

## Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Wednesday, 23 May 2018, County Hall, Worcester - 10.00 am

### Present:

#### Minutes

Mr C J Bloore (Chairman), Mrs J A Brunner,  
Mr P Middlebrough, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr C B Taylor and  
Mr P A Tuthill

### Also attended:

Mr S E Geraghty, Leader of the Council and Cabinet  
Member for Finance (and Vice Chairman, Local Authority  
Representative of the WLEP)

Mr P Grove  
Mrs E B Tucker, Group Leader 2017 Group

#### District Councillors:

Mr P B Harrison, Wyre Forest District Council  
Cllr Emma Stokes, Wychavon District Council

#### Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP)

Mark Stansfeld, Chairman, WLEP  
Chris Walklett, WLEP  
Gary Woodman, Executive Director, WLEP

Steph Simcox (Head of Strategic Infrastructure Finance  
and Financial Recovery and S151 Officer for the WLEP),  
Sheena Jones (Democratic Governance and Scrutiny  
Manager) and Samantha Morris (Overview and Scrutiny  
Officer)

### Available Papers

The members had before them:

- A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated);
- B. Presentation handouts for Worcestershire Local  
Enterprise Partnership Governance Arrangements  
(circulated at the Meeting)
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 April 2018  
(previously circulated).

(Copies of documents A and B will be attached to the  
signed Minutes).

### 1035 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Mrs E A Eyre and Mr A  
Adams.

<b>1036</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip</b>	None.
<b>1037</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	None.
<b>1038</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 April 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
<b>1039</b>	<b>Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership Governance Arrangements</b>	<p>The Chairman and Chief Executive of the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), the Leader of the Council (and Vice Chairman, Local Authority Representative of the WLEP), the Chairman of the WLEP Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee and the Section 151 Officer were invited to the Meeting to discuss the role of the WLEP and its governance and accountability arrangements.</p> <p>In addition, all District Councils were invited to nominate a Councillor Representative to attend the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>The Panel received a presentation which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The history of LEP's and the national picture</li> <li>• WLEP Vision and Objectives</li> <li>• WLEP Structure</li> <li>• WLEP Business Priorities 2018/19</li> <li>• Governance and Scrutiny</li> </ul> <p>During the discussion, the following main points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The letter from Stephen Jones, Director, Cities and Local Growth Unit, Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (included in the Agenda) provided feedback on the WLEP's Performance Review (known as the Annual Conversation) which had taken place on 9 January 2018. The letter detailed the next steps and immediate actions required and concluded that overall the, WLEP's performance was good and its delivery was exceptional when compared to other LEP's</li> </ul>

- In October 2017, the results of the Review of Local Enterprise Partnership Governance and Transparency by Mary Ney, Non-Executive Director, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was published and recommendations were made in respect of WLEP's Governance
- The Annual Conversation rated the WLEP's overall governance as good and since this review the WLEP had implemented some of the S151 Officer suggestions eg Declaration of Interests, adoption of WLEP Assurance Framework, publication of agendas and minutes for Board meetings. All governance and transparency recommendations from the Action Plan had been implemented except for the recruitment of Board Members, which would be reviewed in July 2018 after the results of the National LEP Review had been published
- It was important going forward for all partners to ensure that their respective Strategies were aligned and complimentary to ensure a combined benefit
- It was confirmed that the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) would be refreshed when the outcome of the National LEP Review was known; Government had also asked the WLEP for a local Industrial Strategy by Autumn which would need to be taken into account when refreshing the SEP
- The WLEP's Vision was to build a connected creative dynamic economy that delivered increased prosperity for all those who chose to live, work, visit and invest in Worcestershire. Physical and digital connectivity was required to drive economic growth and WLEP was focused on making this happen. People now wanted to work in different ways and although they wanted high level jobs, they didn't necessarily wish to commute to their place of work.
- The three key sectors of industry which WLEP were concentrating on were cyber, agri-tech and advanced manufacturing. At some time in the future there may also be a focus on health care.
- The WLEP were cognisant that looking to the future, today's school children could be doing some jobs which didn't currently exist
- It was acknowledged that although some areas of Worcestershire had good connectivity, this wasn't standard across the County and there were still areas without internet connection. The WLEP confirmed that they were working with operators to

improve the situation to ensure wider connectivity for all areas and encouraging mobile phone operators to share mobile telephone masts. A Member suggested that during these discussions, it may be an opportunity to mention that churches could be asked to consider sharing telephone masts on church spires which would have the advantage of generating some income for them too

- In response to the suggestion that it was important to not only invest in high value jobs, but lower paid jobs too, it was confirmed that the WLEP was supportive of all areas of the economy, as well as the main sectors of focus. It was important to increase the variety of opportunities in Worcestershire and a couple of examples were: helping businesses scale up where there was an appetite to do so and helping to increase the number of apprenticeships available
- The County Council, District Councils and key local partners were represented on the WLEP Board, this ensured that the WLEP's Vision was a joint vision and partners' Visions were compatible. Partnership working was proving to be a strength of the WLEP and advantageous when bidding for funding
- Although not directly responsible for housing, the WLEP were conscious of the gap between the lower paid salaries in Worcestershire and the affordability of housing. It was likely that 21,500 target for new homes by 2025 would be exceeded. Encouraging people to live in Worcestershire and the dynamic of where people choose to live and work was also becoming more sophisticated
- The Leader of the County Council confirmed that the Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) Corporate Plan would adopt the SEP as WCC's Vision when it was refreshed to drive the open for business section of the Corporate Plan
- It was confirmed that the WLEP worked collaboratively with other LEP's, where it could be seen that value could be added for Worcestershire
- In response to the question about how the WLEP engaged with small businesses, the Board was advised that in addition to the WLEP's plans to grow its Business Board to allow local businesses to give their views online, there was also support for 147 identified scale-up businesses as well as skills, training and funding opportunities for other businesses

- Reference was made to paragraph 30 of the Agenda and the suggested '.....lack of an entrepreneurial culture in the county...' A Member queried what this statement was referring to, particularly as Bromsgrove for instance had the highest number of business start-ups outside of London. In response, the Board was advised that, overall Worcestershire wasn't where it should be
- The key successes of the WLEP to date were:
  - Government funding of £4.8m to test and explore 5G connectivity
  - North Worcestershire Engineering Centre of Excellence in Redditch (set to train up to 200 young apprentices over the next 4 years)
  - Worcester Six Business Park, a key 'game-changer' employment site
  - Malvern Hills Science Park (Phase 5)
  - Hoobrook Link Road (Kidderminster)
  - Approval by the Department for Transport for Worcestershire Parkway Station
  - The main road bridge (Carrington Bridge) en route from West Worcester to the M5 will be turned into a dual carriageway
  - The development of an increased national and international profile and reputation. For example, leading the current Midlands Cyber initiative and establishing the Memorandum of Understanding between Worcestershire and the State of Maryland, USA
- The schemes that were receiving WLEP Local Growth Fund (LGF) investment in 2018/19 were:
  - Kidderminster Rail Station
  - A38 (Bromsgrove)
  - Pershore Northern Link improvements
  - Churchfields (Kidderminster)
  - Capital Skills Programme (county-wide)
  - The Kiln (Worcester)
- It was suggested that when any new rail station schemes were approved, it was important to consider the associated car parking facilities and perhaps the WLEP had a co-ordinating role in this area
- A member asked how the WLEP decided which initiatives to bid for and whether the WLEP had considered submitting an application for a Channel 4 Creative Hub in Worcestershire. The WLEP, whilst acknowledging that it would have been good to have been in the running for a Channel 4 Hub, confirmed that it wasn't

**1040 Member Update  
and Cabinet  
Forward Plan**

considered at the time but there were other initiatives that they had been successful in securing. For instance, they were very proud to have been selected to test and explore 5G connectivity. Given that the WLEP was one of the smallest LEP's, deciding which projects to pursue was very important in terms of resources to support them. Councillors were however encouraged to sign-post the WLEP to any initiatives they became aware of and thought worthy of applying for

- The WLEP's role in respect of the Redditch Eastern Gateway was that of co-ordination and support. It was a game changer site but had complexities due to the number of partners involved. It was important to agree what type of businesses the site was trying to attract and have a clear plan and strategy.

It was agreed that:

- the WLEP would attend the OSPB on an annual basis, to update the Board on the operations of the WLEP over the last 12 months and the programme of activity for the following year
- District Councils should be invited to nominate a Councillor preferably from Scrutiny to attend this meeting
- OSPB would be sent an email link to the WLEP Board Agenda's and Minutes
- consideration would be given to allowing observers at the WLEP Board meetings
- OSPB would be given the opportunity to input into the Internal Audit terms of reference for the WLEP audit process, prior to being agreed by the FAR Committee.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The Board adjourned from 11.45-12.00noon.

Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Panel recently received an overview of Learning Disability Services for adults which provided feedback on the pre-consultation engagement with services users, carers, staff and stakeholders on options for future provision of two aspects of Learning Disability care for adults (Replacement Care and Day Services). Speakeasy N.O.W, a self-advocacy charity for people

with learning disabilities, and Worcestershire Association of Carers also attended the meeting. The Cabinet would be considering this at its meeting on 14 June.

#### Scrutiny of LTP4 Consultation Successes

Cllr Middlebrough advised that the Scrutiny on the LTP4 Consultation successes was nearly finished and the Report was in the process of being drafted.

#### Crime and Disorder

Cllr Middlebrough gave an update on crime and disorder matters:

- planning for the Annual Crime and Disorder Scrutiny meeting had commenced and this year there would be a specific focus on modern day slavery and trafficking
- with regard to the Domestic Abuse Green paper and the County Council's role in response to it. Cllr Middlebrough advised that he was pleased to see that subsequent to his request, the Consultation Questionnaire had been promoted to staff and councillors via a link on the Chief Exec's update in case anyone wished to respond on an individual basis.

#### Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

At its meeting in May, the Committee received an update on Neighbourhood Teams which were one of the ways of working/work strands resulting from Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP).

The HOSC was updated on the STP at its 29 January meeting, and members were keen to continue to keep abreast of plans for services and governance stemming from the STP for Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and the impact for Worcestershire's public.

Winter pressures/urgent care would be discussed at the July meeting.

#### Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Chairman advised that at its May meeting the Panel had met the new Director of Commercial and Commissioning and the new Chief Financial Officer. In

addition the Panel had looked at What can Worcestershire County Council do to maximise income generation?

At its July meeting, the Panel would be considering the July Cabinet Report in respect of the libraries re-modelling business case.

#### Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Chairman of the Panel updated the Board in respect of the Scrutiny of overnight short breaks for children with disabilities. The Task Group's draft Report had been sent to the Cabinet Member for consideration; however it wasn't clear when the Cabinet Member decision would be made. The Chairman advised that the Worcestershire Health and Care Trust had provided some further information about bed costs for Ludlow Road but confusion remained and there was concern that 14 December 2017 Cabinet Report may not have contained accurate information.

Parents and carers had contacted the press and were requesting a further meeting with the Authority and also pursuing a Judicial Review through the High Court. The Chairman was very concerned about the accuracy of the information available to the CMR on which to base his decision and explained how difficult it had been for Scrutiny to access information to help inform the Scrutiny Process.

The Panel at its May meeting had considered Special Education Needs/Disabilities Strategy and the feedback from the Joint Local Area SEND Inspection by Ofsted and the CQC the Panel would be considering the Action Plan in July before it was submitted to Ofsted/CQC.

Also in July, the Panel was holding a meeting to discuss pupil attainment at Key Stage 2 and how all parties involved could work together to improve outcomes for the children of Worcestershire, ie a 'One Worcestershire' approach. The Panel would like to hear from those working in Key Stage 2 about good practice and how schools are working to support pupil attainment.

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm

Chairman .....



