Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Scrutiny Board

2.00 pm, 3 March 2020

Present at the meeting

**County Councillors**

Mr S Collins  
Ms C Driver  
Dr S Haraldsen  
Mr J Lister  
Mr B Wearing (Chair)  
Mr M Wilson (Vice Chair)

**Borough and District Councillors**

Mr J Kane (Copeland)  
Ms H Edwards (Barrow)  
Mr J Bainbridge (Carlisle)

Also in attendance

Mrs J Lappin – Chief Executive CLEP  
Lord R Inglewood – Chair CLEP  
Mr D Hamilton – Democratic Services Officer  
Mr D Stephens - Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Adviser

**10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr P Dew, Mrs S Evans, Mr M Hawkins, Mr J A irey, Mrs V Tarbitt and Ms C Bell (Allerdale).

**11 MEMBERSHIP**

Members were asked to note that since the last meeting of the Board Mr P Dew had been nominated Vice-chair of Scrutiny Advisory Board – Children and Young People and therefore has taken the position vacated by Mr B Shirley on both the Scrutiny Management Board and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Scrutiny Board.

**RESOLVED** that, members note the change of membership.

**12 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest on this occasion.

**13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items of business on the agenda.
14 Minutes

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 September 2019 be confirmed as an accurate and complete record with the following amendment:-

- Agenda Item 1 – Minutes - Apologies for Absence, where it says Mr S Haraldsen it should read Dr S Haraldsen.

15 2019/20 Annual Delivery Plan - Update

Members had before them a report that provided the latest update for Quarter 3 of the 2019/20 Annual Delivery Plan. The Chief Executive – CLEP provided a presentation to accompany the report, which highlighted the following key areas:-

Strategy

- Local Industrial Strategy – work had now recommenced after the uncertainty that surrounded the change of Prime Minister and the December 2019 General Election.
- Work Programme – work on developing the programme was ongoing.
- Diversity Report – had been produced and formation of Futures Forum had been agreed.
- Economic Impact Assessment of Local Growth Fund – had been completed and had recognised the evolution of the programme and its investments.
- Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone – had presented case for the baseline business rate to be re-set, which MHCLG officers had not accepted. The Chair – CLEP Board was therefore escalating this to ministerial level.

Governance

- Futures Forum – due to the high calibre of applicants 16 young people were offered a place instead of the proposed 12. They have been working on issues such as Clean Growth, Promoting Cumbria and Net Zero Carbon.
- CLEP Board – maximum membership of 20 had now been achieved – Carolyn Dodwell, Steve Cole and Lorraine Smyth joined the Board since the last meeting of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Scrutiny Board.
- AGM – was held on 27 September, LEP Scrutiny Board’s comments were fed in to Members of the Board.
- Annual Report – document was to be developed further through the year.
- Diversity and Equality – the 33% gender equality milestone was met ahead of schedule.
- Governance Improvement Plan – all actions had been completed and plan had now been signed off as completed by government.
- Board Development – a successful development day was held on 1 November 2019. Next development day was due to be held on 20 March.
Delivery

- Evaluation of Growth Catalyst – the mid-term evaluation was completed in July 2019.
- Enterprise Adviser – as of August 2019 Cumbria Careers Hub had a full complement of Advisers.
- Cumbria Infrastructure Fund (CIF) – there had been proposals identified that could utilise all remaining funding.
- Local Growth Fund – work being done to finalise the Business Cases to ensure 2019/20 allocation would be fully spent.
- Pipeline – was in development so as to ensure projects for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

A discussion took place regarding the Futures Forum whereby Members sought assurances that the applicants came from a variety of backgrounds and reflected a diversity of job type. The Chief Executive – CLEP explained that the Forum members represented a broad range of backgrounds, career types and covered the full age range. She continued by explaining that the Forum members would be presented with opportunities to develop their leadership skills that would enable them to take forward elements of the CLEP’s work package. Members were pleased to hear that those who were not successful in their application to the Futures Forum had received constructive feedback, psychometric assessments and 1-2-1 feedback and the opportunity to work with CLEP in different ways.

Members discussed the potential for the Council to support the CLEP to coordinate with a variety of youth organisations and assure that the voices of all young people are heard. The Chief Executive – CLEP welcomed this support and explained to Members that she hoped that the Futures Forum would be able to form a network, which reached out to young people through organisations like the Cumbria Youth Parliament and Carlisle Youth Ambassadors.

Members were informed that the LEP Network had appealed to government for continuation funding from the end of March 2021 to maintain the momentum of the Growth Deal Fund until the commencement of the Shared Prosperity Fund. The development of the pipeline beyond March 2021 was to ensure that there were projects in place in advance of any future funding announcement. Members asked whether projects that had not been successfully brought about previously could present their case again. The Chief Executive – CLEP answered that they could, given that whatever barrier had been holding the business case back previously, had now been resolved.

RESOLVED that, Members note the report.

16 LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY WORK PLAN - Focus on Places

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive – CLEP, which provided the information necessary to carry out a review of the development of the CLEP’s Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Work Programme. The Chair had previously requested that each LEP Scrutiny Board focus on an element of the CLEP’s LIS Work Programme and for this meeting the particular focus was on ‘Places’.
The Chief Executive – CLEP explained the campaign to reposition Cumbria in people’s perceptions emphasising, among other things, the transport links that place Cumbria in the heart of the UK within easily reachable distance of both North and South. Discussion then took place regarding the Cumbria’s success securing 9 separate place based funding arrangements (4 Future High Street Funds and 5 Town’s Deals), which will become a foundation for future place based work.

A presentation was delivered to add further detail to the report and highlighted the following key areas of the Work Programme:-

- Addressing Worklessness and Social Deprivation – mapping work to be carried out to aid in the assembling of resources and investment.
- Support Local Place Shaping – participation in all Town Deals Boards so as to develop a bespoke support offer to all Town Fund places.
- Housing – work to be done with District Councils to commission strategy delivery plan.
- Local Area Economic Diversification – rural farming; clean growth; visitor economy and advanced manufacturing were the priorities for this.
- Work with Public Sector Partners to Deliver Great Public Services – devolution opportunity.

Members stated that more needed to be done to revalue the skills of people who had been made redundant. One suggestion was that whenever there was a significant number of redundancies made there should be work done to identify and market the skills of that workforce so as to attract businesses. The Chief Executive – CLEP confirmed that in their co-ordination role, LEPs were responsible for addressing economic shocks and they were working with a number of organisations currently to help address these. Indeed, she had spoken to Ms C Driver prior to the Scrutiny Board on one such situation. Remaining on the topic of worklessness, Members asked how the LEPs work could connect with the County’s Thriving Communities strategy. The Chief Executive – CLEP replied that the work to address social deprivation was in the early stages but after the assembling of resources and investment it would become essential to understand how these strategies could connect.

A discussion took place regarding the Covid -19 outbreak and the potential implications that it could have on local business, in particular the conversation focused around the tourism industry.

A number of issues were raised regarding Cumbria’s aging workforce and the knock on effect this has had on younger people trying to gain employment with some of Cumbria’s larger employers.

Following a discussion on the question of capturing the value of remote working, the Chair – CLEP explained to Members some of the difficulties in valuing wealth created in Cumbria for business based elsewhere. The Chief Executive – CLEP informed Members of a piece of work in development that will encourage Cumbria’s largest companies to register their businesses within the county.

Members sought assurance that Newton Rigg College would be supported so that the College would be able to continue to offer its land-based sector courses and so Cumbria’s agricultural skills could be retained. The Chair – CLEP agreed that issues should be identified and support offered because the teaching of agricultural
practices was vital to the economy of the county. CLEP was engaging in the work of the FE Commissioner on this.

Members were shown the advertising material produced as part of the Our Future and Your Future campaigns which had been designed to promote the range of job opportunities available in Cumbria to both our own young people and people of all ages outside of Cumbria, respectively.

**RESOLVED** that, Members note the report.

### 17 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive – CLEP, which provided feedback on the CLEP’s Annual Performance Review.

The focus of the review was the three themes, which government assess LEP’s against – Governance, Strategy and Delivery. Members were informed that CLEP had received a ‘Good’ rating in Governance and Delivery and a ‘Requirements Met’ rating with regards to strategic impact. The Chief Executive – CLEP asked Members to note that for the Governance and Delivery themes there were four markings – Inadequate, Requires Improvement, Good and Exceptional, but that for Strategic Impact theme there were only two markings – Requirements Met or Requirements Not Met.

Members discussed the effectiveness of scrutiny and stated that their satisfaction with the progress made. The Chair – LEP Scrutiny Board commented that the level of detail provided by CLEP was helpful in providing assurance to both them and the public. It was **AGREED** that CLEP share their comments on Scrutiny arrangements from Annual Performance Review.

The Chair – CLEP welcomed this and detailed the value of scrutiny for an open and accountable organisation. The Chief Executive – CLEP added that LEPs in other areas had been in contact to ask CLEP to share details of its scrutiny arrangements.

**RESOLVED** that, Members note the report.

### 18 Developing the 2020/21 Annual Delivery Plan

At the point that the Chair of the LEP Scrutiny Board agreed the Agenda the assumption was that government would have clarified its requirements for the 2020/21 Annual Delivery Plan. However, the commissioning requirements were still to be confirmed.

In the absence of these CLEP informed Members that they had sought advice from Cities and Local Growth Unit colleagues in BEIS/MHCLG; and the LEP Network and proposed that the focus for the 2020/21 Annual Delivery Plan be similar to the 2019/20 Plan but augmented by the inclusion of a high level version of the LIS Work Programme.
RESOLVED that, Members note the report.

19 Background Briefing Papers

RESOLVED that, Members note the papers as being for information only.

20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Scrutiny Board will take place on 10 September 2020 in Conference Room A/B, Cumbria House.

The meeting ended 15:45pm