

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th December, 2014 at 6.00 pm
at the Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall,
Preston**

Present

Mr E Booth (Chair)

Cllr M Bateson	Dr M McVicar
Mr M Blackburn	CC J Mein
Mr G Cowley	Mr C Robson
Mr M Damms	Cllr M Townsend
Mr R Evans	Mr M Tynan
Mr O McLaughlin	

In Attendance

Mr B Bailey	Ms K Molloy
Mr G Graham	Ms J Turton
Mr N Jack	Mr I Young
Mr M Kelly	

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair, Mr E Booth, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted from Councillor Simon Blackburn, Councillor Stuart Hirst and Jim Carter. Officer apologies were also noted from Harry Catherall with Brian Bailey attending in his place.

The Chair also welcomed a new Director to the Board, Richard Evans from KPMG. Mr Evans thanked the Board for endorsing his appointment and gave a brief overview of his career history and stated that he has worked for KPMG since 2000, where he is a Senior Partner.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2014

Resolved: The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting as an accurate record subject to the following corrections: Mr Mendoros was not present. Mr D Colbert and Mr B Bailey were present.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Lancashire Enterprise Partnership - Circulation of Board Papers

Mr I Young, Company Secretary to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), presented a report regarding the circulation of Board papers.

Mr Young explained that the report was in follow up to the verbal update provided at the last meeting regarding this matter. The paper presented explained that as the LEP is a company wholly owned by one public sector authority, Lancashire County Council, Sections 3 and 6 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, therefore provides that the company is subject to the provision of the legislation and therefore subject to the same right of access to information as if the company was in fact a local authority.

With this in mind it was proposed to adopt a similar approach to local authorities and split agendas into Part I reports (that would be made available for the press and public) and Part II reports (that would be marked as private and confidential after applying the relevant FOI exemption and public interest test). It was further proposed that minutes be written in a similar way to the local authority style and an appropriate level of detail recorded for reports deemed Part I and Part II.

In addition, it was explained that where FOI requests are received it is proposed that these are processed by the County Council's Access to Information Team, in consultation with the Director for Economic Development and Company Secretary. The Freedom of Information Act allows people access to any recorded information that the County Council holds. The information may be requested from anyone internationally and the Authority has 20 working days, from the time of the request being received in writing, to respond.

In responding to questions from the Board, Mr Young clarified that the approach applied only to the publication, and making public of agenda papers, the proposed approach did not mean that meetings of the LEP Board would now be held in public. Minutes will not contain quotes attributed to individuals and the process for minute production will be that they are produced within three working days, cleared with the Chair, and they published as draft minutes awaiting approval at the next Board meeting.

Resolved: The Board agreed:

- (i) To note the content of the report and the information contained within the appendices.
- (ii) That LEP papers be split into Part I and Part II, and made publically available in the manner set out in the report; and
- (iii) To authorise the Company Secretary to implement the proposals regarding the circulation of papers as set out in the report.

6. Growth Deal 2 - Update

Mr M Kelly, Director of Economic Development, Lancashire County Council presented a report which provided an update on progress with Growth Deal 2.

The Board was reminded that at the special meeting held on 18th November 2014 it endorsed four Growth Deal 2 Priority 2 – Investment Schemes as "ready to progress", they were UCLAN's Engineering Innovation Centre, Barnfield Construction / Pendle Borough Council's Northlight development, BAE Systems' AEM Technology Exploitation Centre and Fleetwood Fishpark.

The Board sought clarification on the BAE System' AEM Technology Exploitation Centre Scheme, as a number of Board Members felt it was not clear what the project entailed. A Further update was provided on the project which clarified for the Board the purpose of the project and the benefits it will provide. The Board accepted the clarification and re-confirmed their endorsement of the project as a "ready to progress" scheme.

It was further reported that at the special meeting held on 18th November 2014 the Board endorsed five Growth Deal Priority 2 – Investment Schemes as "requiring further development". They were Burnley Council / Trebor Development's Burnley Vision Park, Barnfield Construction / Rossendale Borough Council's Rawtenstall Regeneration Zone, Chorley Council's M6 (Junction 28) Operational Improvements and Employment Land Opportunities, Digital Health Campus and Town Centre Public Realm proposals.

It was reported that following the special meeting held on 18th November, four additional schemes have come forward and been submitted for Board consideration. Namely Lancaster University, UCLAN, Edge Hill University and Blackburn with Darwen Council. A brief overview of each scheme was given.

The Board discussed the four additional schemes, and following consideration agreed that a further special meeting of the Board be arranged for January 2015 to rank all Growth Deal Priority 2 schemes (including the four additional schemes).

In addition it was reported that in the Chancellors Autumn Statement announced on 3rd December 2014 offered very little new detail with regard to Growth Deal 2. It is anticipated that £1 billion will be brought forward from prior Government

commitments, with Growth Deal 1 thought to have committed around £6 billion in Government funding and support.

Resolved: The Board:

- (i) Noted the positive response of all local project sponsors to the feedback provided from the special meeting held on 18th November 2014.
- (ii) Endorsed, in principle, the four new proposals submitted by Lancaster University, UCLAN, Edge Hill University and Blackburn with Darwen as Growth Deal 2 scheme prospects, as identified in section 2 of the report; and
- (iii) Requested that a further special meeting of the Board be convened in January 2015 to consider and rank all Growth Deal 2 schemes (including the four additional schemes presented).

7. Growth Deal Implementation Plan and Assurance Framework Update

Ms B Joyce, Head of Strategic Development, Lancashire County Council presented a report regarding the Growth Deal Implementation Plan and to update on the Assurance Framework.

Ms Joyce reported that the Growth Deal Implementation Plan requires submission to Government, it will contain the strategic framework with high level milestones covering the six year life of the Growth Deal.

In order to prepare the Implementation Plan, a working draft will be shared with Government colleagues by the end of January 2015. The final draft of the Implementation Plan will be submitted to the LEP Board on 10th February 2015 for detailed consideration and approval.

With regard to the Growth Deal Assurance Framework it was reported that the Framework will contain five parts: LEP Governance and Decision Making, Local Authority Partnership Working, Transparent Decision Making, Accountable Decision Making and Ensuring Value for Money.

The Government may expect a draft Assurance Framework to be the subject of discussion/consultation with all local authority leaders and MPs in a LEP area, although this is to be confirmed.

In terms of approval process, the Assurance Framework will need to be approved by the County Council, as the accountable body, and LEP Board, and published on the LEP's website. The Framework will have to be reviewed annually by both the LEP and the County Council.

A draft of the Assurance Framework will be brought to the LEP Board on the 10th February 2015, with time for an intensive period of consultation / stakeholder engagement, prior to final LEP Board consideration at a special Board meeting in March 2015 to allow submission of the agreed Framework to Government in April,

the Assurance Framework will also need approval through the County Council's decision making process within this time frame.

The Board acknowledged the requirements of the Assurance Framework and commented that the Framework should clearly define how the LEP is providing economic value.

In considering the recommendations, and in particular the nomination of a named LEP Director as the Interim Chair of the Growth Deal Programme Board, Mr Graham Cowley put himself forward for the role, the Chair and the Board endorsed Mr Cowley to be appointed as the Interim Chair of the Growth Deal Programme Board.

Resolved: The Board:

- (i) Approved the appointment of Mr Graham Cowley as the interim Chair of the Growth Deal Programme Board.
- (ii) Approved the establishment of the shadow Growth Deal Programme Board, as set out in the report.
- (iii) Requested that final Terms and Reference for the Programme Board be submitted for consideration and approval by the LEP Board at its meeting on 10th February, 2015.
- (iv) Approved the proposal for Lancaster University to host and manage an Evaluation Learning Workshop in January 2015, as set out in section 6 of the report.
- (v) Requested a presentation on Monitoring and Evaluation Framework options to be provided at the LEP Board meeting to be held on 10 February, 2015.
- (vi) Delegated the on-going preparation of the draft Assurance Framework to the Director of Economic Development, at Lancashire County Council, in consultation with the LEP Chairman and interim Chair of the Growth Deal Programme Board.
- (vii) Requested that the draft Assurance Framework be submitted for detailed consideration at the LEP Board meeting to be held on 10th February, 2015.
- (viii) Delegated authority for the preparation of the draft Implementation Plan to the Director of Economic Development, at Lancashire County Council, in consultation with the LEP Chairman and interim Chair of the Growth Deal Programme Board; and
- (ix) Requested that the final draft Implementation Plan be submitted for detailed consideration by the LEP Board at its meeting to be held on 10th February, 2015.

8. Any Other Business

Mr M Kelly gave an update regarding an item that is due to be considered by the Lancashire Skills Board regarding an application by Runshaw College regarding the Skills Capital Programme. It was reported that whilst the Skills Board could consider the application, and, if it sees fit, endorse it, it does not have the powers to formally approve it. That power is reserved to the LEP.

The LEP Board agreed that following consideration of this application by the Skills Board, that the Executive Committee of the LEP be delegated authority to consider the Runshaw College Skills Capital Programme application.

Resolved: That the LEP Executive Committee, following recommendation by the Skills Board, be authorised to consider the Runshaw College Skills Capital Programme application.

Mr Brian Bailey, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, gave a brief update on the European Funding Project and stated it was progressing well against targets.

Mr Mike Tynan, offered from his area of expertise, to provide the Board with a presentation at a future meeting regarding nuclear industry developments. The Board agreed this would be a useful future agenda item.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on 10th February 2015, however an additional special meeting will be arranged in January 2015 in order to rank all Growth Deal 2 submissions.