



Minutes CWLEP Board Meeting 20 May 2019 - Warwick Trident College, Warwick

Attendance:

Jonathan Browning (Chair)	CWLEP
Nick Abell (Vice Chair)	Wright Hassall
Sean Farnell	C&W Chamber/FSB, Burgis & Bullock
John Latham	Coventry University
Richard Hutchins <i>obo Stuart Croft</i>	University of Warwick
Sarah Windrum	Emerald Group
Cllr Peter Butlin	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Tony Jefferson	Stratford District Council
Cllr David Humphreys	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Cllr Andrew Day	Warwick District Council
Cllr Jill Simpson-Vince	Rugby Borough Council
Cllr Neil Phillips	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Helen Peters	Shakespeare's England
Parveen Rai	Rai Properties Ltd
Nick Spencer	Jaguar Land Rover
Tony Minhas	Foleshill Metal Finishing Ltd

Executives in Attendance:

Martin Yardley	CWLEP
Paula Deas	CWLEP
Nicola Cox	CWLEP
Iain Patrick	CWLEP
Monica Fogarty	Warwickshire County Council
Clive Winters	Coventry University
Craig Humphrey	CWLEP Growth Hub
Bill Blincoe	CWLEP Growth Hub
Steve Maxey	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Bill Cullen	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Director's Apologies:

Karl Eddy	Grant Thornton
Marion Plant	North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College
Zamurad Hussain	HBT Communications
Cllr Jim O'Boyle	Coventry City Council

Executive Apologies:

Kate Hughes	Warwick University
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In Attendance

Matt Vins	BEIS and C&LoG Team
Adam Dent	Advent Communications
Lee Osbourne	FSB
Gereint Stoneman	Warwickshire County Council
Jeremy Moore	Growth Hub Business Solutions
Dave Barber	Warwick District Council
Lucy McGovern	Coventry City Council

<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p>	<p><u>Welcome & Apologies</u> The meeting was chaired by Jonathan Browning (CWLEP Chair) who welcomed everyone. Apologies have been received from Karl Eddy, Zamurad Hussain, Marion Plant, Cllr Jim O’Boyle and Kate Hughes. The Chair extended a welcome to Richard Hutchins, representing Stuart Croft, Cllr Andrew Day for Warwick District Council, and noted there would be a couple of late arrivals. Helen Peters (Shakespeare’s England) who was attending her first board was asked to give a brief outline of her business background.</p> <p><u>Call for Declarations of Interest and AoB</u> The Board were asked to declare any known interests within the agenda items and to identify any declaration of interest throughout the meeting.</p> <p><u>Approval of Minutes and actions from previous meeting</u> The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 March 2019 were accepted as a true record. All actions have been completed.</p> <p><u>Board Matters & Chair’s Briefing</u> The Annual Performance Review (APR) process has been drawn to a conclusion with Government, which resulted in ratings of ‘Exceptional’ for both Governance and Strategy, and ‘Good’ for Delivery. These ratings put CWLEP in the top three of all LEP’s. Our ambition is to have all three measures as exceptional. It was noted that the Public Accounts Committee will emphasise further measurement of LEP’s particularly the impact of the Local Growth Fund expenditure. Local election results had instigated a change in our board membership and the board looks forward to the contributions from the new members. WMLIS had been launched here in C&W formally marking the publication of the document and announcing UKBIC are to receive an additional £28m funding bringing the current total up to £108m The OECD report was published which recognises CWLEP as an exemplar partnership.</p> <p><u>Articles of Association</u> NA outlined the reasons why the changes to our Articles of Association were necessary. In line with National Local Growth Assurance Framework changes which were reviewed and accepted at the last board, subsequent changes had been expected to the Articles. This included moving the total number of board members to 20 and re-categorisation of the director grouped to include ‘C’ Directors aligned to the Universities and FE. In addition, emphasis on the board’s commitment to Equality and Diversity within its membership had been included. The Special Resolution changing the Articles of Association was agreed by the Board. Signatures will be collected during the meeting. Changes to the Articles will be formally recorded at Companies House.</p> <p><u>Annual Delivery Plan</u> PD gave an update on the draft Annual Delivery Plan and how it had been created, with thanks to those who had made an input. The plan reflects on the current funding position and ongoing projects, the opportunities and possibilities that the Growth Hub may address, and the level of stakeholder engagement. It was noted that this was a good and important document and the Chair noted it contained key elements that the Board needed to focus on. PD advised that the completed document must be published by the end of May 2019 as part of the LEP Review requirements and asked the Board for the delegation of authority to take this forward. The Board agreed.</p> <p><u>Vehicle Electrification and Battery Technology</u> NS emphasised the importance of battery technology to the C&W region including JLR. This presentation was to impart knowledge and share key issues. A major challenge would also be the recycling of batteries and cells and the timescales of this has no degree of certainty. Other considerations such as transport and the environmental effects to meet the expected demand are also a challenge.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>IP</p> <p></p> <p>PD</p> <p></p>
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Main issues to be addressed are: -

- Inbound logistics; raw materials
- Outbound logistics; high volume transport, high costs
- Energy; a significant problem within the region
- Available Skills; seen as a potential strength
- Land availability; with permission for this type of development
- Industry; this is an innovative industry, finding the right economies of scale

The Chair questioned what possibility was there to adjust the cells and modules
 NS noted that most car companies took a flexible outlook to mitigate cost risk
 Additionally, pointing out that in the longer-term strategy locating a cell production plant ideally next to a car manufacturer would minimise transport cost.

NA questioned how many jobs a cell manufacturing plant may generate. NS this would relate to the level of GW output which was estimated at 500 per 10GW.

JL advised that there are other opportunities depending on how the cell technology was created. Where was the scientific capability and capacity to address cell generation?

The Chair stated that we needed to ensure we anchored any potential opportunity within the CW region.

TJ noted that this is a huge catalyst of change for the region and the challenge is enormous.

PB pointed out to the group that the Chinese has a major domination in the industry and ties to large amounts of mineral supplies.

SW questioned the level of alternative technology such as hydrogen fuel cells.

CH noted that the end of life cycle disposal and recycling played a major part and would need to be addressed.

The Chair asked if we should compete to bring this technology to the area and asked MY/PD/NS to review what are the next steps for consideration.

MY pointed out that we are very much involved in the current discussions that are ongoing.

MY/PD/NS

8. Growth Hub Update

SF gave an overview of why the Growth Hub was in operation and this came about. The philosophy is to help local businesses particularly SME's to grow and prosper. The offering was account management based focused on the outcome for the business being supported. In addition, it gave creation to GH Business Solutions which again supports the local area but on a commercial basis to support the longer-term viability of the Growth Hub.

JM presented one of GH Business Solutions offerings to the region; 'CW Connect', the aim of which is to advertise local opportunities within the region for supply by the region.

This is in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and will be promoted at the next C&W Business Festival.

9. Planning and Housing Update

PB introduced the requirement to bring this study together and the needs it will address within the area including reviewing the main pressure to meet local SME requirements from existing and new entrants.

BB outlined the general findings within the report. It's key findings for C&W:

- Success and Growth in region reflected in continued demand for property and employment space
- Key growth sectors, AME Automotive etc. major consumers of space
- Good evidence of specialist sectoral growth
- Dominated by demand for 'Big Boxes'

Available land is being taken up much faster than anticipated pushing up prices.

Part of problem is brownfield sites are being used for housing rather than small businesses. Planning need to include future employment provision which is a challenge for the public sector to have greater intervention.

NA noted that this was a primary requirement of why CWLEP exists.

<p>10.</p> <p>11.</p>	<p>There needs to be a closer partnership with LA's to ensure they work together to address business needs and enhance employment opportunities.</p> <p><u>WM Local Industrial Strategy</u></p> <p>PD updated the board on the latest position regarding the WMLIS and was pleased to announce that the official launch had taken place on Thursday 16 May 2019. There is a great deal of influence within the published document brought about by the CWLEP 'private' sector voice and all the other stakeholders within the CWLEP as a locality and region.</p> <p>The Chair reflected on the collective efforts of all stakeholders and thanked them for their contributions.</p> <p><u>Programme Delivery Board Report</u></p> <p>LM was invited to update the board on the current Programme Delivery projects and their current financial position and any associated corrective actions being put in place. The report reflects the position up to the end Q4 2018/19. It was noted: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project spend was up against forecast, £21.772m against £21.227m > 103%• Forecast spend for 2019/20 is £36.542m using £28.328m resource switch to do so. <p>The Board are asked to support the following recommendation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Endorse the project ratings as provided➤ Note the programme and project progress as per the PDB report➤ Note the LGF return for Q4 2018/29, and finally➤ Note the changes proposed for the GDPT resources <p>The Chair noted this was the usual high standard comprehensive report.</p> <p>The Board agreed with the recommendations.</p> <p>PD outlined the funding strategy and the opportunity for securing other future sources of CWLEP funding. Further noting the principles by which the Board reallocated underspends. These include in part supporting skills projects to mitigate against the loss of skills output. Alongside the Shared Prosperity Fund, CWLEP will continue to work with Government and stakeholders to secure and shape national investment.</p> <p>A Stronger Towns Fund of £1.6 billion was announced of which a notional allocation of £212m has been identified for distribution within the West Midlands. CWLEP will continue to work closely with WMCA on over £400m of existing co-funded programmes. With CWLEP focusing on influential regional developments such as 5G and Energy.</p> <p><u>Finance and Governance Board Report</u></p> <p>NA advised the Board that F&G Board was now one short on membership and he would be looking for an appropriate main board member to fill the vacancy.</p> <p>NA noted that the changes to Articles had already been discussed and agreed.</p> <p>NA advised the Board that F&G had agreed to support funding (£5k) for Venturefest 2019 alongside our LEP neighbours and the Universities.</p> <p>The details of the CWLEP budget had been circulated and was agreed by the Board.</p> <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>TJ updated on collaborations with Chinese investors within Stratford and an invitation to attend an investor conference in Beijing. Further opportunity to build on existing relationships and was also supported through the Growth Hub.</p> <p>No confidential items were discussed.</p> <p>Meeting Closed: 11:40 am Date of next Meeting: 22nd July 2019 Venue: tbc</p>	
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