

## **NORTH WEST REGIONAL LEADERS BOARD**

At a meeting of the North West Regional Leaders Board held on  
Friday, 20 July 2018

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

#### **Cheshire and Warrington**

Councillor Terry O'Neill (Chairman) (Warrington Council)  
Councillor Samantha Dixon (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

#### **Cumbria**

Councillor Alan Smith (Allerdale Council)

#### **Lancashire**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson (Lancashire County Council)  
Councillor Mohammed Khan (Blackburn Council)

#### **Liverpool City Region**

Councillor Derek Long (St Helens Council)  
Councillor Graham Morgan (Knowsley Council)  
Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram (LCR Combined Authority)

#### **Greater Manchester**

Mayor Andy Burnham (GM Combined Authority)

#### **ESE's**

Miranda Barker (East Lancs Chamber / RMF), Richard Caulfield (Association of Colleges), Lynn Collins (TUC), Emma Degg (NWBLT)

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

Gillian Bishop (NW Employers), Jan Bakewell (St.Helens Council), Katrina Hann (GMCA), Emma Prideaux (Lancashire CC), Andy Roscoe (St.Helens Council)

### **1 APOLOGIES**

The Board were informed of apologies received from Councillor Alyson Barnes (Rossendale Borough Council), County Councillor Geoff Driver (Lancashire County Council), Deputy Mayor Bev Hughes (GMCA), Councillor Andrew Western (Trafford Council) & Professor Mark E. Smith (Lancaster University).

### **2 MINUTES**

It was raised that Minute 15, Point 4 in the April minutes be amended to read that:

*“a meeting be arranged between the Chair and the two Metro Mayors to discuss the support which they could offer the Board in the future”*

Subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

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### 3 MATTERS ARISING

#### (1) CONVENTION OF THE NORTH

A question was raised regarding the representation and engagement of ESE partners at the first ever Convention of the North, due to be held in the North East on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Members who had attended Convention of the North planning meetings provided feedback on the background, strategic approach and aims/objectives of the Convention.

The Convention will provide an opportunity for leaders (both political and civic) to showcase the North and its potential, and to engage with central government on key issues such as transport and Brexit.

The Board discussed its potential relationship with the Convention and how it could articulate arguments that would aim to address regional imbalances and allow the North to unlock its potential.

It was agreed that the Regional Research Collaboration (through the team at GMCA) would provide support on any relevant research requirements from the Board ahead of the Convention. It was also agreed that contact details the Convention would be shared with the Chair, and vice-versa.

It was agreed that a report would be brought to the next meeting of the Board which updated on the Convention.

Members were also made aware by the NWBLT representative of a number of policy initiatives/reports. It was agreed that further information on these initiatives – such as copies of the reports – would be provided to Members as and when they were available.

\* **Resolved that:**

- (1) An update in respect of Convention of the North be provided to the next meeting;**
- (2) The Regional Research Collaboration to provide support on any relevant research requirements from the Board ahead of the Convention;**
- (3) Contact Details for the Convention to be shared with the Chair, and vice-versa;**
- (4) Further information be provided on the policy initiatives that had been outlined by the NWBLT representative.**

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### **4 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

- \* **Resolved that Councillor Terry O'Neill be appointed as Chairman for a period of three years, as set out in the Constitution.**

### **5 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

- \* **Resolved that the Deputy Chair position be filled by a Conservative Member of the Board to be appointed and confirmed by the Conservative Representatives.**

### **6 CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Regional Leaders Board constitution states that alterations to the Constitution shall only be made by the Board at each Annual Meeting, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

A number of minor amendments had been made to the Constitution, which were detailed in the covering report.

- \* **Resolved that:**

- (1) The amended Constitution be adopted; and**
- (2) The Membership of the Board for 2018/19 be noted.**

### **7 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

- \* **Resolved that:**

- (1) Councillor Terry O'Neill be appointed to the LGA Executive as Regional Representative; and**
- (2) Councillor Derek Long to act as substitute member to the LGA Executive in the absence of Councillor Terry O'Neill.**

### **8 NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLABORATION UPDATE**

A report was provided to update Members on the work of the Regional Research Collaboration (RRC).

Key areas of research undertaken over the first quarter of 2018/19 included:

- NW Brexit Monitor Research – which was dealt with under the following item;
- A report was underway to look at future prosperity funds and the risks linked to changes from the loss of EU Structural Funds. Headlines emerging from this report indicated that total funding within the North West from ERDF and ESF for 2014-20 was 1.1 billion euros, with this investment helping the North West to tackle many socio-economic issues. A final report was expected early Autumn, following engagement with NW sub-regions;

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- Scoping work had been undertaken around the NW'S Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing assets and strengths; and
- Work had also been undertaken to ensure that intra-connectivity between NW sub-regions was fully reflected in Transport for the North's strategies and wider discussions.

The Board welcomed the report and thanked the RRC team for their work.

With regards to the European Funding received by the North West, Members emphasised how effective the North of England had been at using this fund and maximising its impact. The value in having a flexible fund as grant funding rather than a loan to enable innovation and experimentation was discussed. Members asked that the report be amended to show the total funding envelope for the North West including match funding, and this should be the basis of future 'asks' to Government.

It was agreed that the RRC would continue to engage with sub-regions around European funding and develop this into a paper which will inform the Convention of the North in September.

Around Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing, the Member from the NWBLT drew attention to a research project that had been undertaken by Innovate UK in respect of levels of NW funding in business innovation. A subsequent report would be published in September 2018. It was agreed that this report would be shared with the Board.

It was raised that Officers attending the RRC Steering Group had expressed an interest in a knowledge sharing workshop on the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), as the GMCA was a designated 'trailblazer'. Members raised that education and skills would also be a worthwhile topic.

It was agreed that RRC would scope out the potential for a workshop and whether content should be broad or focus on one or two areas.

Members also raised the issue of Transport, and expressed concern over rail regulatory and governance arrangements across the NW and wider Northern region. It was requested that the RRC research and assess transport governance issues, and determine the scope of such a report.

\* **Resolved that:**

- (1) The work undertaken in the first quarter of the 2018/19 research programme be noted;**
- (2) RRC to continue to engage with sub-regions around European funding and develop this into a paper which will inform the Convention of the North in September;**
- (3) The draft report that had been produced on NW Business Innovation be shared with the Board;**

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- (4) The RRC to scope out the potential for a workshop and whether content should be broad or focus on one or two areas;**
- (5) The RRC research and assess transport governance issues, and determine the scope of such a report.**

### **9 NORTH WEST BREXIT MONITOR UPDATE**

A report was submitted which updated the Board on the key economic and policy developments in relation to the UK's decision to leave the European Union (EU). The June edition of the North West Brexit Monitor was attached to provide a real-time view of the economic and policy impact of Brexit.

The report updated Members on the key economic and policy developments in relation to the UKs exiting of the European Union. Following an extended meeting of the Cabinet at Chequers in early July, the government had now published a White Paper setting out details of their agreed versions for what UK and EU's post-Brexit relationship should look like. A number of key votes had taken place in the current week and would continue to do so.

Members asked whether there was the potential for Inclusive Growth Metrics to be included in the monitor (or some other format).

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

### **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **(1) ALLERDALE OPEN DAY**

Members were invited to the forthcoming Allerdale Day to be held in Albert Square, Manchester City Centre on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The event would be showcasing the work of the Borough, such as the manufacturing sector.

Members were requested to contact the Leader of Allerdale Borough Council for further details of the event, and to reserve a place.

#### **(2) COMMUNICATIONS**

Members asked the Chair to ensure that the views expressed at meetings of the Board were effectively communicated to government departments and to bodies such as TfN.

**The next meeting of the Board will be held on:  
Friday 12 October 2018 at 10.30am, Room 10, St Helens Town Hall**

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