



## Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

**Private and Confidential: NO**

**Date:** Wednesday, 21 June 2023

### LEP Governance and Committees Report

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#### Executive Summary

This report extracts the key items considered by each of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP) Committees at their recent meetings and, where applicable, and if not considered elsewhere on the Board's main agenda, contains decisions referred to the Board by its Committees for approval. The report also contains Governance updates and any Governance decisions required by the Board.

#### Recommendation

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to:

- (i) Note the updates provided in this report in relation to Governance, urgent decisions taken since the last LEP Board meeting, and the Committees of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership; and
- (ii) Approve the Committee membership changes as set out.

#### Background and Advice

This is a standing report which provides an update on governance issues and meetings of committees of the LEP since the last Board meeting on 21 March 2023 in accordance with the LEP Assurance Framework, publicly available on the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership website:

<https://lancashirelep.co.uk/about/policies/>

#### Current LEP Committee Vacancies / Appointments

##### Vacancies

- There are currently two vacancies for Committee Members on the LEP Enterprise Zone Governance Committee.
- There are two vacancies on the LEP Innovation Board.

### **Appointment – Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board**

It is noted that following the recent local authority elections in May 2023 that company member Blackpool Council have appointed Councillor Mark Smith as a new LEP Director / Board Member replacing Councillor Ivan Taylor.

### **Appointment – Innovation Board**

- There has been a membership change in the UK Wide Research and Innovation position, which was previously filled by Rick Holland. This position is now filled by Matt Chapman on the LEP Innovation Board

### **Appointments – Lancashire Skills and Employment Board**

- It is recommendation that the chair of The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) becomes the Chair of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board for continuity, with Alison Robinson (LEP director for skills and technical education and vice chair of TLC) due to retire in July. It is not recommended that the new chair of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board become a LEP director at this point, due to discussions regarding LEP integration. Arrangements will be reviewed as governance arrangements evolve for the proposed Combined Authority and a private sector board.
- It is also a recommendation that from the Lancashire Work Based Learning Forum and the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board that Nina Dixon, the new Manager of the Lancashire Work Based Learning Forum, replaces Gareth Lindsay (MD of NLTG), who is stepping down from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board having previously represented the forum.
- In addition it is a third recommendation that Peter Caney (BAE Systems) become vice chair, following the retirement of Neil Conlon (Conlon Construction) in May 2023. The vice chair has typically been private sector.

### **Updates from recent LEP Committee Meetings / Decisions taken by the Urgent Business Procedure of the LEP**

#### **1. Urgent Business Procedure Decisions**

There have been four urgent decisions approved by the LEP Board via the Urgent Business Procedure since the last LEP Board meeting held on 21 March 2023 as follows:

#### **23 April 2023 – Pearl2 Co-investment**

**Resolved:** The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Directors:



- (i) Considered and agreed in principle the Pendle Enterprise and Regeneration Ltd 2 request for a Growing Places Loan of £1,000,000 for 18 months on the terms set out in the report.
- (ii) Approved the CEO entering discussions regarding Heads of Terms with the developer and in consultation with the S151 Officer and LCC's Director of Law and Governance.
- (iii) Agreed to bring the Heads of Terms to the board for approval when drafted.

### **23 April 2023 – Titan Preston Co-Investment**

**Resolved:** The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Directors:

- (i) Considered and agreed in principle the Titan Preston Land Ltd request for a Growing Places Loan of £600,000 for 3 years on the terms set out in the report.
- (ii) Approved the CEO entering discussions regarding Heads of Terms with the developer and in consultation with the S151 officer and LCC's Director of Law and Governance.
- (iii) Agreed to bring the Heads of Terms to the board for approval when drafted.

### **08 June 2023 – ETC Urban**

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Directors:

- (i) Considered and agree in principle the ETC Urban (Guildhall) Ltd request for a Growing Places Loan of £2,200,000 for three years on the terms set out in the report.
- (ii) Approved the CEO entering discussions regarding Heads of Terms with the developer in consultation with the S151 officer and LCC's Director of Law and Governance.
- (iii) To bring the Heads of Terms to the board for approval when drafted.

### **09 June 2023 – Careers Hub Grant**

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Directors:

- (i) Agreed to accept the grant in principle, with final sign off delegated to the Chief Executive of the LEP in consultation with Section 151 Officer and Director of Law and Governance.



- (ii) Agreed that the £25,000 match funding is confirmed from LEP budgets to match the grant offer from the CEC, subject to confirmation of the LEP's budget and business plan for 2023-24 at the 21<sup>st</sup> June Board meeting; and
- (iii) That the contract with Inspira is extended for a further year.

## 2. City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board

The City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board met on 14 March 2023 and considered / approved the following:

**City Deal Delivery and Performance Update Report** – A collection of reports were presented which gave various delivery and performance updates. Based on the 6 monthly core outputs, it was noted that the data displayed a good trajectory however this was contingent on City Deal receiving an extension.

It was reported that delivery across Homes England sites was good, however had been slowing down due to knock on effects from the wider market.

It was highlighted that skills and employment metrics showed a positive upward trend and demonstrated a buoyant and wide range of activity undertaken within the Preston Western Distributor project.

An update was given on the Preston Western Distributor scheme where it was reported that it was forecast to be completed on time and within budget despite supplier issues from Highways England.

Full agendas and minutes for the Combined City Deal meetings can be accessed here: <http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=1072>

## 3. Growth Deal Management Board

There have been no meetings of the Growth Deal Management Board since the last update.

Full agendas and minutes for Growth Deal Management Board meetings can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=1218>

## 4. Enterprise Zone Governance Committee

There have been no meetings of the Enterprise Zone Governance Committee since the last update.

Full agendas and minutes for the Enterprise Zone Governance Committee meetings can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=1171>



## 5. Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

The Lancashire Skills and Employment Board met on 01 June 2023 and considered / approved the following:

**Lancashire 2050** – The Board were informed that the first consultation event relating to education and skills within the Lancashire 2050 framework took place on 26 May to a high turnout and was a success. A second consultation event was planned for 08 June.

The strongest themes which came through as part of the consultation event to consider moving forward were:

- Economic Inactivity and it's link to health and wellbeing
- Employment Prospects being embedded within curriculums
- Dedicated employer involvement
- Aligning provision to meet evolving needs
- Funding issues
- Low carbon issues
- Transportation issues

**Economic Inactivity in Lancashire: Health and Wellbeing and the Economic Threat of Inactivity** – A presentation was given from ThinkUK who have been commissioned to conduct a report into the economic inactivity within Lancashire and it's links to health and wellbeing.

The preliminary recommendations for Lancashire based on the evidence were as follows:

- 1) A healthy, resilient Lancashire;
- 2) Better management of health at work to stem the number of people leaving work and becoming economically inactive;
- 3) Targeted, timely interventions to get people back at work at the earliest opportunity;
- 4) Enhancing support offers to those who are already economically inactive and claiming benefits, with a focus on those under 40;
- 5) Leverage Lancashire 2050 to build a better system response

It was noted that any progress toward achieving goals related to economic inactivity would be difficult due to a lack of EU funding.

**Update from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and Partners** – A report was presented giving updates on the Lancashire Skills Hub structured against it's strategic themes. The following key points were highlighted:



- Inclusion Community of Practice conference held on 11<sup>th</sup> May was a success and provided actions to be taken forward to understand how to better support young people with SEN and from alternative providers to transition into work.
- Teen Tech Festival took place for the first time as a face-to-face event, which was hailed as a brilliant day with press releases to follow.
- The Skills Hub is working with the unitary and district councils to influence and map provision following the end of the ESF projects that will be funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), however NEET is not deemed a priority in every area.
- As the ESF programme closes and the transition to UKSPF is undertaken, mapping work is being undertaken with the unitary and district authorities.
- The Skills Hub was successful in securing the remaining £900,000 funding for financial year 2023-2024 and has thus been awarded £3 million for Wave 4 (2023/24).
- Ongoing work around labour market intelligence, and continuing to see growth in the number of businesses signing up to the Lancashire Skills Pledge.

**Lancashire Careers Hub – Grant offer for 2023/24** – A report was presented which outlined the funding which had been allocated from the Department for Education to the Careers and Enterprise Company and the grant offer which has been received for the coming academic year.

Full agendas and minutes for the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board meetings can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=1011>

## 6. Business Support Management Board

The Business Support Management Board met on 25 May 2023 and considered / approved the following:

**British Business Bank Update** – A presentation was given outlining strategic objectives, key findings from 2022 research, regional and Lancashire specific activity and some case studies from NPIF programmes and start up loans.

**Access to Finance Evaluation** – A presentation was given on the interim evaluations of Access to Finance and outlined characteristics of clients by business size, geography and personal characteristics; feedback from clients on achievements and satisfaction; value for money; barriers to growth and opportunities and challenges.

**Sector Update: Energy and Low Carbon** – An update was given on the sector plan and the associated strategic objectives, actions and outcomes.

**Sector Update: Digital** – An update was given on the vision for Lancashire's economy and skills base, the strategic enablers and the developing action plan.



Full agendas and minutes for the Business Support Management Board meetings can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=1220>

## **7. Lancashire Innovation Board**

The Lancashire Innovation Board met on 05 June 2023 and an update will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Full agendas and minutes for the Lancashire Innovation Board can be accessed here:

<https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=1678>

## **8. Joint Scrutiny Committee**

There have been no meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Committee since the last update.

Full agendas and minutes for the Joint Scrutiny Committee meetings can be accessed

here: <https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=1708>

## **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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