

NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Thursday 30 November 2017 at 5.00pm

Held at Exchange and Innovation Suite, Hope Street Xchange, Centre for Enterprise and Innovation, Sunderland

MINUTES

Present:

Andrew Hodgson	Chair, North East LEP
David Land	Drive 2 Business
Ammar Mirza	AmmarM (UK) Limited
Heidi Mottram	Northumbrian Water Group
Councillor Simon Henig	Leader, Durham County Council
Councillor Martin Gannon	Leader, Gateshead Council
Councillor Peter Jackson	Leader, Northumberland County Council
Councillor Iain Malcolm	Leader, South Tyneside Council
Councillor Henry Trueman	Deputy Leader, Sunderland City Council
Karen Redhead	Association of North East Colleges

In Attendance:

Helen Golightly	Executive Director, North East LEP
Paul Woods	Chief Financial Officer, NECA
Peter Judge	Monitoring Officer, NECA
Irene Lucas	Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council
Martin Swales	Chief Executive, South Tyneside Council
Vince Taylor	Sunderland City Council
David Cramond	South Tyneside Council
Geoff Paul	Northumberland County Council
Richard Baker	LEP Executive Team
Ray Browning	LEP Executive Team
Gillian Kelly	Sunderland City Council

Apologies

Farooq Hakim	BT
Professor Andrew Wathey	Northumbria University
Gillian Hall	Watson Burton
Andrew Moffat	Port of Tyne
Mark Thompson	Ryder Architecture
Paul Varley	North East Clothing Company
Councillor Nick Forbes	Leader, Newcastle City Council
Mayor Norma Redfearn	North Tyneside Council

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Board Members were made aware that the meeting was inquorate, however the Board's recommendations would be sent to Board members for agreement by written representations after the meeting.

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2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 28 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

3. CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

John Mowbray and Richard Evans were in attendance to present to the Board on behalf of the North East Culture Partnership.

The North East of England's Case for Culture summary document was circulated to the Board and Richard Evans explained that this had been to address the risks and gaps observed in the infrastructure across the region. The group believed that investment in culture could create a lot of value and growth and there were five aspirations set out in the Case for Culture: -

- Participation and reach – spreading the benefits of arts and heritage further to make sure everyone benefits.
- Children and young people – ensuring we continue to innovate and broaden access to culture to children and young people, for all benefits this brings to future generations.
- Talent and progression – ensuring we attract and retain the very best cultural and creative talent, and provide routes for career progression to grow a more skilled and diverse workforce.
- Economic value – harnessing our potential to support economic growth and job creation, and attract more visitors to our region.
- Creating a vibrant and distinctive region with an excellent quality of life – the right conditions for innovation and inward investment.

The Chair highlighted that the LEP Board had advisory boards sitting under it and he suggested that the Executive Director looked at this issue and what, if any, structures the LEP might need to establish to move these things forward and to align the agenda of the North East Cultural Partnership with the Strategic Economic Plan.

Having thanked Alan and Richard for their presentations, **the Board NOTED the information.**

4. DELIVERY PLAN

The Board received an update on the delivery plan setting out the progress against SEP actions and the performance against plan targets since 2014.

The Executive Director highlighted that the report set out what the LEP hoped to achieve for the region and invited questions from Board Members. The Chair once again commended the Executive Director and the LEP team on the high quality report.

The Board NOTED the Programme Delivery Update.

5. ENTERPRISE ZONE UPDATE AND LEGAL AGREEMENT

The Board received a report providing an update on the current position with regard to development of the Enterprise Zone sites in the North East and the progress being made to standardise arrangements for all Enterprise Zones. An overarching legal agreement was being developed for the financial management of the Enterprise Zones and it was hoped that the local authorities would be in a position to sign this during December.

The Board were advised of the latest business rates income projection for 2017/2018. It was intended to bring a more detailed report on this in January, along with a review of the financial model.

DCLG had provided two tranches of 'Commercial Support' funding to enhance the preparations for delivering Enterprise Zones and the North East LEP had received funding through the first round which supported the work carried out by Cushman and Wakefield and the development of the legal agreement. Planned areas of work to be funded from the second round of Commercial Support monies were outlined and the key next steps for the delivery of the Enterprise Zone were set out.

The Board therefore RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the update on delivery progress be noted;**
- (ii) the receipt of the Commercial Support Grant and activities proposed under this route be noted;**
- (iii) the Chair and the Executive Director be authorised to enter into the legal agreement outlined in the NECA report attached at Appendix A and that NECA be asked to complete the legal agreement as the accountable body of the North East LEP.**

6. FUNDING UPDATES

This report was strictly confidential as it contained commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and was not for wider circulation.

7. POLICY UPDATES

(a) Energy Strategy

The Board received a report setting out the proposed approach to developing an approved Energy Strategy for the North East LEP as requested the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The report summarised the background requirements and purpose of the strategy, the approach proposed to meet this requirement and the opportunity and the proposed focus for the strategy to enable it to be delivered.

The Board RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the BEIS funding to enable the development work be acknowledged;**
- (ii) the proposed approach to deliver the strategy be noted; and**
- (iii) the proposed focus for the strategy to ensure deliverability be noted.**

(b) State of the Region Event

The Board received a report proposing that a State of the Region report would be produced to: -

- Present an overview of the North East economy and how it was changing over time
- Provide a resource for partners to inform decision-making
- Position the North East for future policy developments, including the industrial strategy
- Develop the visibility of the LEP as an evidence user and economic commentator.

The Board NOTED the proposed structure for the State of the Region report.

8. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board received a report setting out a proposal with regard to the LEP Board membership which would ratify and confirm the terms of office for individual Board Members and move forward with the process of appointing new Board Members to replace those whose terms of office had come to an end.

The Board APPROVED the proposal as set out.

9. NORTH OF TYNE DEVOLUTION

The Board received a report outlining the content of the proposed North of Tyne devolution deal, the next steps and timescales.

The Chair stated that it was the responsibility of the LEP Board to make sure that the entire region benefitted from any arrangements, there were no adverse impacts and the SEP was maintained and supported. It was proposed that a small sub group comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair, and education representative and another independent private sector member be established to look at the impact on the LEP.

The Executive Director drew Board Members' attention to the timescale and stated that the LEP's draft response to the consultation would be brought to the January meeting.

The Board AGREED that: -

- (i) The content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) A small working group be established as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report.**

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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There was no other business.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting of the LEP Board would take place on Thursday 25 January 2018 at 5.00pm at the Northern Design Centre, Gateshead.

ACTION LOG

<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Update</u>
All Board decisions to be ratified through written representation following the meeting	Helen Golightly	Complete