

West of England LEP Board

Thursday, 11 July 2019, 0930
Not Open to the Public
3 Rivergate, Bristol BS1 6ER

Present:

Prof Steve West, West of England LEP
Katharine Finn, PwC
Andrew Hodgson, KPMG
David Brown, The Bristol Port Company
Prof Hugh Brady, University of Bristol
Neil Douglas, Viper Innovations
James Durie, Business West

Dick Penny, Watershed
Jon Reynolds, GDS Digital
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council
Cllr Toby Savage, South Gloucestershire
Mayor Tim Bowles, West of England Combined
Authority
Cllr Dine Romero, Bath and North East Somerset

Officers In Attendance:

Patricia Greer, Chief Executive
Helen Edelstyn, Senior Policy Manager, WECA
Tim Milgate, Democratic Services, WECA

Melissa Houston, Sector Engagement Officer
Jess Lee, Head of Strategy and Policy
Stephen Bashford, Head of Business and Skills

Also in Attendance:

Mike Jackson, Bristol City Council
David Perry, South Gloucestershire Council
David Trethewey, B&NES Council
Jo Walker, North Somerset Council

James Cooke, South Gloucestershire Council
Alex Crook, BEIS
Susan Hayter, B&NES
David White, Bristol City Council (for item 6)

Apologies:

Martino Burgess, Gregg Latchams
Christopher Grier, Airbus
David Pester, TLT Solicitors

Mohammed Saddiq, Wessex Water
Cllr Donald Davies, North Somerset Council

Minutes

		Action
1	Welcome and apologies The Chair, Professor Steve West, welcomed those present and apologies, as recorded above, were noted.	
2	Minutes of the meeting of 17 May 2019 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
3	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest declared.	
4	New Business Member The Chair informed the meeting that, following the agreed process, he recommended the appointment of Richard Bonner to the LEP Board and asked the Board to agree to the appointment.	

	<p>The Chair stated that Richard would be the SME representative on the Board, and would draw on his role as President of Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative, part of Business West.</p> <p>The Chair also stated that James Durie was standing down from his role on the Board and wished to place his thanks on record for his contributions during his time as a member of the Board.</p> <p>David Pester was also standing down from the Board and the Chair placed on record his thanks for David's contribution to the work of the Board.</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the appointment of Richard Bonner to the LEP Board be endorsed; (2) That the Board places on record its appreciation and thanks for the contribution made during their tenures by James Durie and David Pester, who were standing down from their roles as Members of the LEP Board. 	
5	<p>Local Industrial Strategy Update</p> <p>Jess Lee explained that officers were working with Government to launch the West of England Local Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>The Local Industrial Strategy would be structured around the regionally identified key themes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering innovation from research through to commercialisation; • Driving inclusive growth; • Improving business competitiveness; • Investing in the right infrastructure and housing for future growth; <p>Jess also explained the intention to ensure actions support clean growth and tackle climate change.</p> <p>The Chief Executive reiterated that the LIS would be published as a government document and act as a powerful agreed agenda.</p> <p>Stephen Bashford, Head of Business and Skills, spoke to the meeting about the delivery of the Employment and Skills Plan which would be considered by the WECA and Joint Committees. The Skills Advisory Panel would oversee the Plan's implementation.</p> <p>The Chair stated that he felt that this was the most important function of the LEP Board and it was important that the Board all took ownership and worked together to drive the delivery of the agenda and .</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That progress towards publishing the Local Industrial Strategy and subsequent implementation planning be welcomed; (2) That the LEP Board takes ownership of the development of the Local Industrial Strategy Implementation plan; 	

	<p>(3) That the LEP Board particularly input into the development of the ideas in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Centre of Innovation Excellence; • Network of Living Lab; • Productivity challenge; <p>(4) That a focussed board meeting be held on each workstream where appropriate;</p> <p>ACTION: That an implementation plan be brought back to the Board in due course</p>	
6	<p>City Leap</p> <p>David White, Head of Energy Services, Bristol City Council presented the City Leap initiative. He explained that the move to a smarter, local, decentralised energy system presented a significant opportunity to decarbonise energy and deliver a wide range of benefits to the region, its businesses and residents. There was a significant opportunity for the business community to play a key role in City Leap, including connecting to heat networks, electrifying vehicle fleets, sharing infrastructure, increasing low carbon generation and reducing costs through greater energy efficiency.</p> <p>The LEP Board was asked to work with the City Leap Energy Partnership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver projects as part of City Leap; • develop shared infrastructure, such as EV charge points, at lower cost than going alone; • ‘bulk buy’, e.g. solar panels, EVs, to drive down costs for all; • open up access to land/assets to enable the installation of renewable technologies; • connect new and existing city centre buildings to the heat network. <p>The following points were raised during the debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was asked how assets were unlocked to provide a return. In reply it was stated that Bristol City Council for instance were landowners of commercial estates so had assets there. An inventory had been drawn up. This gave the opportunity to pool other assets, land, buildings, heat network, etc, which the LEP Board could assist with their networks; • There were 4 main strands for potential investment opportunities in terms of housing: heat networks, smart energy systems, domestic energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Energy Team had been working with social housing colleagues on this issue; • There was a challenge of collaboration of making the best of the available assets across the region; • This had the potential to replace standard thinking around large new communities; • It was requested that LEP Board members contact David White directly with ideas and that further proposals be brought back to the meeting when appropriate. <p>Agreed:</p>	

	<p>(1) That, while the LEP Board were supportive of the idea, it be agreed some preliminary work be carried out to investigate how this could be expanded to benefit the region as a whole;</p> <p>(2) That any further ideas or suggestions be passed to David White directly;</p> <p>(3) That any further proposals be brought back to the LEP Board when appropriate.</p> <p>ACTION: WECA to work with David White to explore how the initiative might be able to support the Energy Strategy Action Plan.</p>	
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The next meeting was arranged for 9:30am on Tuesday 1 October 2019. The Chair offered to host the meeting at UWE and would confirm whether the venue was available.</p> <p>Future meeting dates were therefore agreed as:</p> <p>Friday 29 November 2019 2pm Friday 24 January 2020 Friday 13 March 2020</p> <p>The following additional issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Rees asked that the LEP Board be minded of the imminent change of prime minister and potential opportunities this may bring for the region; • Mayor Rees and Mayor Bowles set out how they were working with the Department for International Trade to maximise the opportunities for the region; • Mayor Rees also confirmed that 11 ZEDpods have been approved in Chalks Road Public Car Park. These innovative modular housing units would enable 11 young people in danger of homelessness to access temporary accommodation; • A query was raised about the role of sector groups. It was agreed that in taking forward the Local Industrial Strategy consideration should be given to representation of groups from the 'super-sectors'. 	
Tuesday, 1 October 2019, 9.30 am, Not Open to the Public		