

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board

29 September 2022

Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams

In attendance:

Lucy Winskell	- Chair, North East LEP
Gillian Hall	- Gillian Hall Consulting Limited
Heidi Mottram	- CEO, Northumbrian Water Group
Carol Botten	- CEO, VONNE
Ellen Thinnesen	- CEO, Education Partnership North East
Chris Day	- Vice Chancellor, Newcastle University
Cllr Nick Kemp	- Leader, Newcastle City Council
Cllr Richard Wearmouth	- Deputy Leader, Northumberland County Council

Apologies

Ammar Mirza – AmmarM (UK) Limited
 Mark Thompson – Ryder Architecture
 Erika Leadbeater – TSG Marine
 Kate Medcalf
 Mayor Jamie Driscoll – North of Tyne Combined Authority
 Mayor Norma Redfearn – North Tyneside Council
 Cllr Tracey Dixon – Leader, SouthTyneside Council
 Cllr Amanda Hopgood – Leader, Durham County Council
 Cllr Martin Gannon – Leader, Gateshead Council

Officers

Helen Golightly – CEO, North East LEP
 Henry Kippin – Managing Director, NTCA
 Patrick Melia – Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council
 Richard Baker – Strategy and Policy Director, North East LEP
 Catherine Auld – Ass. Director of Economic Regeneration, Sunderland City Council
 John Scott – Head of Inclusive Growth, South Tyneside Council
 Paul Woods – Finance Officer, North East LEP
 Katy Laing – Finance Officer, NTCA
 Christine Patterson - Democratic Services, Newcastle City Council

1 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from A Mirza, E Leadbeater, K Medcalf, and M Thompson. Cllrs T Dixon, M Gallon, and A Hopgood. Mayors J Driscoll and N Redfearn

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared an interest in Agenda item 5 (a) – Investment Fund Update, and the potential payment to the North East Access Finance Board, explaining that she

was a Board Member and as such would take no part in the decision making in respect of this.

3 **MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 JULY 2022**

The Minutes of the last Board meeting held on Thursday 21 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

None

4 **ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN, PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Board received a report, which updated on progress against the LEP Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 across the key areas of Business Growth; Innovation; Skills, Employment, Inclusion and Progression; Transport; Investment and Infrastructure; Strategy and Policy; and Communications. The report had been refreshed against the key LEP Review findings.

The Board noted that further guidance was expected in respect of Investment Zones and the intention to bring a report to the November meeting, in respect of the LSIPS and ERBs work.

The Chair referred to the loss of good, talented LEP team officers but said she was delighted for those who were moving into high-profile national jobs.

5 **FUND MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

This report was 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

The Board received a report, which provided a summary on funding decisions taken under delegation since the last Board Meeting (Part A); two funding decisions relating to the Getting Building Fund (GBF) and the North East LEP NEIF programme and one further decision relating to the LGF and Enterprise Zone (EZ) funding agreements (Part B); information on the funding programme 2022/23 Quarter 1 performance (Part C) and outlined a planned communications infrastructure and tendering exercise for the LEP website (Part D).

RESOLVED- That the Board agreed to:

- i. Note the funding decision taken under delegation in Part A, set out in Table 1.
- ii. Approve an increase in the GBF grant to the Gateshead Quays Multi Storey Car Park from £2m to £2,753,100 and reduction in the GBF grant to the Gateshead Quays Link Road from £5m to £4,321,760 as detailed in Appendix 1 and para 3.1-3.6.

- iii. Approve that the £4.5m NEIF budget investment into the North East Fund, made as a repayable grant, is extended to 31 March 2025 as detailed in Appendix 2 and para 3.6-3.8.
- iv. Approve that the £4.5m NEIF budget following 31 March 2025, is reinvested as a long-term, up to 15-year repayable grant, into a successor North East Access to Finance fund, subject to other North East legacy funds contributions (from ERDF, Single Programme and RGF) also continuing to be recycled and committed, as detailed in Appendix 2 and para 3.6-3.8.
- v. Approve the variations to the International Advance Manufacturing Park (IAMP) LGF and EZ funding agreements as profiled in Appendix 3 and outlined in para 4.6.
- vi. Delegate the decision to determine any further funding agreement variations on IAMP, should these be required, to the North East LEP Investment Board.
- vii. Note the budget and performance forecasts for 2022-23 on the LGF, GBF, EZ and PDAF funding programmes set out under Part C.
- viii. Approve the commencement of a communication infrastructure tendering exercise to appoint a new framework with a value of £250,000 p.a. for two years with the option to extend for a further two years and to delegate to the Chief Executive the decision to determine the appointment of suppliers in consultation with the NTCA Monitoring Officer and S73 Officer.

6 **DEVOLUTION – CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION**

The Board received a verbal update on the progress around devolution.

7 **NET ZERO UPDATE**

This report was 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

The Board received a report, which updated on the progress made on Net Zero North East England (NZNEE), which sought Board's approval on the proposed next steps.

8 **CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

Noted.

9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

A. LEP Board Member Recruitment Update

The Board received a report, which updated on the progress being made around member recruitment and the proposed next steps.

RESOLVED – That the Board agreed to:

- i. Appoint Colin Hewitt and Phil Redman to the Board ahead of the next Board meeting.
- ii. Approve a further recruitment exercise to replace LEP Board member(s) whose terms are coming to an end.
- iii. Approve that the Nominations' Committee for the recruitment exercise is the Chair and three Vice Chairs, in line with the precedent previously set, and agree that any member of the Nominations' Committee can delegate their place to another LEP Board Member.

B. Social Event

The Chair announced that a date had been organised for drinks with one of the Board Members whose term had ended, explaining that an invite would be circulate.

10 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 24 November from 5 - 7pm