

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BUSINESS INNOVATION AND GROWTH PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2018 AT COMMITTEE ROOM A,
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS**

Present:

Andrew Wright (Chair)	Reliance Precision
Martin Booth	Witt UK Gp
Mike Danby	Advanced Supply Chain Lead
Nicola Greenan	East Street Arts
Amir Hussain	Yeme Architects
Steph Morris	Innovate UK
Mark Robson (Advisory Representative)	Department for International Trade
Will Roebuck	E-Radar
Phillip Wilson	Slipstream Design
Simon Wright	Yorkshire Bank
Councillor Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Council
Dr Martin Stow (Advisory Representative)	Leeds University
Dr Peter O'Brien (Advisory Representative)	Yorkshire Universities
Ian Sharp (Advisory Representative)	Digital Health Enterprize Zone
Professor Liz Towns-Andrews (Advisory Representative)	University of Huddersfield

In attendance:

Kersten England	Bradford Council
Sue Cooke	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Professor John Fisher	University of Leeds
Henry Rigg	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Jonathan Skinner	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
David Shepherd	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Darren Byford, Roy Miller and Tim Swift.

2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared by members at the meeting.

3. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There were no items on the Agenda requiring exclusion of the press and public.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Business Innovation and Growth Panel held on 7 December 2017**

That the minutes of the Business Innovation and Growth Panel held on 7 December 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **Chair's comments**

The Chair welcomed to the Panel new members Martin Booth, Witt UK, Nicola Greenan, East Street Arts, Steph Morris, Innovate UK. Will Roebuck, E-Radar and Dr Martin Stow, University of Leeds representing Professor Lisa Roberts.

6. **Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy**

The Panel was presented with a report and slide presentation to update on progress towards the development of a local inclusive industrial strategy which will sit at the centre of a new agile policy framework for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Professor John Fisher, Leeds University was invited to speak on Innovation and transformation and answered questions from the Panel

The content of the report included

- An overview of Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy Proposals
- Emerging priorities for the Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy
- Supporting Strategies and policies

The Panel was asked to note the updates on development of a local inclusive industrial strategy and feedback any thoughts on the strategic framework and emerging proposals, including the ways in which members would like to be involved in future development of the proposals..

Resolved: That the views of the Panel on the emerging work on Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy be noted.

7. **Inclusive Growth Outcomes from the Business Growth Programme**

The Panel was provided with a report for the revised criteria and associated conditions for awarding grants to businesses from the Leeds Enterprise Partnership (LEP) / Combined Authority's Business Growth Programme (BGP).

The report described the City Region's approach to a local inclusive industrial strategy that tackles the growing productivity gap and sustainably improves living standards for all. This extends to using the Combined Authority's economic services – including the Business Grants Programme – to incentivise businesses to grow in a way that delivers inclusive growth and includes:-

- Consultation to date.
- Consultation findings.
- Consultations and proposed revised approach.

The Panel was asked to consider and approve the revised new criteria and associated conditions for awarding grants to businesses on the BGP, and also to support the proposals set out relating to productivity and strategic inward investment. The Panel was also given opportunity to join a small working group to examine in more detail how grants could be awarded to businesses in return for improved productivity and not solely on new jobs being created.

Resolved:

- (i) That the update for the revised criteria and associated conditions for awarding grants to businesses from the Leeds Enterprise Partnership (LEP) / Combined Authority's Business Growth Programme (BGP) be noted
- (ii) That the feedback from members be noted.
- (iii) That members consider joining the working group on productivity which will take place on 11 April 2018 in Bradford.

8. Digital

The Panel was presented with a report to update on work to develop the digital agenda and seek feedback on the Digital framework.

The Digital framework is now being progressed alongside work to develop the new local Inclusive Industrial Strategy. The Panel heard that although these are separate strands of work with different timescales, the Digital Framework – once established – will contribute significantly to the narrative and objectives of the digital and tech focused Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy,

The Panel received a presentation setting out the emerging thinking on the Digital Framework across the five outcomes, digital opportunities for all businesses; digital skills and inclusion; the digital sector; world class digital infrastructure and the smart region.

The Panel was asked for their views and feedback on the digital framework

Resolved:

- (i) That the update report on work to develop the digital agenda be noted.

- (ii) That members provide feedback to officers.
- (iii) That a further progress report be brought to the next meeting.

9. Business Planning and Budget 2018/19

The Panel was provided with a report to advise on the work underway to progress business and budget planning for 2018/19

At the last meeting of the Combined Authority in February, the budget and outline business plan for 2018/19 were agreed, following consultation with the LEP Board in January.

Further work will take place to work up more detailed business plans and associated key performance indicators, which will form part of the Corporate Plan due for approval in April.

Resolved:

- (i) That the business plan and budget for 2018/19 be noted.

10. Business Support Update

The Panel was provided with an update on business support activity being undertaken, including the LEP Growth Service, the Business Growth Programme, the Resource efficiency Fund, Access Innovation, Strategic Business Growth, the Travel Plan Network and the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund.

Resolved: That the progress made to date on delivery of the business support projects, programmes and services be noted.

11. Trade and Investment Plan 2018/19

The Panel was presented with a progress report on Trade and Investment activity in 2017/18 and consult on the proposed Trade and Investment Plan for 2018/19 which included:

- Inward Investment – new investments
- Inward Investment – recent developments
- Trade Performance and Outlook
- Trade Plan Progress
- Trade Delivery partners progress
- International Trade
- Key Sector Messages
- Forward Plan for Activity for 2018/19

The team has exceeded its target for 1000 new jobs created, having secured commitment for 2,505 new jobs and is close to its project target of securing 20

new inward investment projects, with 18 successes in the year to date. There have been eight new investments since the last panel report in December, creating 1,147 new jobs, and safeguarding 400 jobs.

On the enquiry pipeline there is a strong mix of enquiries across our priority sectors.

The Panel was asked to note the update on Trade and Investment Activity in 2017-18 and provide comments on the Outline Business Plan for 2018-2019 prior to submission to the LEP Board for approval.

Resolved:

- (i) That the update on Trade and Investment Activity be noted.
- (ii) That the Panel provided comments on the Outline Business Plan for 2018-2019 and endorsed prior to submission to the LEP Board for approval.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 24 May 2018 , 14:00 PM, Committee Room A, Wellington House, Leeds.