

## **NORTH WEST REGIONAL LEADERS BOARD**

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
Thursday 13 April 2017**

### **Persons present (Voting Members)**

#### **Cheshire**

Councillor Terry O'Neill (Chairman) (Warrington)  
Councillor Paul Findlow (Cheshire East)

#### **Cumbria**

Councillor Alan Smith (Allerdale)

#### **Lancashire**

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

#### **Liverpool City Region**

Councillor Andy Moorhead (Knowsley)

#### **ESE's**

Michael Damms (NW Chambers of Commerce)

#### **Also in attendance (non-voting)**

Steve Broomhead (Warrington BC), Richard Caulfield (NWAC), Lynn Collins (TUC), Danielle Gillespie (HCA), Joanne Griffiths MBE (St Helens MBC), Katrina Hann (GMCA / New Economy), Peter Hughes (St Helens MBC), Simon Nokes (GMCA), Mike Palin (St Helens MBC).

Prior to the meeting the Chairman informed the Board that Geoffrey Piper from NW Business Leadership Team had retired and would be replaced by Emma Degg.

The Board were also informed that this was the last meeting for Mike Damms from the Regional Manufacturing Forum before his retirement and he would be replaced by Miranda Barker.

The Chair thanked both Mike and Geoffrey for their contributions to the NWRLB and wished them both a happy retirement. The Chair asked for letters to be sent to both Mike and Geoffrey formally thanking them for their valued contribution over many years.

The Chairman also welcomed Danielle Gillespie from the HCA to her first meeting of the Board.

### **32 APOLOGIES**

The Board were informed of apologies received from Councillor Sean Anstee (Trafford MBC), Giles Archibald (South Lakeland DC), Councillor Kevin Beaty (Eden District Council), Emma Degg (NWBLT), Warren Escadale (VSNW), Christine Gaskell (LEP NW), Councillor Louise Gittins (Cheshire West and Chester), Councillor Barrie Grunewald (St Helens MBC), Councillor Sir Richard Leese (Manchester CC), Tony Lloyd (Interim GM Mayor and GM Police and Crime Commissioner), Councillor Jennifer Mein (Lancashire) and Professor Smith (Lancaster University).

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### 33 MINUTES

The Minutes of the North West Regional Leaders Board held on 10 February 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

### 34 MATTERS ARISING

There were Matters Arising from the above minutes.

### 35 INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY AND CONSULTATION

Mike Palin gave a presentation on the Industrial Strategy and consultation which covered the following:

- Overall
- Rationale and Purpose
- The Ten Pillars
- Structure
- Developing a NW Position
- Strategic Approach

The presentation asked four key questions of the Board:

Q1 Does this document identify the right areas of focus: extending our strengths; closing the gaps; and making the UK one of the most competitive places to start or grow a business?

Q2 Are the 10 pillars suggested the right ones to tackle low productivity and unbalanced growth? If not, which areas are missing?

Q3 Are the right central government and local institutions in place to deliver an effective industrial strategy? If not, how should they be reformed? Are the types of measures to strengthen local institutions set out here and below the right ones?

Q4 Are there important lessons we can learn from the industrial policies of other countries which are not reflected in these ten pillars?

The Board recognised that Government structures were changing and in order for the North West to speak with one voice, it would be an appropriate time to look at the structure and membership of the NWRLB, with any restructuring proposals to be brought to the next AGM in July 2017.

\* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **The Chief Executive of St Helens to produce a co-ordinated approach and response from the Board to the Government Consultation on the Industrial Strategy; and**
- (2) **a report on the structure, remit and terms of reference of the NWRLB be submitted to the AGM on 14 July 2017.**

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### 36 HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY (HCA) UPDATE

Danielle Gillespie gave a presentation on the HCA which covered the following:

- Overview of the HCA
- Role of the HCA
- HCA Priorities and Approach.

The next steps for the HCA covered:

- Increasing housing supply
- Are local plans fit for purpose?
- How bold or ambitious are your plans for growth?
- The right homes in the right location
- Coherent, functional market overview
- Infrastructure to support place-making
- Multi-tenure opportunities
- Partnerships
- Starter Homes Partnerships
- Accelerated delivery & supporting SMEs
- Urban Development Corporations
- HCA here to help
- Refocused, expert and energetic team
- Working with the willing

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

### 37 NORTH WEST BREXIT MONITOR UPDATE

A report was submitted which provided the Board with the latest edition of the monthly North West Brexit Monitor which gave a real-time snap shot of the economic and policy impact of Brexit. The report attached at Appendix 1 had particular focus on the Spring Budget and a separate briefing was attached at Appendix 2.

The Prime Minister had triggered Article 50 on 29 March 2017 and the UK economy had remained in good shape since the EU Referendum vote in 2016 but there remained risks on the short and medium term.

\* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the report and the fact that Article 50 had now been triggered be noted; and**
- (2) **the Spring Budget briefing and its implications for the North West be Noted.**

### 38 NORTH WEST REGIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION UPDATE

Katrina Hann, New Economy presented a report which updated the Board on the NW Regional Research Collaboration (RRC).

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The update for the 2016/17 research programme summarised the key pieces of work undertaken by the RRC over the last 12 months and progress made over the last quarter successfully as follows:

- Capacity to enable the NW local authorities, LEPs and partners to play a leading role in the Northern Powerhouse following the conclusion of the IER, with a focus on skills particularly for the 50+ age group;
- Providing research to support LEPs in better understanding the Advanced Manufacturing sector in the NW, and working with the Regional Manufacturing Forum; and
- Supporting LEPs to apply the findings from the Tax and Spend analysis providing the evidence base for further devolution conversations.

In addition to the priority research areas, capacity was also used to monitor performances of key social, economic and environmental indicators in the NW, brief sub-regions on the implications for the NW of major policy announcements, undertake relevant pieces of ad-hoc work and develop the 2017/18 research programme.

- \* **Resolved that the work undertaken as part of the 2016/17 research programme be noted.**

### **39 PROPOSED REGIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION FOR 2017/18**

Katrina Hann presented a report which informed the Board that the North West Research Collaboration had been running for six years, providing dedicated capacity to analyse critical shared issues for the NW, its sub-regions and the Isle of Man. New Economy had managed the research programme on behalf of the partner organisations.

At the start of 2016/17, the NWRLB agreed a new three-year business plan for the regional collaboration, funded through contributions from local authorities from the NW sub-regions. As in the previous agreement, it was agreed that funding for the next three years would be split between sub-regions based 50% on equal share and 50% on population.

Building on the success of this year's research programme, a number of areas of research had been proposed for 2017/18. They were as follows:

- Research to position the North West at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, building the NW's evidence base where appropriate across the NPH four key areas of Education and Skills, Infrastructure and Assets, International Competitiveness and Leadership and Learning;
- Delivery of timely evidence on key social, economic and environmental indicators in the North West to support sub-regions and LEPs in developing place based strategies and to respond to the opportunities and challenges which the decision to leave the EU represents; and
- Building on the work undertaken to develop the NW Evidence Base of 50+ skills issues, develop an action plan setting out how the report's actions will be taken forward in each sub-region.

The Board also asked for work to be included on Careers Advice and Guidance and also on International Trades Contracts.

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\* Resolved that:

- (1) the work undertaken for the North West as part of the 2016/17 Business Plan be noted; and
- (2) the broad themes proposed within the Business Plan for 2017/18 and indicative funding split, acknowledging that the research programme, as defined, is reliant on the outlined contributions from all sub-regions being agreed.

### 40 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None reported.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 14 July 2017 (AGM) at 10.30am, St Helens Town Hall

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