

LEP - Enterprise Zone Governance Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 12.30pm as a Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present

David Holmes OBE

Mark Rawstron

Councillor Mark Smith

County Councillor Aidy Riggott

In Attendance

Steve Burns, Head of Strategic Development, Lancashire County Council
Chris Dyson, Strategic Development Manager, Lancashire County Council
Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council
Mark Harrison, Project Manager – Enterprise Zone and Blackpool Airport
Holly Tween, Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council
Andy Walker, Head of Business Growth, Lancashire County Council

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies had been received.

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Any Other Business

There was a discussion about the LEP period of transition and the future governance of the Enterprise Zones. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place as arranged, on 22 February 2024, and a paper would be brought to discuss the potential governance structure from April 2024. It was agreed that Andy Walker, CC Riggott and Cllr Smith lead on this item.

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 noon on 22 February 2024 via Microsoft Teams.

7. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved: that the meeting move into Part II, Private and Confidential, to consider the remaining reports as they contained information defined as confidential or exempt in accordance with the relevant paragraph of Part I to schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as set out in the report. It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

8. **Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone: Progress Report**

Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council presented a private and confidential report 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.

The Committee considered the report and there was a time for questions.

Resolved: that the Enterprise Zone Governance Committee note the report

9. **Hillhouse Enterprise Zone: Progress Report**

Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council, presented a private and confidential report 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, KPIs 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.

The Committee considered the report and there was a time for questions.

Resolved: that the Enterprise Zone Governance Committee:

- i. Note the report
- ii. Recommended a briefing pack be developed in a short timescale, with stakeholder input, and briefing sessions arranged with local MPs and other key sponsors to encourage interest in the Fleetwood-Poulton rail line to secure a ministerial decision as soon as possible

10. Samlesbury Aerospace and Warton Aviation Enterprise Zones: Progress Report

Chris Dyson, Strategic Development Programme Manager, Lancashire County Council, presented a private and confidential report which provided the committee with an update on the Samlesbury and Warton Aviation Enterprise Zones.

Regarding the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone 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.

The Committee considered the report and there was time for a series of questions.

Resolved: that the Enterprise Zone Governance Committee:

- i. notes the report
- ii. requests Andy Walker to bring a report to the February meeting showing the intended scale, funding and timescales for the proposed Innovation Hub
- iii. notes that David Holmes will discuss a potential new end user enquiry requirement with the Strategic Development Team Samlesbury officers
- iv. requests that marketing for the Samlesbury site in particular is concurrent with the site delivery programme alongside current enquiry consideration
- v. requests that each Enterprise Zone update reports at the next meeting for both Blackpool and Samlesbury set out the key/outline estate management principles being developed for each site
- vi. requests that the commercial masterplan/development framework for the Samlesbury site be shared visually at the February meeting

