

**SHEFFIELD CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD
NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017**

Board Members: Sir Nigel Knowles (Chair), Gavin Baldwin, Laura Bennett, Councillor Tricia Gilby, Alexa Greaves, Julie Kenny CBE, Neil MacDonald, Martin McKervey, Owen Michaelson, Councillor Lewis Rose OBE and Richard Stubbs

In attendance: Substitute Members: Councillor Michael Gordon and Councillor Mazher Iqbal

Co-Opted Members: Chris Scholey

Officers: Fiona Boden, David Budd, Paul Clifford, Andrew Gates, Sharon Kemp, Mark Lynam, John Mothersole, Dave Smith, Mike Thomas and Craig Tyler

Apologies: Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, Councillor Julie Dore, Professor Sir Keith Burnett, Councillor Simon Greaves, Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Mayor Ros Jones CBE, Councillor Chris Read, Councillor Ann Syrett, Simon Carr, Professor Chris Husbands, Ruth Adams, Huw Bowen, Dorcas Bunton, Andrew Frosdick, Jo Miller, Daniel Swaine, Neil Taylor and Diana Terris

Item	Subject	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcome the incoming private sector Board members and introduced the members and officers present.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Members were provided with an explanation of the duty to declare personal, professional or pecuniary interests in respect of any matter of business to be transacted at LEP Board meetings. It was noted members will be asked to not take part in discussions if declaring a non-pecuniary interest and may be asked to withdraw from the meeting, for the duration of the relevant agenda item, if a pecuniary interest is declared.</p>	

	<p>At item 7 (Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund), Julie Kenny declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Landscape Reconnected – A New Destination for the North bid by virtue of connections to the Wentworth Foundation Preservation Trust and Cllr Mazher Iqbal declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Onwards and Upwards Tinsley Art Project bid, as the representative Member of the sponsoring Authority.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Notes of the last meeting held on 11 September 2017</p> <p>It was agreed the minutes of the LEP Board meeting held on 11th September were a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Members discussed whether 3pm start times for meetings were ideal.</p> <p>Action: D Smith to monitor whether revisions to meeting start times might be beneficial.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Emerging National Industrial Strategy</p> <p>A presentation was received regarding the Emerging National Industrial Strategy, highlighting synergies with the SCR's Emerging Inclusive Industrial Strategy (a.k.a the SEP refresh)</p> <p>It was noted the Emerging National Industrial Strategy is the government's primary, cross-departmental plan for improving the economic growth and performance of the country.</p> <p>The Board was informed the initial 10 pillars of the National Strategy have been distilled down to 5 foundations: Skills, Innovation, Place, Infrastructure and Business. These will feature in the forthcoming Green Paper. It was noted these foundations therefore accord well with the SCR's emerging priorities of: Research and Innovation, Business Growth, Skills and Employment, Transport and Place.</p> <p>The Board was also introduced to the concept of Sector deals, which the government is championing as a means to further drive growth. These propose to address sector-specific challenges and opportunities in relation to a number of areas including: Life Sciences, Artificial Intelligence, Creative Industries, Nuclear, Automotive and Industrial Digitalisation and therefore present the SCR with additional opportunities to further highlight its capabilities for growth in relevant sectors.</p> <p>It was noted a sectoral focussed £1bn Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund has been launched, for which funding will target 6 key areas. It was suggested announcements in respect of some of these areas may be timed to coincide with the 2017 Autumn Budget. It was therefore suggested this presents the SCR with further opportunities to attract additional funding and work is required to ensure the SCR is placed to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.</p>	

The Chair noted the Emerging National Industrial Strategy doesn't sit in isolation and will be delivered with other strategies the SCR needs to be fully engaged with i.e. pan-regional connectivity strategies.

It was noted the SCR and its affiliates will continue to lobby government collectively and individually regarding the importance of using the Emerging National Industrial Strategy to help geographically rebalance the economy. Consideration will also be given to which of the government's target sectors are more naturally aligned to the SCR and its ambitions and therefore most likely to attract funding.

It was acknowledged the role of the local universities in supporting the SCR's ambitions will be crucial, and noted university leads are having discussions with Ministers regarding potential Sector deals.

Consideration was given to whether the SCR's interests would be best served via collectively working with neighbouring city regions on schemes of mutual interest, with sectoral examples noted of where this might be feasible.

5 Transport Strategy Refresh and Public Consultation

A report and presentation were received to inform the Board of the latest developments in respect of the refresh of the SCR Transport Strategy and to invite Members' feedback ahead of the determination of the version of the draft which will become subject to wider public consultation, and the planned consultation process itself.

Members were advised of the key changes to the draft i.e. the emergence of HS2 and Transport for the North which are both predated by the previous strategy.

The draft vision, goals and policies and public consultation plans were explained in more detail.

The Board discussed the means through which the SCR's required 'place' as part of the wider TfN-led ambition will be championed at various levels of regional and national decision making.

It was noted TfN are due to launch consultation on their Strategic Transport Plan later in the year and efforts should be taken to avoid confusion with our consultation exercise.

In summary, the Board:

1. Noted the work undertaken to date to develop a draft consultation draft of the SCR Transport Strategy, working collaboratively with local authority partners.

2. Noted the next stage in the process being that of a 12-week public consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy, following Combined Authority approval on 30 October 2017.

3. Agreed to support the statutory consultation on the draft SCR Transport Strategy through the promotion and dissemination of consultation information through appropriate LEP networks.

6

LGF Capital Programme Performance Position at Q2

A paper was received to provide an overview of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) performance position as at Q2 and provide the Board with oversight of the new CLG quarterly reporting dashboard.

The Board was informed the receipt of performance reporting information would become standard practice and thus help inform the annual 'conversation' with government regarding future years' funding.

Members welcomed the provision of information noting this would help develop the Board's ability to play a larger part in enhancing SCR accountability and thus provide the government with assurance our LGF (and successor funding stream) funding is being invested appropriately.

Using the new dashboard reporting style as a basis to explain LGF finances, it was noted there is currently an over-commitment against the programme, over its life, which peaks at £34.29m by 2020. However, the 2017/18 in-year forecast is to underspend and this introduces a potential associated loss of grant (due to agreed spending milestones having to be achieved in year).

The Board was informed of actions planned to remediate this year's forecast underspend (starting with the provision of dashboard information to help inform further decisions) without further affecting the risk of whole-life programme overspend. It was noted these actions include the reprofiling of Funding from 2017/18 to 2018/19 and the publishing of an open commissioning call for a reserve pipeline of projects. Discussions will also be held with government in the interests of identifying any further profiling flexibilities.

The Board agreed the need to be strong when taking difficult decisions in respect of schemes that may not be deliverable.

It was agreed the Executive Boards will be critical in helping prioritise schemes for delivery and noted the new private sector LEP Board members will be allocated membership of the Boards to ensure the interests of the LEP are appropriately represented in all discussions.

The Board members were provided with the opportunity to visit the Exec Team and learn more about the LGF programme management regime.

<p>7</p>	<p>Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund</p> <p>The Board was presented with a report providing a short summary of each of the four proposals received following an open call for schemes launched by the LEP after the Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport asked all northern LEPs to assess local proposals to access a National Cultural Regeneration Fund (NCRF). It was noted the Department has asked the LEPs to submit a single scheme to the Government for consideration.</p> <p>It was noted the objectives of the fund are to encouraging sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the North of England and to benefit areas in the North of England that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment.</p> <p>It was reported that an internal appraisal panel considered the schemes submitted. Scheme promoters were asked to submit their bids using the proforma provided by the government and additional questions were asked to enable the panel to appraise, rank and select the best bid including information about job creation, footfall estimates, potential for income generation and any value for money opportunities.</p> <p>In additional to the information provided in the report, Members were advised of further correspondence received by the Chair in support of the Doncaster’s Founding Futures project. The points raised were given due consideration by the Board.</p> <p>In discussion, it was agreed the recommendation made by the internal appraisal panel should be supported and therefore the Board agreed to endorse the submission of the Onwards and Upwards (Tinsley Art Project) scheme to DCMS for consideration.</p> <p>It was confirmed the scheme promoter is confident a short-fall identified in respect of the local contribution requirement will be addressed.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Reviewing Sheffield City Region LEP Governance</p> <p>A report was received to inform the Board that over recent months the SCR Executive has been reviewing its governance arrangements to ensure that they are robust, efficient, effective and transparent. This includes consideration of both LEP and Combined Authority (CA) matters. It was noted this review have been informed by the government’s recent publication of the Ney Review of LEPs Governance and Transparency that makes a series of more formal recommendations around LEP governance arrangements.</p> <p>It was noted the report therefore presents a series of recommendations relative to the SCR LEP and a series of updated policy documents for LEP governance to ensure that a robust approach is in place. It was noted these are currently draft and subject to members’ comments:</p>	

- Terms of reference;
- Code of conduct;
- Declarations of interest policy;
- Expenses policy;
- Equality and diversity; and
- Gifts and hospitality policy.

Consideration was given to whether a 2 year appointment for private sector Board members is long enough given the time it takes to become fully proficient in matters for which the Board has responsibility.

The Equality and Diversity policy was welcomed and it was suggested the LEP's Appointments Committee should itself be diverse and representative.

It was suggested the Declarations of Interest proformas is challenging to complete. But acknowledged this degree of rigour is required to ensure transparency standards are met. The Board was informed the government is expected to be standardising a national LEP Board Declarations of Interest proforma which will be adopted by the SCR upon publication.

It was requested that all further comments be sent to D Smith as soon as possible for incorporation onto the final versions of the policies.

Action: ALL

It was agreed to delegate to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, the finalisation of the LEP governance policy framework and agreed documents should be published online to demonstrate to government our commitment to our transparency ambitions.

<p>9</p>	<p>Managing Director Report</p> <p>A report was received to provide LEP Board members with a general update on activity being undertaken by the LEP outside of the agenda items under discussion.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No further matters noted.</p>	