme issue is that the LEP will not be meeting its confidence delivery deadline of 50% learner starts by the end of September, and that while DfE has understood the rationale presented as to why we haven’t rushed to appoint providers, they were unable to yet confirm any next steps, until our performance was reviewed against all grant recipients.  The core risk highlighted by RL was the resource implications, following on from the growing monitoring, assurance and audit requirements from DfE. RL highlighted that this is the type of impact that results from the LEP choosing to not hire any new recruits to run this programme, and instead redirect existing staff; which is something that is now being reviewed by the Skills Bootcamp Steering Team.  NN stated that DfE were not likely able to meet the assurance approach that had been crafted, and was confident a more proportionate approach would have to be found. | | |
| **ACTIONS** | **OWNER** | **BY WHEN** |
| N/A |  |  |
| 7 | **AOB**  *Amendment: October meeting has now been cancelled and will not be rearranged, as the single agenda item from John Adlen is not currently ready to present.* | | |