

NORTH WEST REGIONAL LEADERS BOARD

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Friday 6 October 2017**

Persons present (Voting Members)

Cheshire and Warrington

Councillor Terry O'Neill (Chairman) (Warrington)
Councillor Paul Findlow (Cheshire East)
Councillor Louise Gittins (Cheshire West and Chester)

Cumbria

Councillor Alan Smith (Allerdale)

Lancashire

Councillor Alyson Barnes (Rossendale BC),
Councillor Mohammed Khan (Blackburn),

Liverpool City Region

Councillor Barrie Grunewald (St Helens)
Councillor Andy Moorhead (Knowsley)

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Miranda Barker (East Lancashire Chamber / Regional Manufacturing Forum),
Richard Caulfield (NWAC), Lynn Collins (TUC), Warren Escadale (VSNW),
Christine Gaskell (NW LEPs)

Also in attendance (non-voting), Kate Bell (TUC), Katrina Hann (GMCA / New Economy), Alan Southern (University of Liverpool), Jonathan Spruce (Transport for the North), Peter Hughes (St Helens MBC), Andy Roscoe (St Helens MBC).

1 APOLOGIES

The Board were informed of apologies received from Mike Palin (St Helens MBC), Professor Smith (Lancaster University), Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram (Liverpool City Region), Emma Degg (NWBLT), Cllr Rachel Bailey (Cheshire East), Mayor Mike Starkie (Copeland).

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the North West Regional Leaders Board held on 13 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There was no matters arising.

4 CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP

An updated Constitution and Membership of the Board was presented.

The Constitution and Membership of the Board were presented for approval. A number of minor amendments had been made to the constitution. These included changes to the Aims and Objectives to include a greater emphasis upon sub-regional collaboration, revised membership of the Board to reflect evolving Combined Authority arrangements across the region, and updated functions and

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responsibilities of the Board in terms of maximising opportunities and investment post-Brexit.

It was also proposed to establish a Senior Officer Group comprising of two Senior Officers nominated from each sub region. The group would meet on a quarterly basis to help determine the agenda for the Board. This would support the Board to develop strong linkages across sub-regions and Combined Authorities where these were in place, to ensure the diverse priorities of the whole region were appropriately represented and maximised the impact and effectiveness of the Board.

Discussion took place in regards to the attendance at meetings of this Board of representatives/observers from Health organisations, and the Health organisations that received standing invitations were confirmed. It was agreed to write to all observers to request that they reconsider their nominees to attend meetings of the Board.

An updated copy of the membership list was tabled at the meeting, and clarification was given that the documentation indicated the minor amendments that had been explained.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) The changes to the Constitution be approved in principle and formally adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be called prior to the February 2018 meeting of the Board;**
- (2) Mike Palin (Chief Executive, St.Helens MBC) be requested to coordinate the establishment a Senior Officer Group;**
- (3) The membership of the Board for 2017/18 be approved; and**
- (4) Each organisation with 'participating observer' status on the Board be contacted by St.Helens Council to ensure that the correct nominations are provided for future meetings.**

5 TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH (TfN) UPDATE

Jonathan Spruce from Transport for the North provided an update on the work of TfN and a presentation was delivered on TfN's Strategic Transport Plan (STP).

The presentation covered the following:

- Key functions of a Sub-National Transport Body;
- Developing the STP and Investment Programme
- Pan-Northern Transport Objectives
- Locations of the Prime Capabilities
- Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) provision
- NPR Connecting People and Businesses
- NPR – Network Development
- Major Road Network for the North
- Integrated and Smart Travel
- Strategic Transport Plan and Investment Programme Components
- Delivering the STP AND Investment Programme
- Next Steps

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Following a discussion, Members were invited to contact Jonathan Spruce if they wished for TfN to present to their sub-region.

* **Resolved that the presentation be noted.**

6 TRADE UNION CONGRESS (TUC) – THE GREAT JOBS AGENDA

Lynn Collins and Kate Bell from the TUC presented an item on The Great Jobs Agenda.

The 'Great Jobs Agenda' report and presentation covered six key areas that they believed would give every worker the opportunity to progress.

These areas were:

- a voice at work;
- fair and decent pay;
- regular hours;
- fair treatment and respect;
- a healthy workplace; and
- learning and progression.

The TUC were asking people to rate their own jobs, briefing union reps on how to negotiate great jobs in their workplace, and looking to build political pressure following the Taylor Review. Regional events to encourage employers to sign up would also be held, with efforts made with local and regional government to promote the agenda.

A report was also tabled from the University of Liverpool (Heseltine Institute for Public Policy and Practice) which detailed how it was anticipated that opportunities could be realised in relation to the Liverpool City Region Growth Strategy.

Examples were provided of working models that had been developed and were being implemented by some Local Authorities, and Members requested whether the Greater Manchester model of good practice be shared amongst the Board.

* **Resolved that:**

(1) **the contents of the TUC report and presentations be noted; and**

(2) **the Greater Manchester Combined Authority working model be shared amongst the Members of the Board once it has been approved.**

7 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CHILD POVERTY AND LIFE CHANCES COMMISSION

Cllr Andy Moorhead (Leader of Knowsley Council & Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Lead member for Children's Services) presented an introduction to the work being undertaken by the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission.

The LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission was established in 2010 to act as a focus for child poverty work across the Liverpool City Region. The

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Commission reported directly to the City Region Metro Mayor, Leaders and Mayor and was intended to help formalise the high level commitment to child poverty, and continued to champion the cause amongst delivery organisations, communities and policy makers. The Rt. Hon Frank Field MP had been the Chair of the Commission since it was established, with membership comprising the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People from each local authority, the Chair of Merseytravel, a nominated lead from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and nominated leads from the housing, faith, academic, and health sectors.

The Commission had recently undertaken work on the areas of under occupation deduction research, City Region smoke free pregnancy pilot, early years pupil premium survey, automatic registration for free school meals, provision of free meals and fun during the school holidays, welfare reform cumulative impact assessment, fair employment and the living wage and child poverty research.

Examples were provided of working models of good practice that had been developed and were being implemented by some Local Authorities relating to child poverty and health initiatives relating to reduction in levels sugar consumption and smoking cessation.

Concerns were expressed over the effect of welfare changes associated with Government policy implementation. It was agreed that a further piece of work was required in respect of the effect and impact of welfare changes.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **The work being undertaken in the Liverpool City Region to tackle child poverty and improve life chances be noted;**
- (2) **The working model developed and implemented by Allerdale Council in respect of Child Poverty be shared amongst the Members of the Board; and**
- (3) **a piece of work would be undertaken to investigate and determine the effect and impact of Universal Credit.**

8 REGIONAL MANUFACTURING FORUM (RMF) – NORTHERN POWERHOUSE PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

A report on a Northern Powerhouse Partnership proposal was presented.

The RMF were campaigning to be an integral part of the Northern Powerhouse and the bedrock of the supply chain effort. The request was in the Northern Powerhouse Partnership's 2nd report to Government launched at the end of September.

The RMF were asking for overt support from the Board and other players in the North West to support the building of the initiative based around the RMF and the model proposed.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **The contents of the report be noted;**

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- (2) **Overt support for the building of the initiative based around the Regional Manufacturing Forum (RMF) and the proposed model be approved.**

9 NORTH WEST BREXIT MONITOR UPDATE

The September edition of the North West Brexit Monitor was presented to the Board, which was attached at Appendix A to the report

The key messages from the September Brexit Monitor showed that the economy had continued to grow up to quarter 3 of 2017, with manufacturers reporting stronger output despite the pressure of rising import prices. The second estimate of UK GDP growth for Q2 from ONS of 0.3% remained unchanged and marked a slight uplift from the 0.2% growth recorded in Q1.

Since the last meeting of the Board, the Brexit negotiations had started with the EU, with the Prime Minister also giving speeches in Canada which referred to future transitioning of EU trade agreements in bilateral arrangements, and in Florence in which the Prime Minister set out the UK's position on how to move Brexit forward, including a reference to a suggested two-year transition period, where all the 'rules' remain the same, including payments into the EU budget, free movement of people and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice would stay in place. The Prime Minister also highlighted that future trade deal would not be a 'Stark choice of two models', i.e. something based on European Economic Area membership, or a traditional Free Trade Agreement.

An update was also provided, following a previous request made by the Board, upon migration and the effect on the labour market. The initial findings of this piece of work were outlined detailing the differentials and impact of EU migration and workforce.

The importance of the Board's role to influence of accessing and the efficient, and effective spending European Structural Funds (ESF) was also stressed.

- * **Resolved that the contents of the September Brexit Monitor be noted.**

10 NORTH WEST REGIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION UPDATE

The latest North West Regional Research Collaboration update was presented to the Board.

The report summarised the progress made over the last quarter of the 2017/18 research programme.

- taking forward the recommendations made in the NW evidence base of 50+ skills issues, including completion of calls with all sub regional skills leads to determine activity underway in each area and a meeting with the NW Skills Leads group and CFAB to agree how we would work collectively on NW issues relating to this agenda;
- completion of initial scoping work on a project which linked into the findings of wider work undertaken by the NPP around international competitiveness;

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- production of the monthly North West Brexit Monitor. Alongside this a scoping document was being finalised which looked at the potential implications of Brexit on the NW labour market;
- completion of a report looking at the North West's exports, providing valuable insight for LEPs, particularly in the context of discussions around Brexit, attached at Appendix A to the report; and
- providing ad-hoc support and guidance to NWBLT – with a focus on productivity, building on work undertaken for the 2016/17 NW RRC Research Programme.

Katrina Hann informed the Board that an updated report was available for this item, and would be circulated with the minutes.

- * **Resolved that the work being undertaken as part of the 2017/18 research programme be noted, and an updated report be sent to Members.**

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

The next meeting will be held on:

Friday 9 February 2018 at 10.30am, St Helens Town Hall

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