

NORTH WEST REGIONAL LEADERS BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 12th October 2018

Persons present (Voting Members)

Cheshire and Warrington

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

Greater Manchester

Councillor Andrew Western (Trafford Council)

ESE's

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

Also in attendance (non-voting)

Katrina Hann (GMCA), Catherine Fletcher (St.Helens Council), Adrian Lythgo (NW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee)

11 APOLOGIES

The Board were informed of apologies received from Mayor Andy Burnham (GMCA), Deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes (GMCA), Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram (LCRCA), Councillor Samantha Dixon (Cheshire West and Chester Council), Lynn Collins (TUC), Professor Mark E. Smith (Lancaster University), Warren Escadale (VSNW), Christine Gaskell (NW LEPs), Mike Palin (St.Helens Council), Professor Steven Broomhead (Warrington Council)

12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 20th July 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

13 MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

14 CONVENTION OF THE NORTH UPDATE

The Chair presented an update following the Convention of the North that was held on 6th September in Gateshead. A report was provided in the agenda pack that had been provided by Councillor Morgan, for which he was thanked.

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The Convention covered three distinct areas of Brexit, Skills & Transport, and discussed what major investments or policy changes could deliver significant and lasting change. Other discussion topics were based on what the North itself could do to take its agenda and priorities forward, and what the North was asking for from government.

It is intended that in the coming weeks a summary report of discussions will be released to participants and the wider public and a working group of Leaders and officers (including representatives from the NP11) will be brought together to develop the future direction of the Convention of the North. It was recognised at the Convention that this is a long-term project. However, two early goals were identified to influence the 2019 Spending Review and to use the withdrawal from the EU to support rebalancing

It was agreed that the North West clearly had a pivotal role to play in the success of the wider North, and that the Board – in conjunction with the Mayor's of Greater Manchester & the Liverpool City Region – should ensure that the North West monitor and influence the outcomes of the Convention, and offer to host the next Convention in the North West (subject to appropriate levels of funding and engagement).

* **It was resolved that:**

- 1) **Councillor Morgan be thanked for his report included in the agenda pack; and**
- 2) **The Chair liaise with the Mayor's of Greater Manchester & the Liverpool City Region to ensure that the Board (and the wider NW) is sufficiently engaged in influencing the outcomes of the Convention;**

Councillor Derek Long here left the meeting.

15 NW REGIONAL FLOOD AND COSTAL COMMITTEE

Adrian Lythgo, Chair of the NW Regional Flood and Costal Committee (RFCC), delivered a presentation to the Board.

The presentation went through the role of the Committee; its Membership; what they do; and what has been achieved in the first three years of the investment programme. The presentation listed some of the current issues – mainly the new National Flood and Risk Management Strategy & the draft RFCC Business Plan.

Members raised a number of questions around the economic impact on local communities from flooding, land management issues and the prioritisation of projects. It was agreed that further information would be provided to Members following this meeting.

Members were encouraged to work through their area Committee representative to ensure local priorities were fully represented within the draft RFCC Business Plan.

* **It was resolved that:**

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- 1) The contents of the presentation be noted and the Chair of the RFCC be thanked for his attendance;**
- 2) Further information be provided by the Chair of the RFCC to Members on the issues raised at this meeting.**

16 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 last quarter included:

- Monthly Brexit Monitor;
- A report on the loss of EU Structural Funds in the NW had been completed. This was dealt with under Item 6 A.
- Around Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing, a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) workshop for NW LEPs and stakeholders will be held on 28th November 2018 at The Base in Warrington. Invitations will be sent out following this meeting. Furthermore, a report on the NW's Made Smarter pilot will be produced and Juergen Maier, Chief Executive of Siemens UK, will provide an update on this topic at the RLB meeting in February 2019.
- Following the last meeting of the Board, discussions have been undertaken with Transport for the North (TfN). A briefing was included in the agenda pack which provided Members with information on transport governance at a northern spatial level. It was agreed that contact be made with Transport for the North to ensure appropriate representation at this Board.

With regards to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's upcoming Budget, it was agreed that a summary of funding available to ESE's would be compiled and distributed through the appropriate channels.

It was also raised that a Global Competitive Strengths and Innovation briefing will be developed to address a gap in the evidence base for the NW. The Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review identified the North's prime capabilities – advanced manufacturing, energy, health innovation and digital and the assets, expertise and businesses which are pan-Northern, highly productive, and internationally competitive. Although there is much evidence of the NW's strengths in these areas, it was raised that what is less clear is a view of how the collective offer works across the NW. A global competitive strengths and innovation briefing will be undertaken which will articulate the collective offer for each of the prime capabilities and agree a way forward that will benefit the NW. The scope of this work will be agreed by the RRC and the final piece brought to the next meeting of the Board.

* **It was resolved that:**

- 1) The contents of the reports be noted;**
- 2) The Chair of the Board write to the Chief Executive of Siemens UK inviting him to attend the February 2019 meeting of the Board;**

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- 3) **Contact continue to be made with Transport for the North on behalf of the Chair to ensure appropriate representation at this Board;**
- 4) **A summary of funding available to ESE's would be compiled and distributed through the appropriate channels;**
- 5) **A report on Global Competitive Strengths be brought to the next meeting of the Board.**

17 NW RCC – FUTURE PROSPERITY FUND

The report assessed the Future Prosperity Fund and looked at the risks linked to changes from loss of EU Structural Funding. Given that the structural funds are supported by at least 50% match funding, the scale of the NW's funding gap will be at least €2.2 billion.

There was agreement that the report be shared widely and used where possible in discussions with government. Members were encouraged to discuss this topic locally with their senior officers / officials as to how best to maximise the benefits of the report (for example, in response to any future consultation).

* **It was resolved that:**

- 1) **The Chair to discuss with the Mayor's of Greater Manchester & the Liverpool City Region the most appropriate avenue to take this forward.**

18 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 September edition of the North West Brexit Monitor was attached to provide a real-time view of the economic and policy impact of Brexit.

Regarding the Regional Impact Assessment's undertaken by government, it was agreed that the Chair would contact the Department for Exiting the European Union and request the North West regional impact assessment on behalf of the Board.

* **It was resolved that:**

- 1) **The contents of the September Brexit Monitor be noted; and**
- 2) **The Chair to write to government asking for the release of the Regional Impact Assessment's.**

19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) New RLB Website

Catherine Fletcher informed Members that a new RLB website had been developed and is hosted by St.Helens Council. The link to website is as follows and will also be sent out to Members via email.

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<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/council/north-west-regional-leaders-board/>

(2) Association of Colleges

Richard Caulfield informed the Board that 'College Week' was commencing on 15th October, and Members were encouraged to use this period to celebrate and support their local college institution.

(3) Regional Manufacturing Forum

Miranda Barker provided a brief update on the work of the Regional Manufacturing Forum. The RMF had recently been formerly connected to the NP11 LEP network.

**The next meeting of the Board will be held on:
Friday 15th February 2019 at 10.30am, Room 10, St Helens Town Hall**

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