



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Strategic Economic Development Board Meeting

Monday 10 December 2018 at 10.00am

Minutes

Members

Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
Solihull MBC
Warwickshire County Council
City of Wolverhampton

Jonathan Browning – Chair
Tim Pile
Councillor Ian Courts
Councillor Izzi Seccombe
Councillor John Reynolds

Officers in Attendance

Black Country LEP
Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
Warwickshire County Council
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Midlands Combined Authority
Metrodynamics

Delma Dwight
Paula Deas
Paul Edwards
Mark Ryder
Julia Goldsworthy
Patrick White
Louisa Guyon

**Item
No.**

24. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Matthew Dormer, George Duggins, David Humphreys, Abdul Khan, Paul Moore and Bob Sleigh and Stuart Croft, Lindsey Flynn, Matthew Hammond, Ninder Johal, Stewart Towe and Graham Wynn.

25. Notes of the Strategic Economic Plan Board Meeting held 17 November 2018

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting held on the 17 November 2018 be approved as an accurate record.

26. SEP Board Tracker Log

Resolved:

That the SEP Board Tracker Log be noted.

27. Forward Plan

Julia Goldsworthy asked the Spending Review be added to the 23 January 2019 meeting.

Resolved:

That, subject to the inclusion of the above, the Forward Plan be noted.

Economic Growth Portfolio

28. Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) - Statement

The Chair thanked the team for the work undertaken and developing the substantive document to go forward to the CA Board and through to a public document.

Patrick White thanked the Board for their collaboration with the development of the document an overview of the document and advised that the aim of the session was to consider and approve the substantive document for submission to the WMCA Board, with a final version to have delegated approval to the Chair of this Board; the WMCA Mayor; the Economic Portfolio Lead – Councillor Ian Ward; and the WMCA Chief Executive, prior to publication.

Patrick White detailed the consultation undertaken and the Chair stated that there should be a reference to the evidence underpinning the document and the consultations undertaken. This would provide greater visibility to the background, to include the three LEP's Strategic Economic Plans.

Councillor Ian Courts commented that the LIS was not a general business strategy and that there should be a distinction drawn. He stated that the document should be drafted for the audience it was intended but he did not feel there was a unique selling point or that it was distinction enough. He noted the reference to the Curzon Street but felt that the transport hub, to include Birmingham Airport did not come through. With reference to 5G he noted that the three cities were referenced across the West Midlands but that there should be reference to Warwick, Sandwell and Solihull as the 5G connectivity needed to be spread wider.

Patrick White noted the comments and advised that nationally it did appear as a West Midlands focus with the references to mobility, data driven care etc. He noted the point on referencing more places but observed that some of the projects, such as 5G were happening in specific places. He stated that the growth corridors within the evidence base could be included in the main document.

Councillor John Reynolds advised that the Black Country was missing with references required to the Supply Chain, Springfield Construction Centre and the significance of SME companies in the region. He stated that there was a danger in referencing only the larger companies as the SME's were where productivity and growth would happen.

The Chair asked that officers work with each LEP Team to provide more local detail and "local flavours" to the document.

Patrick White acknowledged that the SME could be brought out more under productivity.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe referenced Mental Health and Wellbeing and stated that there needed to be a chapter in the overarching plan, not only understanding the current performance but also incorporating the future ambition. She noted that leadership and skills were referenced but there was not much around leadership for the region.

Patrick White commented that there was a signpost and link to Inclusive Growth which he could develop and cross referencing. The Chair suggested that there should be a reference included in the Executive summary and early on in the document.

Tim Pile endorsed the points made and provided the following comments:

- a) It was important to capture how the document linked to other strategies at the front end.
- b) He felt the distinctiveness had been captured well.
- c) With regard to the Opportunities Section – he felt they were about right but referencing Creative, he felt these detailed actions rather opportunities.
- d) Strategies – clear about objectives

The Chair welcomed the points made.

Patrick White advised that the Strategic Economic Plan targets from 2016 still applied. In relation to creativity he advised that initial focus had been for the Channel 4 bid but advised that there were still opportunities.

Mark Ryder advised that “gaming” had not been named and should be included in the narrative. Patrick White advised that this could be built into the Innovation section. Patrick White observed that there was more work to done across sectors.

Tim Pile referenced the Supply Chain and its importance to export and competitiveness on a global scale as it represented 24% of GVA. Thus, in terms of export there was a need for it to come through in the LIS.

The Chair advised that the LIS would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 11th; a revised draft would be circulated to the Board for comment.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Board note the update;
- (2) That the comments of the Board be fed into the LIS document;
- (3) That the Board be circulated with a final draft of the LIS and any further comments be submitted direct to the WMCA LIS Team.
- (4) Need to start to with Strategic Objectives – what is that LIS wants to achieve. Also include some challenging goals.

29. Any Other Business

Economic Forum event – 24 January 2019

The meeting was advised of the above event scheduled for 24th January 2019. Members would receive

30. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 23rd January 2019 at 10.00am in Warwick.

The Chair

Resolved:

That the date of the next meeting be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.20am

Chair