

**SHEFFIELD CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Board Members:** Sir Nigel Knowles (Chair), Bill Adams, Laura Bennett, Councillor Michael Gordon, Alexa Greaves, Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE, Mayor Ros Jones CBE, Neil MacDonald, Julia Muir, Lucy Nickson, Ged Shields and Richard Stubbs

**In attendance:** Substitute Members: Cllr Tony Morley

Co-Opted Members: Simon Carr, Professor Sir Chris Husbands and Chris Scholey

Officers: Ruth Adams, Fiona Boden, Anita Dell, Andrew Gates, Matt Gladstone, Justin Homer, Yasmin Knight, Helen Lazarus, Mel Dei Rossi, Dave Smith, Craig Tyler, Dr Sarah Want, Lyndsey Whitaker and Paul Wilson

Guests – item 6: Robert Hough, Kate Stow, Gareth Finch (Peel)

**Apologies:** Nigel Brewster, Councillor Julie Dore, Professor Sir Keith Burnett, Councillor Tricia Gilby, Councillor Simon Greaves, Peter Kennan, Tanwer Khan, Owen Michaelson, Councillor Chris Read, Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, Councillor Ann Syrett and Alison Kinna

Item	Subject	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>Members' apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>The new Board members were welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>Sir Nigel informed colleagues of his decision to not seek reappointment to the LEP Board Chair when his current tenure expires in December 2018.</p> <p>Thanking his Vice Chair, the district Leaders, his fellow private sector Board members and the officers for their support over the last 3 years, Sir Nigel proposed that the SCR has made great ground during his time</p>	

	<p>in office but suggested there was still much to be done.</p> <p>Sir Nigel urged the Sheffield City Region to continue to speak up for itself, and confirmed he would continue to promote and advocate in favour of this ‘undiscovered jewel’ from his London base. This includes acting as Mayor Jarvis’ Special Advisor on Trade and Investment.</p> <p>Mayor Jarvis requested his thanks to Sir Nigel be placed on record for all he has done in his capacity as LEP Board Chair and for leaving the SCR LEP in a much better place than when he started in the role, citing the invaluable advice he has provided and his incredibly valuable skill set. Mayor Jarvis stated that he is looking forward to continuing to work with Sir Nigel in his crucial new role as mayoral advisor on International Trade and Investment.</p> <p>Sir Steve echoed suggestions that the LEP is in a much better place than when Sir Nigel took the Chair and proposed he can be very pleased and proud of what he has achieved. Sir Steve said Sir Nigel had worked with great honesty, dignity and integrity and that he was very pleased with how Sir Nigel had handled the Chair’s role and supported the LEP partners. Sir Steve welcomed the prospect maintaining Sir Nigel’s relationship with the SCR LEP in new ways going forward.</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No declarations noted and no changes to Registers of interest were reported.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Notes of Last Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August were agreed to be an accurate record.</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Government LEP Review</b></p> <p>A report was received to inform the Board that following the publication of the government’s Local Enterprise Partnership Review, the SCR is required to respond by the 28th of September on its questions of geography.</p> <p>It was noted that following the discussion at the last LEP Board, a draft response has been developed for submission (presented at Annex A) and further steer is therefore requested as to whether the draft response effectively captures members’ opinions that there should be no change to the LEP’s current geography.</p> <p>It was confirmed members’ opinions were unanimous in supporting the maintenance of the current overlapping approach to geography and noted the SCR is not alone among city regions in taking this position.</p>	

Sir Steve requested the response state upfront, with greater emphasis that it should be up to each district to determine what it wants to do. It was also requested the response state that any geographical arrangements must be seen as interim, for Barnsley and Doncaster councils, whilst questions relating to the wider-Yorkshire geography are explored. These requests were seconded by Mayor Jones.

It was agreed the SCR LEP Board members would have the opportunity to see the final intended response prior to its submission. Action: Dave.

DS

**RESOLVED, that the LEP Board:**

- 1. Agrees to propose no change to its current geography to Government.**
- 2. Agrees that the final draft should be shared with LEP Board members prior to its submission**
- 3. Agrees to delegate to the Managing Director, in consultation with the LEP Chair, the submission of the response to government on geography by the 28th September.**

5

**Economic Plan Refresh**

The Board was presented with a report setting out a proposal for updating the SCR's evidence base and developing a robust strategy for future economic growth in the City Region.

It was suggested the opportunity to undertake this work at this time stems from; existing work to update the economic plan which was paused in 2017 due to Government policy, the availability of new information and data collated by SCR and partners, the SCR not being part of the latest 'wave' of LEP areas being invited to develop a Local Industrial Strategy, and to take account of the manifesto commitments made by the Mayor.

It was suggested it is critical to success that policy is founded upon robust, up-to-date and independent evidence. The report therefore proposed initially updating the evidence base to subsequently refresh the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and also develop a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). Undertaking this work will position SCR to build upon its successes.

Members discussed the potential effects of Brexit on the various themes covered by the evidence base. It was confirmed a more detailed 'Brexit focus' paper will be presented to a future LEP Board meeting.

Members discussed how a robust evidence base would benefit other discussions with government and enable the SCR to present a consistent, solid narrative with respect to its ambitions.

It was acknowledged the evidence base should not be overly predicated on GVA uplift potential, noting this indicator is not necessarily a means of identifying the gross number of people benefiting from LEP policies and interventions.

The Board discussed the future opportunities afforded by digitalisation, across all sectors, and how the SCR and its residents might be positioned to make the most of these opportunities, particularly through the SCR's Business Growth and Skills programmes.

**RESOLVED, that the LEP Board:**

- 1. Agrees to re-commence the development of an inclusive economic plan and industrial strategy for the City Region, including filling gaps in the evidence base, to ensure that this is founded upon robust and up-to-date information.**
- 2. Agrees to appoint a named LEP Board member to lead and champion the completion of the plan.**

6

**Doncaster Sheffield Airport Update**

Colleagues from Peel Holdings, owners of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA), attended to present to the LEP Board their vision for accelerating the growth of the airport.

The presentation provided statistics and information to explain the current status of the airport, noting where relationships with the LEP and other local organisations are crucial to helping the airport realise its airside and landside ambition and potential.

Consideration was given to the potential catalytic effect of the airport, on housing, employment and tourism.

The Board discussed how the SCR LEP and Combined Authority might further play a part in the airport's growth. It was suggested this could include expediting investment decisions via time-efficient means, should it be identified that there is a justifiable business case reason to do so.

It was noted all airports are seeking clarity on the potential effects of Brexit on their operations.

It was suggested the airport's current approach to branding was confusing. In response, it was acknowledged it probably still wasn't right and noted there is a continuing shift in emphasis away from 'Robin Hood' and towards 'Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA)' It was also acknowledged more also needs to be done to improve airport signage.

Current access to the airport, and aspirations for new or improved transport links were considered.

	<p>It was noted that DSA had applied to SCR seeking funding towards the expansion project and this may be ready for a funding decision at the October meeting of the Mayoral Combined Authority. LEP Board were asked if it was possible to consider the project ahead of the formal October meeting. It was confirmed that if recommended this would be a Key decision and as such will need to be considered at the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Strength in Places Bid</b></p> <p>The Board was presented with a background to, and information regarding, the Strength in Places bid being led by the 2 SCR universities and the University of Lancaster (supported by a wider consortium).</p> <p>It was noted the Strength in Places fund is a government initiative seeking to help rebalance research based investment across the country and help to achieve a 2.4% of GDP target investment in research and development.</p> <p>It was noted our submission aims to harness higher education's research and innovation strengths to scale up the fast growing innovation districts in the Sheffield City Region and Lancashire LEP areas. It was noted the bid's EoI was submitted in July 2018 and an announcement is expected during October to confirm whether the bid will be invited to progress a full scoping plan.</p> <p>The Board was asked to note this is a competitive process and that a significant number of bids have been submitted.</p> <p>It was confirmed there is no funding ask of the LEP relating to this proposal. Rather, it is requested that where possible, LEP Board members seek to advocate for the bid on the national stage. It was also requested that links be drawn between this work and the different aspects of LEP policy.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>LGF Programme Review</b></p> <p>A report was received to update on the outcome of the LGF Programme review and to provide a breakdown of current proposed spend by category. It was noted this review is based on a recent independent appraisal of all projects with an LGF funding ask of £1m and above which have programme entry status but haven't actually started physical works.</p> <p>It was noted that were a project fails to meet its agreed key milestones (detailed in appendix a), it will be considered 'off track' and funding will no longer be ring-fenced, therefore progression will be subject to funding availability at the point of approval alongside other pipeline projects. If a project misses a "final date" milestone the project will be recommended for de-commitment of LGF funding allocations (in part or in whole).</p>	

	<p>It was suggested that to help maximise potential spend, extra-ordinary meetings of the CA should be called if required to progress investment decisions if these are time critical.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the LEP Board</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approves outcome of the LGF Programme Audit including the key milestones projects are required to meet in order to retain funding allocations (either ringfenced or committed) from the current LGF allocations.</li> <li>2. Delegates to the Head of Paid Service and Section 73 Officer the approval to un-ringfence funding if projects are considered off track, noting that the recommendation to decommit funding (in whole or in part) will be submitted to the LEP for further consideration.</li> </ol>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>DELTA Dashboard</b></p> <p>The Board was presented with the contents of the Quarter 1 2018/19 DELTA Dashboard monitoring form, and approval was sought to submit the return to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) prior to the 19th October 2018 deadline.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board approves the formal submission of the DELTA Dashboard to MHCLG.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Managing Director's Update</b></p> <p>Received for information and noting.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Resolution Records - BGEB (July 2018)</b></p> <p>Received for information and noting.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>No further matters noted.</p>	