



Strategic Economic Plan Board

Thursday 14 December 2017 at 10.00am

Present:

Jonathan Browning	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Ian Courts	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor George Duggins	Coventry City Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Ninder Johal	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Tim Pile	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council.

In Attendance

Deborah Cadman	West Midlands Combined Authority
Paula Deas	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Paul Edwards	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Sarah Middleton	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Neil Rami	West Midlands Growth Company;
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Perry Wardle	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Patrick White	West Midlands Combined Authority

Apologies:

Councillors Harvey, Jeavons, Moore, Reynolds, Ward and Sleigh, and Stuart Croft, Paul Kehoe, Ninder Johal and Graham Wynn.

88/17 Welcome

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting.

89/17 Notes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2017 and Matters Arising

Agreed that the Notes be received.

90/17 SEP Board Tracker Log

Agreed that the SEP Board Tracker be noted.

91/17 Forward Plan

The Chair noted that the Forward Plan continued to be developed.

Agreed that the contents of the Forward Plan be noted.

92/17 **Devo 2**

The meeting received a brief update on the Second West Midlands Devolution Agreement.

Agreed that the SEP Board note the update.

93/17 **Local Industrial Strategy**

Patrick White provided a presentation to the Board on the work being undertaken to develop the Local Industrial Strategy.

The five foundations productivity were welcomed: - Ideas, People, Infrastructure, Business environment and Places. It was noted that the Industrial Strategy should provide a framework for all partners to work in the same direction, with a need to reinforce skills as a major pillar for the Industrial Strategy.

Councillor Ian Courts commented on the approach to develop a local industrial strategy Environmental, Human, Finance and Social and stated that the fifth element should be business. He referenced exporting businesses and stated there should be a stronger focus on what support could be offered to them.

The Chair observed that there was a need to consider what needed to be achieved differently to what had already been achieved with Strategic Economic Plan. Action plans should be hard wired to any objectives that arise from the Industrial Strategy.

In response to Government it was suggested that the objectives needed to be actionable and that it should include an investment case to the public and private sector, which was missing from the SEP.

The Chair concluded that there was a need to have:

- a) A singular Industrial Strategy owned by the entire CA region with a core focus;
- b) Strong leadership of the Industrial Strategy to include the Mayor, Constituent Members and business leads.
- c) Evolution with the Strategy being the next level up from the SEP, to be a robust economic model supported by quantitative evidence, to include the Science and Innovation Audit evidence thus not forgetting the work undertaken over the past two years.

The chair stated that there was a need to identify resources to deliver objectives in the strategy; the strategy would need to connect the framework to the desires of Government but importantly did need to focus on the West Midlands; communications, Growth Hubs, champions and centres of excellence should consider how they change their delivery mechanism to meet the Strategy's objectives.

Agreed:

- (1) That the comments be incorporated into the emerging Industrial Strategy; and
- (2) That a progress report be submitted to the next meeting.

94/17 Investment Programme – Business Cases

- (a) **Very Light Railway Transforming Connectivity - £55,000,000 (SOC)**
- (b) **Sprint Corridor – Longbridge & Frankley to Birmingham City Centre - £38,400,000 (SOC)**
- (c) **Sprint Corridor – Hall Green to Interchange via Solihull - £26,900,00 (OBC)**
- (d) **Sutton Coldfield Gateway - £20,900,000 (OBC)**
- (e) **UKC Infrastructure Package - £62,600,000 (OBC)**

The Chairman advised that, as part of the Assurance Framework for the Investment Plan these the business cases were required to be reported to the Sep Board for information and comment.

Agreed that the SEP Board note the five business cases.

95/17 West Midlands Innovation Board

The final draft of the report “Establishment of West Midlands Innovation Board was submitted for SEP Board comments.

The meeting was advised of the two following recommendations and support was sought

- (1) Approve the creation of the West Midlands Innovation Board (WMIB), reporting to SEP Board, to take a strategic lead in ensuring that innovation i) drives economic growth and public service reform and ii) is embedded across the activities of the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- (2) The West Midlands Innovation Board (WMIB) will take a new delivery orientated approach for innovation, building on the findings of the West Midlands Science and Innovation Audit, to ensure that innovation delivers tangible economic growth and public service reform across the West Midlands Combined Authority geography.

Councillor Ian Courts commented that the reference to there being no financial implications was presumably only at this stage. He stated that he was fully in support of the proposal.

The Chair asked what the role of the Board would be. The meeting was advised that the capacity to operate the Board would be met from existing resources and that the ambition was for the Board to approve and prioritise innovation projects that would drive economic growth and public service reform and ensure that innovation was embedded across the activities of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Clarity was provided over the remit for the WMCA Innovation Board and the remit for the Innovation Alliance, where the Alliance was LEP led and would involve experts looking at particular strands on innovation.

Agreed:

That the SEP Board approved the content of the report to be submitted to a WMCA Board meeting in the New Year.

96/17 **Date of Future Meetings**

It was noted that the meetings for 2018 would be held on 8 February, 12 April and 7 June 2018.

[The meeting ended at 11.05am]