



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

Private and Confidential: NO

Date: Wednesday, 20 December 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 endorse 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.

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 20 September 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.



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

1. Urgent Business Procedure Decisions

There have been three 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:

10 November 2023 Heap Developments New Timescale

Resolved: The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Directors:

- (i) Considered and approved the new timescales as set out in the report.
- (ii) Authorised internal and external lawyers to provide a side letter to the Facility Agreement to reflect the changes in timescales; and
- (iii) requested that the Interim LEP CEO in consultation with the Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body and Lancashire County Council's Director of Law and Governance, approve and enter into the legal documentation required to protect the LEP's interest in respect of this loan.

13 November 2023 – Skills Board Appointments and Skills Bootcamps Funding

Resolved: The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Directors:

- (i) Considered and approved that Lisa Mcloughlin, Andrew Ireland and Sarah Kemp be appointed as the respective Further and Higher Education representatives on the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board (LEP Committee).
- (ii) Accepted that should the grant funds application to DfE be successful, that the Interim LEP Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer of the accountable body be requested to review and agree the grant funding offer and terms and conditions, giving due consideration to any procurement considerations and agree and enter into any legal agreements required to protect the interests of the LEP and the accountable body, Lancashire County Council.
- (iii) Should further grant funds be approved and accepted, agree to recommend that the contracts of the Project Manager and two Project Officers be extended, with delegation to the interim LEP Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer of the accountable body for approval subject to advice from HR

23 November 2023 – Pearl Together LTD

Resolved: The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Directors considered and approved the Heads of Terms and requested that the Interim LEP CEO in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Lancashire County Council's Director of



Law and Governance, approve and enter into the legal documentation required to protect the LEP's interest in respect of this loan.

2. City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board

The City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board met on 05 December 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. It was reported that Homes England have completed 1700 Units at the target of 4000 and 25% are affordable or social rented units. Homes England representatives confirmed that provisional agreement to pay in the remaining £12.5 million of the grant funding had been obtained. It was further reported that legacy data sources used to track skills and employment were no longer available and therefore would not be reported on further.

City Deal Review: A report was presented which outlined the current status of negotiations between parties to the City Deal in respect of agreeing a revised heads of terms.

City Deal Finance Monitoring November 2023: A report was presented which outlined the financial forecast of the existing Heads of Terms.

Preston Western Distributor Update – December 2023: A report was presented which provided an update on the construction of the Preston Western Distributor as it enters its final phase, as well as an overview of the financial position of the programme.

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

The Enterprise Zone Governance Committee met on 23 November 2023 and considered/approved the following:

Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Progress Report: A report was given which provided the committee with an update on the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone. The report included updates on KPIs and milestones, risks, the Masterplan and Delivery



Plan, project management, fiscal incentives, current activity, social value and environmental activity, Blackpool Town Deal, Squires Gate Industrial Estate, planning applications, communications infrastructure and marketing, and Blackpool Airport.

Hillhouse Enterprise Zone Progress Report: A report was given which provided the committee with an update on the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone. The report included updates on activity since the last meeting, including achievements to date, KIPs and milestones, risks and actions, the Delivery Plan, the Getting Building Fund, residential development, the Fleetwood/Poulton Rail Line, marketing, the Hydrogen Project and Steering Group, the Vinnolit site, new onsite companies, job creation, and the Board and Project team meetings.

Samlesbury Aerospace and Warton Aviation Enterprise Zones Progress Report: A report was presented which provided an update on the Samlesbury and Warton Enterprise Zones. Regarding the Samlesbury site, the report included an update on the site delivery programme for phases 2a and 2b, KPIs, a financial update, an update on planning, commercial marketing agents, ancillary accommodation, a proposal for an Innovation Hub, marketing and communications, skills and social value. Regarding the Warton site, the report included an update on the Masterplan and strategic meetings between partners.

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 07 December 2023 and considered/approved the following:

Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) & Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF): Presentations were given to the Board which provided updates and overviews on the Plan and Fund.

Lancashire County Council Combined Authority and Devolution: A verbal update was given to the Board on the priorities and proposal for the Combined County Authority.

Update from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and Partners: A report was presented which provided the Board with an update from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub. Key points were highlighted from the 4 key themes of Future Workforce, Inclusive Workforce, Skilled and Productive Workforce, and Informed Approach.

Update on activity aligned with the National Cyber Force: An update was given to the Board on activity aligned with the National Cyber Force



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 07 September 2023 and considered/approved the following:

Boost 5 Update: An update was given to the Board that included an outline of the new partnership arrangements and geographical footprint, the key principals of the programme and the delivery model. It was requested that the companies delivering the Boost programmes be invited to the committee to provide their own updates.

Investment and Funding Landscape Update: An update was provided to the Board on investments and the current funding landscapes. It was noted that Phase 1 of the funding hub was up and running and there were plans to make it more interactive for phase 2. The Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund 2 was expected to operate from January-February 2024.

Internationalisation Plan Update: AN update was provided on the Internationalisation Strategy and the five pillars of: export, foreign direct investment, capital investment, innovation and the visitor economy. It was noted that the next steps included quarterly stakeholder meetings, complete capacity mapping, leveraging relationships and expanding the skills training and opportunities for exporters.

LEP Future Update: An update was presented to the Board on the future of the LEP following the announcement from the Government that they intended to cease funding to Local Enterprise Partnerships

Position of Lancashire Businesses: A roundtable discussion was held where members were invited to share updates from their organisations and sectors.

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 04 September 2023 and considered/approved the following:

Update from Simon Lawrence on Devolution: A verbal update was given to the Board on the devolution deal for Lancashire and the future of a business board given the defunding of the Local Enterprise Partnerships.



Marketing Strategy Discussion: A presentation was given to the Board which outlined the work done so far on the Innovation Plan and ideas for future RP for the Innovation Plan was discussed.

Lancashire Innovation Plan Update/Progress Report: A report was presented which gave updates on the actions identified in the Lancashire innovation Plan since the last Board meeting. There was discussion around the upcoming Innovation Festival.

Update on National Innovation Plan Launch: A verbal update was given on the plan surrounding the national launch of the Innovation Plan.

Full agendas and minutes for the Lancashire Innovation Board can be accessed here: <https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=1678>

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A