



## Minutes CWLEP Board Meeting 9 April 2018

### **Attendance:**

Jonathan Browning: Chair	
Nick Abell: Vice-Chair	Wright Hassall
Sean Farnell	C&W Chamber of Commerce/FSB
Clive Winters o.b.o. John Latham	Coventry University
Kate Hughes o.b.o. Stuart Croft	University of Warwick
Cllr Dave Riches	Stratford District Council
Sarah Windrum	Emerald Group
Cllr Peter Butlin	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Mobbs	Warwick District Council
Karl Eddy	Grant Thornton
Zamurad Hussain	HBT Communications
Marion Plant	Nominated representative for the FE Principals
Cllr Mike Hall	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Mike Crone	Jaguar Land Rover
Cllr Chris Cade	Rugby Borough Council
Cllr Jim O'Boyle	Coventry City Council
Paul Kehoe	
Cllr David Humphreys	North Warwickshire Borough Council

### **Executives in Attendance:**

Martin Yardley	CWLEP
Paula Deas	CWLEP
Roger Dowthwaite	CWLEP
Craig Humphrey	CW Growth Hub
Monica Fogarty	Warwickshire County Council
Andy Williams	CWLEP
Nicola Cox	CWLEP

### **Director's Apologies:**

John Latham	Coventry University
Stuart Croft	University of Warwick
Cllr Dennis Harvey	Nuneaton & Bedworth BC

### **In Attendance:**

Adam Dent	Advent Communications
Alicia Law	BEIS and C&LoG Team
Bill Blincoe	Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub
Gereint Stoneman	Warwickshire County Council

### **Apologies:**

Linsey Luke	FSB
Louise Bennett	C&W Chamber of Commerce
Steve Maxey	North Warks Borough Council

<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>	<p>Mike Crone gave a short presentation about the fast-developing facilities of JLR at Gaydon and a welcome to the British Motor Museum to open the meeting</p> <p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Stuart Croft who was represented by Kate Hughes; John Latham, represented by Clive Winters; and Cllr Dennis Harvey. This would have been Dennis Harvey's last board meeting with his impending retirement as Leader of Nuneaton &amp; Bedworth Borough Council but unfortunately, he was unable to attend. The Chair will write to him on behalf of the Board thanking him for his contribution to CWLEP and wishing him well in his retirement.</p> <p>Cllr Dave Riches, who has succeeded Cllr Chris Saint as the nominated director from SDC, was also welcomed.</p> <p><b><u>Call for Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>No declarations of interest were made. There were two items of 'Any Other Business' raised.</p> <p><b><u>Approval of Minutes and actions from previous meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 29 January 2018 were approved as a true record of that meeting. There were a series of actions arising from that meeting and all have been completed or are underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirements of the new assurance framework on the adoption of openness and transparency measures were complied with and the deadline of 28 February 2018 to amend our website was met. Both the agenda and now papers are published on the website.</li> <li>• Future Growth Hub funding will be a board agenda item in May.</li> <li>• The Business Festival timeline for 2018 was on the agenda.</li> <li>• The agility/capacity challenge for the FE Sector will be a board agenda item in May</li> <li>• The appointment of a Board Champion for Culture &amp; Tourism is awaiting the outcome of the new private sector board appointment.</li> <li>• We have had reassurance that the A5 scheme has been rescheduled.</li> <li>• A paper to allow debate on prioritisation was on the agenda.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Board Matters &amp; Chairman's Briefing</u></b></p> <p>Marion Plant was congratulated for being named 'Business Woman of the Year' by East Midlands Chamber of Commerce for her commitment to skills and further education. CWLEP participated at MIPIM during March as part of the Coventry &amp; Warwickshire team and 'Invest in Midlands UK'. The Vice-Chair, despite some adverse publicity ahead of the event, gave a summary of its effectiveness. CWLEP received European-wide awards from FDI Magazine for being in the TOP 10 LEP's for Economic Potential and Business Friendliness. Coventry itself was in the TOP 10 Mid-Sized Cities for Economic Potential and Business Friendliness.</p> <p>The CWLEP team have been shortlisted for the C&amp;W First Pro, Team of the Year category which will be decided at an awards function on 19 April 2018.</p> <p>The recent Champions meeting at Old Shire Hall had been a great success with over 150 people attending and the business community heard from some exceptional speakers, including the success of the CWLEP area's success improving productivity and news of an award to Drapers Hall in Coventry of £4m from the Princes` Foundation for building communities.</p> <p>The new private sector Board Director appointment is still to be finally determined but it will be one of the three very strong candidates that were interviewed and clearly CWLEP remains of interest to companies which is reflected in the calibre of applicants and the interviews. CWLEP have received excellent grades from the BEIS Annual Conversation Performance Review, with good across governance and delivery and exceptional for our strategy work. Going forward, government continue to undertake further review work of LEP's led by Jake Berry, Minister for Local Government, attending several of the national sessions with officials and making representations in writing with the other WMLEP chairs.</p> <p>CWLEP and several partners are involved in the preparation of the WM submission for the Chanel 4 relocation and finally the Chair presented the work of CWLEP at a national County Sports Partnership conference showing linkages between sport, wellbeing and business. The Chancellors Spring Statement announced that a combined bid between Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and CSW Broadband had secured £5.5 million of funding through the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund.</p> <p>And also announced a <a href="#">£350 million deal</a> through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) with</p>	<p>Chair</p>
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	<p>the West Midlands to deliver 215,000 homes by 2030/1, including, for our region funding for developments on the A46 to unlock housing at Kings Hill and Westwood Heath and for improvements around Junction 7 on Coventry's Ring Road to create better access to the city centre. Work will now take place with Homes England and the WMCA to develop the projects and the business case over the next 6 months. It is worth noting that Coventry and Warwickshire has already been awarded £35 million through HIF to deliver improvements in Eastern Green, Long Marston and Kenilworth.</p> <p>5. <b><u>Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Business Festival</u></b> The Board received a follow-up report of the Festival following the agenda item at its last meeting. A time-line had been produced, as requested, leading up to this year's Festival. Four lessons/requests were made; more quality events rather than quantity, more attendees (by for example, overbooking events), more promotion and more quality venues, particularly from the northern parts of Warwickshire. It was felt that good communications generally were more important than another formal launch event for the 2018 festival.</p> <p>6. <b><u>Annual Conversation - Final Outcome</u></b> It was noted that the grading scheme was introduced and imposed after the Annual Conversation had taken place in December 2017, without any explanation about the basis on which grades were awarded. The board felt that performance management systems are important to reputation and result in consequences but that the lack of transparency around the process was unfortunate given the furor about the lack of openness and transparency levelled against the LEP Network. CWLEP has very strong performance in delivering Growth Deal and other initiatives but the integrity of the grading process that had been bolted on to the Annual Conversations was poorly executed. The overall performance of CWLEP was rated good with exceptional for strategy development and puts CWLEP in the top 16 of LEP's (18 were 'satisfactory' and 2 'require improvement' – Birmingham &amp; Solihull 'require improvement', the Black Country were rated as 'good'). The letter from Stephen Jones, Director Cities &amp; Local Growth Unit, had been very positive.</p> <p>7. <b><u>Industrial Strategy and CWLEP Priorities</u></b> At the last board meeting it was agreed that a first draft of a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) would be produced by Autumn 2018. Following that meeting, a review of economic data was undertaken that will underpin the LIS and a presentation delivered to the board (available on the website) that covered the economic performance of C&amp;W and the strategy options that are available. Overall, C&amp;W has achieved 28% growth in GVA since 2009, exceptionally outperforming the UK average. Against the WMCA priority sectors, C&amp;W outperforms in AME, Digital/Creative, Logistics and the Cultural Economy. Within the WMCA, C&amp;W overall has more rising prosperity, a greater employment rate and a stronger skill base. However, there are variations across the CWLEP area with Nuneaton &amp; Bedworth and parts of Coventry faring comparatively poorly in GVA per head, unemployment, skill levels and job density (near neighbour North Warks has the highest job density) even though there are recent signs that performance is improving. <b>The board endorsed the:-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic context and analysis on which to develop the strategy</li> <li>• Work to date on evidence gathering at WMCA and CWLEP level</li> <li>• CWLEP approach to working with the WMCA</li> <li>• CWLEP sectoral focus for the LIS – based on Option B with thought given to enabling sectors and grand challenges</li> <li>• CWLEP Industrial Strategy workshop</li> </ul> </p> <p>8 <b><u>Prioritisation of Unallocated CWLEP Funding</u></b> The board considered a paper on the potential prioritisation of allocated funding coming back to CWLEP. It was noted that expectations on the amount of money that could be released to an open-call should be limited. <b>The CWLEP Board unanimously agreed: -</b> <b>8.1 to take the opportunity to target an open call in spring/summer 2018 for projects and programmes that:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Will deliver the aspirations of the CWLEP SEP, with priority given to those that directly deliver the aspirations of the Culture &amp; Tourism Strategic Pillar of the CWLEP SEP</li> </ol> </p>	<p>Districts/Boroughs to join working group - EXEC</p> <p>Review of 4 or 5 comparable 'producing places' LEP's to be undertaken</p>
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	<p>ii. And/or can demonstrate significant impact for the Coventry &amp; Warwickshire local economy in supporting the Coventry City of Culture 2021 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>iii. Or can demonstrate an understanding of the wider economic landscape changes and our proposed transition from a Strategic Economic Plan to an Industrial Strategy approach</p> <p><b>8.2 The proposed eligibility criteria for the call:</b></p> <p>i. Projects must be clearly linked to the established priorities outlined in the existing CWLEP strategies, particularly the Strategic Economic Plan with a view to the Industrial Strategy context.</p> <p>ii. Those projects which can clearly demonstrate alignment to the culture and tourism strategic pillar of the SEP will be prioritised within the call, including but not limited to, projects that deliver significant positive economic impact to the wider Coventry &amp; Warwickshire economy with alignment to Coventry City of Culture 2021 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>iii. The call will prioritise those projects which can begin spending and delivering by 1st April 2019.</p> <p>iv. Projects need to clearly demonstrate their ability to complete and deliver new development / economic activity for the CWLEP in line with the Growth Deal Programme's end date of 31st March 2021.</p> <p>v. Projects must be able to demonstrate that planning permission has been granted, or will be obtained within 6 months following any grant award.</p> <p>vi. Projects which can demonstrate significant additional financial investment into the project beyond the requested Growth Deal funding.</p> <p><b>9. 8.3 To endorse the timetable and process as outlined in the report</b></p> <p><b><u>Programme Delivery Board Report</u></b></p> <p>Comment was made about the A5 corridor and the jobs and housing associated with it. However, it is unlikely that Growth Deal money could be spent there before the expiry of the GD Programme but it was agreed that it should be maintained as a visible priority on the horizon with Government and stakeholders.</p> <p>It was noted that Rugby Parkway in particular had very tight deadlines in order to meet the spending profile of Growth Deal funding availability.</p> <p><b>10. The CWLEP Board noted the Programme Delivery Board Report</b></p> <p><b><u>Finance &amp; Governance Report</u></b></p> <p>A verbal report of the F&amp;G Board was provided: -</p> <p>a. <b>Funding requests</b></p> <p>Requests had been made by the WMCA and ME for contributions to their annual budget, and WM Growth Company for C4. It is intended to go back and ask for confirmation of how our money is being spent by these organisations. Money was also agreed for replacement Growth Deal branding</p> <p>b. <b>GDPR</b></p> <p>Implementation of measures to meet to 25 May deadline for complying with GDPR are in progress although there remains some nervousness.</p> <p>c. <b>F&amp;G Board additional member</b></p> <p>It was recommended that a second LA director be appointed, by rotation, to the F&amp;G Board to ensure quoracy of meetings and that the first to be appointed should be Cllr Dave Riches. <b>The CWLEP Board unanimously agreed to this proposition</b></p> <p><b>11. <u>AoB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University of Warwick has agreed academic collaboration with University of Paris-Seine and the Université libre de Bruxelles. This collaboration will also cover culture and heritage, exchange programmes and economic development across the partnership.</li> <li>• The date of the October board meeting has been requested to be moved to 15 October from 8 October 2018.</li> <li>• DB Symmetry are planning a rail freight terminal at Hinckley which the board should be aware of.</li> </ul> <p><b>Date of next meeting; 21 May 2018</b></p>	<p>Rugby Parkway funding to be sorted MY/MF</p>
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