MINUTES
COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Wednesday 14 May 2014

Hosted by: Rugby Borough Council

Present:

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<tr>
<th>Cllr Craig Humphrey, Chair</th>
<th>Ian Davis and Adam Norburn</th>
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<td>Rugby Borough Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Phil Townshend</td>
<td>Martin Reeves</td>
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<td>Coventry City Council</td>
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<td>Cllr David Bill</td>
<td>Steve Atkinson</td>
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<td>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Michael Stanley</td>
<td>Steve Maxey</td>
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<td>North Warwickshire Borough Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Dennis Harvey</td>
<td>Alan Franks</td>
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<td>Nuneaton and Bedworth Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Chris Saint</td>
<td>Paul Lankester</td>
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<td>Stratford-on-Avon District Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Andrew Mobbs</td>
<td>Bill Hunt</td>
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<td>Warwick District Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Izzi Seccombe</td>
<td>Jim Graham</td>
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<td>Warwickshire County Council</td>
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<td>Jonathan Browning</td>
<td>Martin Yardley</td>
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<td>CW LEP</td>
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<td>Jenni Venn, Advisor</td>
<td>Celestine Banks, Minute taker</td>
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Apologies:
Cllr Anne Lucas (Coventry City Council), Jerry Hutchinson (North Warwickshire Borough Council) and Chris Elliott (Warwick District Council)

25. WELCOME

Cllr Humphrey welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Jonathan Browning, the new Chair of the Coventry & Warwickshire LEP Board.

26. PRESENTATION BY RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL – Cllr Humphrey

- Welcome to one of the fastest growing towns in the country, with an adopted growth-based Core Strategy.
- Council focused on sustainable growth with employment keeping pace with residential growth.
- It’s not all about logistics – high tech employment at Ansty, Coton Park and elsewhere supported by the Power Academy.
• In support of promoting quality employment the Council has its own apprenticeship programme – currently employs 12 on a rolling programme including professional and trade.

• Council promoting social infrastructure the town needs. New, profitable leisure centre replacing loss making predecessor, new crematorium (jointly with Daventry), 60 acre woodland planted by volunteers. Council invested nearly £1m in new college to open facilities to community.

• Good work with BID to create attractive town centre with growing “café culture” but recognises the failure to attract major High St names – has therefore approved edge of town retail anchored on Debenhams to stem spending leakage to other centres.

• First District Council (and the only one in of any sort in this area) to be awarded “Excellent” for equalities and diversity – based on “knowing our community”.

• Council Tax frozen for 4 years and reduced by 3% in current year – achieved by delayering of management, operating without a CEO and rigorously and continuously reviewing services on a “what matters to the customer” basis. Council will be self-financing in 5 years, free of reliance on government grant.

• Next year’s Rugby World Cup is huge opportunity – working closely with IRB, England Rugby 2015 and Visit England to maximise benefits to business and residents.

(See copy of slides)

27. NEW CHAIR OF CWLEP

Jonathan Browning addressed the Committee. He looks forward to building relationships and is impressed with the amount of momentum going on.

He has taken the lead in diverse businesses, working in the automotive industry at Jaguar Land Rover and the Volkswagen Group and this is an environment he is used to working together with. There is a need to come to agreement on common solutions. He sees business as part of a broader community.

Martin Yardley is working to set up meetings with as many contacts as possible and Mr Browning will attend his first LEP Board meeting next week. The main headings at the moment are people, physical infrastructure and admin. He said he likes to have a clear but high level view of where the business needs to go, know what the common objectives are and be clear how to implement them. He looks forward to moving forward.

Following a question regarding timely access to LEP Board Minutes, Mr Browning said that, as a general principle, the LEP Board want priorities and what to align behind known. They would be more open where possible.

Mr Browning was invited to speak to the Labour and Conservative Groups in Coventry to help raise the momentum and get people involved, which he welcomed.

Cllr Humphrey thanked Mr Browning.
28. Minutes of the previous meeting on 20 March 2014
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

29. Matters Arising
There were no additions to those already on the agenda.

30. **COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE DUTY TO CO-OPERATE: Sub-Regional Approach to delivering the housing requirement** — *Cllr Humphrey*

The Leaders pre-meeting had agreed a general consensus to move ahead with the green belt study sooner rather than later.

The SEP has a need for housing attached to it which cannot be delivered without the green belt study.

Coventry, Rugby and Warwick Councils all advised the Committee that they need to commission and move forward with the study now.

North Warwickshire Borough Council has previously taken housing from both Birmingham and Tamworth, but had not needed a green belt study of their own in order to do so. They do not need to undertake a green belt study at this stage.

Likewise, Stratford District advised that they do not need to undertake a green belt study at this stage. They can accommodate their housing without it affecting their green belt and to undertake a study now is not part of their core strategy. They recognise the needs of the other districts that are in a slightly different position to them.

A phased answer rather than a phased commission was suggested, as the SEP cannot be delivered without the study.

Both Stratford District and North Warwickshire Borough Councils request that a scoping document is created.

**Action:** Officers please note it was agreed that a scoping document should be created and circulated in the first instance. A joint green belt study with a phased approach would be commissioned thereafter.

31. **PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN** — *Martin Yardley*

The SEP was submitted on time and being considered by Government.

The size of the Local Growth Fund has been reduced to £1.1bn and the Government asked for a prioritised list of projects, with business cases.

Feedback is all about deliverability in 2015/16 and further information has been requested on projects worth £27m, including Ansty Park, Skills Projects, the Advanced Propulsion Research Lab, Business Start-up Stratford and CUTP Grow on Space. Highways funding is additional to this, so a huge opportunity going forward and outcomes are likely to be announced before the parliamentary recess.
A commitment to the pooling of parts of our organisations will come next and will be discussed at the LEP Board on Monday.

There has been a review of the allocation of ESI Fund for Coventry & Warwickshire which is now £135.5m, down from £136m.

The Assisted Area Map for aid has been consulted on and the final map provided includes 99% of what was asked for.

32. CITY DEAL IMPLEMENTATION – Cllr Humphrey

A paper on the Coventry & Warwickshire Clearing House will be discussed at the LEP Board meeting on Monday.

CWCH went live on 1 April 2014, working out of Chamber House in Coventry and there was a soft launch on 10 April 2014. It has a dedicated page on the LEP website.

Five account managers are currently providing in-depth support to 14 advanced manufacturing & engineering businesses. The work has been drawn from a wider engagement with 51 businesses, from which the Account Managers have made 27 referrals to national and local products.

CWCH will move to Cheylesmore House at the beginning of June. Once occupied, there will be greater discussion with partners about how to work and bring BIZ alongside.

Louise Bennett and her team have taken on the initial management and a report will go to the LEP Board Meeting on Monday regarding the appointment of an Executive Director.

Success will be judged on whether the business base across Coventry and Warwickshire increases. There is an appetite for brokerage and facilities.

Due to the prudent use of finances, monies will stretch over 2 years instead of 1 year. So, the first year is fully funded but needs to meet certain KPI's.

The single economic growth pot is capital allocation but there is no revenue allocation to fund the second year. The Lancaster pot will fund the first year so there is adequate funding for the second year.

Capital project monies relating to Fen End will be received as a non-ring-fenced grant and is on hold whilst technical work is completed.

Governance around the Clearing House will go to the LEP Board on Monday. The LEP doesn’t currently employ anyone.

The Clearing House is a fundamental pillar for City Deal and there needs to be someone singularly focussed on it otherwise results will not be forthcoming.
Committee members have been provided with the LEP Board papers for Monday’s meeting should they wish to raise anything around how the leadership role will be financed.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council queried Agenda Item 9.2 of Monday’s LEP Board Meeting point 7.12 where the A5 is mentioned separately. **Action: Officers please note** it was agreed that this would be looked at outside of the meeting.

There was discussion regarding the A45 and A46 corridors. The A45 and A46 between the M6 (J2) and the M40 (J15) are seen as one continuous road for the purposes of the SEP. Further work on the A46 is programmed in for future years and some communication with the Worcestershire LEP will be necessary, as it is understood that they are also in the process of improving the road network on their side of the border.

**33. OTHER ISSUES FROM CWLEP PAPERS**

There were none.

**34. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON COMBINED AUTHORITIES**

– Steve Atkinson

A briefing note, dated 14 May 2014, from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council was passed to Committee members. They have been in contact with officials at DCLG who have confirmed that current regulations do allow for them to be a constituent member and if the body agrees they can have full voting rights.

They ask that any submission should reinforce that that facility is there.

The LEP is looking at doing its own response.

**Action: Officers please note** that it was agreed that a joint response to the consultation should be sent from the Joint Committee, with Councils submitting individual responses in addition if they wished.

**35. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF PUBLIC BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

There were none.

**36. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12a to the Act.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**37. CWLEP BOARD 19 MAY 2014**

There were no further matters to discuss.
38. **ANY OTHER MATTERS OF PRIVATE BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

There were none.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held on Wednesday 16 July 2014 at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. Further details to be advised.

**CHAIRMAN**

Date