

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership held on Friday, 16 March 2018 at Redhills, Penrith at 9.30 am

Board Members Present:

George Beveridge (Chair), Giles Archibald, Jackie Arnold (Vice-Chair), John Coughlan, Colin Glover, Rob Johnston, Mike McKinley, Julie Mennell, Alan Smith, Nigel Wilkinson and Stewart Young (Vice-Chair)

In Attendance:

Graham Haywood - LEP Director
Alison Hatcher - Cumbria County Council
Jackie Currie - Cumbria County Council
Sami Falou - BEIS
Ben Pledger - BEIS

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr J Jackson.

77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr R Johnston declared a pecuniary interest under the LEP Code of Conduct in relation to Agenda Item No 10 – Business Support Model, as his organisation was one of the contractors for the Growth Hub.

Mr N Wilkinson declared a pecuniary interest under the LEP Code of Conduct in Agenda Item No 13 – Proposed 2018/19 LEP Core and Strategic Revenue Budget, in relation to the Lake District China Forum, which linked in to the Marketing Manchester China Campaign and he indicated that if this item was discussed in any detail he would leave the room.

78 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meetings held on 19 January and 28 February be agreed with the following amendments:-

19 January 2018 – Minute No 48 – Chair, add an additional paragraph at the beginning to say:-

‘Mr G Beveridge was proposed and seconded as Chair, until such time as the new Chairman was appointed. This was then put to a vote. With no members dissenting it was unanimously **RESOLVED**etc’

19 January 2018 – Minute No 52 – Update from Chair and Vice Chair, second paragraph - change the word now to NOT.

79 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR & VICE CHAIRS

The Chair updated on the following:-

- Transport for the North – the Chair had attended his last meeting of Transport for the North and had now handed over responsibility for this to Jim Jackson.
- Business Support Leadership – this had been handed over to John Coughlan.
- National Nuclear Skills – there had been an awards event last night for National Nuclear Skills. Cumbria had a very successful evening with awards in many of the categories.

The Private Sector Vice Chair updated on:-

- Recruitment of Chief Executive – a long list of candidates had been received from Penna for this role, which had then been shortlisted to 8, 4 of which had been invited for interview. Interviews were currently taking place for this, and the Vice Chair was hopeful an appointment would be made. The Vice Chair proposed that the recommendation of the selection panel would be sent to the Board members by email to avoid having to wait until the 20 April to make the appointment. This was **AGREED**.
- LEP administration team for Northern Powerhouse – Northern Powerhouse Reps were discussing the creation of a small coordination team to be funded by MHGLG
- Recruitment of Chair – the recruitment of a new Chair was proving to be a challenge. Only 1 application had been received and the decision had been made not to interview on this occasion. The Vice Chair asked the Board to consider extending the appointment of the contract with Penna to include the appointment of Chair at a cost of circa £12,500. This was **AGREED**.

The Public Sector Vice Chair updated on:-

- Carlisle Airport – he felt it was worth acknowledging the announcement about flights starting out of Carlisle Airport and the work the LEP had done to enable the development of this. This would have a significant impact on the economy of Cumbria.

Nigel Wilkinson and Julie Mennell had attended the press launch and the subsequent media posts following this had all recognised the contribution the LEP had made to this project. This was a positive outcome for the LEP.

80 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda today.

81 INVESTMENT PANEL REPORT

(A) Investment Panel Update

The Chair of the Investment panel presented a report which set out a summary of progress against the existing Growth Deal as well as other LEP Programmes. It also summarised activity at the LEP Investment Panel on 20 February 2018.

Growth Deal

Cumbria LEP had a Growth Deal funding profile of £7,123,593 for 17/18. The profiled spend for the year was £13,645,137, therefore an overspend was expected. This profiled overspend would be partly managed through repayments from the CCC Capital programme from plugging the underspend on the Growth Deal programme in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

It was clear that the profiled £2,000,000 against the Lillyhall North project in 2017/18 would not be claimed by 31 March 2018. There was also the possibility that Carlisle Airport would not have the opportunity to claim its full £4.95m. This would reduce the overspend to around £3,000,000. Any funding not claimed would need to roll forward to 2018/19.

A final year end position would be brought to the LEP Board at its meeting on 20 April 2018.

Growth Deal Cashflow

In order to provide greater flexibility in the funding available to the LEP, a formal request was submitted to the County Council asking it to allow the LEP to over programme the Growth Deal within an appropriate and acceptable level. This would allow the LEP to over-profile delivery within the Growth Deal to reduce risk of in-year underperformance, particularly in the latter years of the Programme. It would also release the CIF funding which was currently earmarked to fund planned over-profiling, to bring forward new projects which would unlock economic growth.

The County Council had confirmed that over programming would be allowed up to 20% of the annual Growth Deal profile. This was a welcome decision and would allow the Investment Panel to reprofile the CIF Programme and look at the overall Growth Deal programme.

New Projects

There were six identified Growth Deal projects without contracts in place. The status of each of these projects was outlined to the Board:-

- Carlisle Airport

- Port of Workington
- Ulverston Infrastructure
- Mark House (Whitehaven Town Centre)
- Lillyhall
- Nisi Prius

ERDF

Funding calls launched in March 2018 for a number of Priority 3 Business Support activities. These were as follows;

- £2,000,000 Business Support
- £500,000 Business Start-Up
- £500,000 Access to Finance – part of a multi-LEP area project
- £215,000 Manufacturing Support - part of a multi-LEP area project
- £500,000 International Trade – part of a multi-LEP area project

The deadline for applications was 20 April 2018. The funding call specifications had been developed to align with the new BEIS principles for business support as well as the proposed LEP procurement of business support provision.

Following the November funding call, applications were being progressed under Priority 3 to deliver a range of business premises projects. These totalled £3.5m as well as under Priority 4 Low Carbon totalling £6m and Priority 5 Flood Alleviation totalling £4.6m. Full applications were expected to be submitted by the end of May 2018.

ESF

The LEP was in the process of lobbying the DWP to extend the period of the Opt-In arrangements to ensure delivery and spend can continue after the current end date of July 2018.

Under the existing ESF contracts with the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the LEP was working with the ESFA to extend delivery wherever possible. Final details were not yet available. The Chair of the Investment Panel detailed the proposed changes for the Board.

EAFRD

Cumbria had an allocation of £9.2m of EAFRD funding aimed at supporting growth in rural areas. EAFRD was split across a number of measures, most of which were not 'open' for calls due to difficulties at the national level in identifying eligible areas of activity.

In 2016 Cumbria took the decision to allocate £1.5m of its EAFRD allocation towards projects aimed at rebuilding and creating resilience within rural infrastructure across Cumbria following the devastating floods.

The EAFRD programme remained open until 31st May 2018.

The total amounts available for applications were as follows:-

- Food processing - £1,750,000
- Rural business development - £2,831,490
- Tourism infrastructure - £3,000,000

At the time of writing, the Rural Payments Agency had only managed to successfully contract with 2 projects with a total value of £173,587. The programme traditionally had a high attrition rate, however this appeared to be exacerbated by a lack of resources available to provide development support as well as assessing applications within the RPA.

Growth Hub

The LEP had received confirmation that the funding available to provide business support would remain at 2017/18 levels for the next two financial years. The LEP was awaiting the final confirmation letter from BEIS.

Guidance had now been received which strengthened the principles of delivery including the sharing of data and target audience. This guidance would be incorporated into the forthcoming tender exercise that would be undertaken to procure LEP Growth Hub services.

The LEP Director said that he hoped the Board members found the dashboard useful and recognised the improvements of outcomes in many of the projects. A lot of effort had gone into bringing about these changes.

The BEIS Deputy Director commented that the Government was pleased with the progress of delivery of the projects and he felt that the dashboard was a very useful tool to show the progress of outcomes.

Members felt that a communications plan was needed to advertise the work done by the LEP. both in bringing the projects to fruition and also the funding provided to enable the projects to go ahead.

The LEP Director said that the intention had been to bring the Communication Plan to this meeting, but due to the deferred items from the last meeting being added to the agenda it was decided not to bring this today. He **AGREED** to circulate the report to Board members next week for comment (**Action: GH**).

The Chair confirmed that meetings had been held recently with all Cumbria MP's and the feedback from each of these meetings had been very positive. It had been agreed that regular meetings would be held with them in future to keep them updated on LEP issues.

The LEP Director said that the aim was to hold similar meetings in the near future with key business leaders in the county.

RESOLVED that, the report be received and noted.

(B) Kingmoor Park Application

The Chair of the Investment Panel presented a report which outlined a request for grant funding to Kingmoor Park Properties Ltd (KPPL), the private sector owner of the Kingmoor Park to encourage take up and development of plots at the Enterprise Zone.

The full business case for the project had been assessed by KPMG and Due Diligence had been undertaken by Cumbria County Council. The KPMG report was not available at the Investment Panel which was reflected in the project conditions. The project was recommended for approval subject to the Contract Conditions identified at the end of the document.

Formerly an MOD site until its acquisition in 1999, Kingmoor Park had been an important economic strategic employment site for Carlisle and Cumbria and was now home to more than 100 businesses and providing more than 2,000 jobs on site. Since gaining its EZ status in 2015, Kingmoor Park was aiming to build on this success, and the remaining land on site had the capacity to more than double the existing development of the site, transforming Kingmoor Park into one of the most important employment sites in Cumbria. CIF investment would help accelerate this potential, encouraging infrastructure investment by KPPL, unlocking a key development site, attracting new business and creating jobs on a large scale.

The Chair of the Investment Panel explained that financing of the programme would be undertaken by a combination of KPPL private finance and the proposal for a £1.5m grant facility from Carlisle City Council to KPPL financed via CIF. This would be managed via a grant agreement between the two which would include the principle that the CIF forward funding would be repaid by the City Council from retained business rates generated from new occupiers on the EZ collected and retained by the City Council on behalf of Cumbria LEP, with the intention that this was repaid by the end of the 5-year programme (end of March 2023).

The KPMG assessment was not available in time for the Investment Panel and this was reflected in the project conditions. The report had now been received and the LEP Director took members through the details of the report and also detailed the due diligence carried out by KPMG in relation to this..

The Investment Panel met on the 20 February 2018 to consider the project. The risks to the project were discussed, the conditions in the Due Diligence considered and final conditions agreed.

The Investment Panel **RECOMMENDED** to the Board the approval of £1.5m investment in the CIF073 Kingmoor Park project to be delivered by Carlisle City Council and Kingmoor Park Properties Ltd subject to conditions identified in the report.

Members asked for clarification on the risk involved with this project and whether this was loan or a grant.

The Senior Manager – Economic Development confirmed that it was neither a loan nor a grant, but was classed as ‘Forward Funding’. She then explained how this funding would work, and confirmed that this project had been assessed as ‘low risk’.

One of the members asked questions about the due diligence carried out by KPMG. The Senior Manager – Economic Development confirmed that KPMG had carried out due diligence following the Investment Panel meeting, and had confirmed the project met the criteria.

RESOLVED that the Board approve the Kingmoor Park project subject to the identified conditions.

82 **RESPONSE TO THE S4W INDEPENDENT REVIEW**

The LEP Director presented a report which asked the Board to agree their response to the S4W report.

The BEIS Deputy Director explained that nationally the LEP was part of the Mary Ney Review, commissioned by Melanie Dawes, the Permanent Secretary for DCLG. On publication of the review www.gov.uk a series of recommendations were made on how LEP’s could improve their governance and transparency processes as well as recommendations to Government on how they could improve their guidance to assist LEPs in implementing these processes.

In response to this a ‘deep dive’ was carried out in Cumbria last week, and a number of issues were raised, including:-

- Succession planning for the Chair and Chief Executive posts
- S4W Review – Government was keen to see the timing for implementation of this
- Issues around membership of the board
- Updated website
- Register of Interests
- Availability of LEP minutes

Prior to the Ney Review the LEP Board commissioned and paid for the Independent Review of the LEP Organisation and Governance conducted by S4W. The completed report was received in late December and considered informally by the Board on the 19 January 2018. The draft response attached to the report was based on the discussions at that meeting and took into account comments from 2 Board members that responded to the circulation of the Draft response to all Board members several weeks ago. The final draft was attached for Board approval or amendment.

The Board accepted that it was deficient on private sector membership but would prefer the new Chair to be in place before any further appointments were made.

The Deputy Director accepted this but reaffirmed that the Board was not currently compliant with guidance/best practice, and asked for timescales on when this might be achieved.

The Board confirmed that this would be done quickly once the new Chair had been appointed. The Board were keen to ensure Cumbria LEP was compliant in all required areas as soon as possible. This was noted by the Deputy Director.

The LEP Director confirmed that the LEP website had now been relaunched and all papers and minutes available for public inspection. The register of interests had all been updated and compliance had now been met on this.

The LEP Director then took members through the recommendations contained within the report.

Recommendation 1 – Strategic Economic Plan - Cumbria LEP should commission a refresh of SEP with a focused and wide engagement of all partners with the objective of identifying clear strategic priorities that can help to drive economic growth and maximise partner buy in. If this is commissioned and delivered in an inclusive way it could help provide a focus for strategic re-set of Cumbria LEP activities and those of partners. It will be important for any refresh to be set in the context of the new Industrial Strategy but given that the latter is likely to be published in October/November this is likely to be consistent with the timescale for commissioning a SEP refresh.

Members supported this recommendation.

Recommendation 2 – Board Structure - Local Government in future have fewer probably 2 Board places allocated, with the task of representing all Local Government perspectives, not just their own. The Leaders board should be given responsibility for making nominations on Board membership for a recommended 2 year term. This would allow space for an additional seat to be filled by e.g. FE, NHS, or Nuclear.

The Board should be expanded to allow the private sector to have 2 additional places in order to provide a platform for a stronger private sector voice. An active process of recruitment of these 2 additional private sector seats should be an open one but with an emphasis on actively recruiting “the best of all talents” of Cumbrian businesses.

This was debated in detail and upon conclusion of the discussions it was agreed to increase the Board to 10 private sector and 7 public sector, by adding ‘nuclear’ to the Public sector representatives and recruiting 4 new private sector Board members.

The District Councils again raised their concerns with the number of public sector representatives on the Board, and these concerns were noted. The LEP Board did not agree with the suggestion of 6 seats for all the district councils to have a member as they felt this would make the board unwieldy and ineffective. However, it was **AGREED** that all 6 districts and other key partners would be invited to all Board Away Days.

Members supported this recommendation.

Recommendation 3 – Stronger Executive Capacity – that the LEP Partners review their ability to act as Host employer and provide some degree of continuity to allow a core staff team to be established to be employed beyond the present annual contracting framework, including a new Chief Executive. This could potentially be from Local Government, the Chamber of Commerce, Cumbria University or National Park Authority. In setting Budget for 2017/18 financial year, the LEP should establish a core staff to cover responsibility for key functions.

Members supported this recommendation.

Recommendation 4 – Transparency of Decision Making Cumbria LEP should ensure that the Assurance Framework was widely disseminated amongst partners and that briefings were actively held to ensure full understanding of their meaning and that any significant issues raised be subject to review. In this context it should provide guidance on areas where it may not be appropriate to hold a vote amongst Board Members and where issues needed to be deferred.

Many Board members noted the induction process onto the Board could be significantly strengthened to give them a greater insight to what the LEP does but also the process, rules and obligations on being a Board Member. Many previous (and indeed current) Board Members felt this process was weak.

It would also be good practice to debrief all Board Members leaving the Board for their feedback on experiences and any recommendations they may offer

Members supported this recommendation.

Recommendation 5 – Conflicts of Interest – it was recommended that Cumbria LEP develop a bespoke and specific Conflicts of Interest Policy for both pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest based on best practice.

Members supported this recommendation.

RESOLVED that the Board approve

- (1) the final response to the S4W Recommendations, with the amendments highlighted above
- (2) agree to publish the S4W report and the LEP response on the LEP website
- (3) circulate and publicise the LEP response to partners and stakeholders

83 **SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Chair felt that due to the implications of this report it would be better to defer this item until such time as the 'deep dive' report was received. This was **AGREED**.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred pending the receipt of the 'deep dive' report.

84 PRESENTATION FROM THE GROWTH HUB

The LEP received a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive of Cumbria Chamber of Commerce. The presentation covered the following areas:-

- Cumbria Business Growth Hub
- Topline statistics for Cumbria
- Chamber initiatives
- Partner initiatives
- LEP Business Support
- L:EP clients
- Collaborative working
- Making it Happen
- Challenges delivering ERDF

The Chair thanked the Deputy Chief Executive for her informative presentation.

85 BUSINESS SUPPORT MODEL

Mr R Johnston left the meeting.

Mr R Johnston declared a pecuniary interest under the LEP Code of Conduct in relation to Agenda Item No 10 – Business Support Model, as his organisation was one of the current contractors for the Growth Hub

The LEP Director presented a report which updated the Board on the discussions held with BEIS and other partners across the North and locally on a new model for business support as part of the Government's Industrial Strategy. Funding from BEIS to LEP for delivery of business support activity had been confirmed for the period April 2018 to March 2020.

The report provided some background on the current business support activity and proposed a way forward for deployment of the LEP business support funding.

The LEP Director took members through the detail of the current contract.

The final year of the contract required the Chamber to engage with the BEIS-funded National Support Business Helpline which would provide further value-for-money via the provision of an additional referral service. Despite protracted negotiations between BEIS, the LEP/Accountable Body and the Chamber (with the Chamber requesting numerous changes to the Data Sharing Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding), it was not possible to reach an agreement due to the Chamber's trademarking issues. The crux of this matter rested in the BEIS use of the trademarked terms "Cumbria Growth Hub", "Growth Hub" and "The Hub". BEIS used the term Growth Hub to refer to business support services they funded through LEPs.

The Chamber of Commerce had raised a number of concerns with the LEP and the Accountable Body, who had then referred it on to BEIS. Unfortunately BEIS had been unable to resolve the concerns.

Whilst the forming of the relationship was a contractual obligation the Accountable Body did not penalise the Chamber as clearly the issue of trademarking and data sharing required further thought and effort to resolve.

Given the issues relating to ownership of the term it was prudent that the LEP now procured business support services under a generic, trademark free term. This would prevent issues of ownership during the LEP procurement but BEIS would still require use of their standard Data sharing agreement, which was used nationally and the LEP would need to require all bidders to be aware that this was the form of agreement they would have to sign.

Following consultations over the last 12 months with the BEIS Growth Hub teams, both at national LEP Growth Hub meetings, on an individual BEIS to LEP basis and as part of the Northern Powerhouse Growth Hub group (comprising BEIS, DCLG, 11 LEP's and two providers), Cumbria LEP had created a draft business support delivery model for a post-March 2018 support programme. This draft model had also been discussed at the September 2017 and January 2018 Cumbria LEP Business Support Group meetings with agreement from the group that the delivery should be face-to-face, one-to-one delivery with the ability to refer to local, national and international support which could be publicly or private sector funded. The LEP Business Support group also expressed the view that supporting non-ERDF sectors was a continuing priority and most appropriate use of the BEIS funding whilst ERDF funding was still available.

One of the Board members asked whether it would be possible to add a request for innovative ideas to come forward from the bidders. The LEP Director said he would be happy to include this in the specification. This was **AGREED**.

Board members asked if one of the conditions of receiving the money for this was that more than one supplier had to be invited to bid. The LEP Director confirmed this was open to contract procedure rules and had to be open and transparent, with a number of companies invited to bid. This was part of the contract procedure regulations.

RESOLVED that,

- (1) the Board agrees to the procurement of a package of business support utilising the funding allocation to Cumbria LEP from BEIS for the period 2018/19 to 2019/20. The procurement will be undertaken by the Accountable Body on behalf of the LEP
- (2) that delegated authority is given to the LEP Director to finalise the tender specification in consultation with BEIS and the S151 Officer to ensure compliance with BEIS funding requirements and the funding principles outlined at para 5.1 and in Appendix 1 and following the open event described at 6.2;
- (3) that a Panel comprising Lead Private Sector Member for Business Support (John Coughlan), LEP Director and representation from the Accountable Body is assembled to evaluate bids;

- (4) the Board agrees to make the final decision on the award of contract, following presentation of the tender assessment report by the LEP Director;
- (5) the Board note the data of current performance at Appendix 3 of the report;
- (6) the LEP thanks the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and its staff for the delivery of the business support over the last 3 years, and would extend that thanks to the bank of self-employed local and regional advisors involved in this delivery.

86 **TRANSPORT CONSULTATIONS - RESPONSE TO DFT'S MAJOR ROAD NETWORK AND TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH'S STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN**

Mr R Johnston returned to the room at this point.

The LEP Director presented a report which sought LEP Board approval to a joint LEP and Cumbria County Council response to two strategic transport consultations. The draft responses at Appendix 1 and 2 related to:

- a) DfT's consultation on the creation of a Major Road Network
- b) Transport for the North's consultation on the draft Strategic Transport Plan.

There were two major consultations currently being undertaken. The first concerns DfT's proposals for the creation of a Major Road Network and Transport for the North's draft Strategic Transport Plan.

These strategic transport consultations were important and it was proposed to submit a joint LEP and County Council response to these consultations.

The draft responses were considered at the meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Group on 2d February 2018, and the Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the draft responses be approved by the LEP Board.

The Leader of Cumbria County Council said the final response would be agreed at the County Council's 'Cabinet on 22 March.

The LEP Director had received comments from a couple of Board members. He asked all board members to contact him in the next few days if they had any further comments to be included.

RESOLVED that the LEP board agrees:

- (1) the proposed response to the DfT consultation on proposals to create a Major Road Network attached at Appendix 1 of the report;

- (2) the proposed response to the Transport for the North consultation on the draft Strategic Transport Plan attached at Appendix 2 of the report.

87 LEP CORE AND STRATEGIC REVENUE BUDGET UPDATE ON 2017/18 BUDGET

The LEP Director presented a report which provided the Board with an update on the 2017/18 budget position on the LEP's core and strategic funding spend for 2017/18 as at 31 January 2018.

The outturn position for the LEP core funding as at 31 January was an underspend of £0.096m and a potential underspend of £0.051m for the strategic funding.

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

88 PROPOSED 2018/19 LEP CORE AND STRATEGIC REVENUE BUDGET

Mr N Wilkinson declared a possible pecuniary interest under the LEP Code of Conduct in this item in relation to the Lake District China Forum, which linked in to the Marketing Manchester China Campaign and he indicated that if this item was discussed in any detail he would leave the room.

The LEP Director presented a report which provided details of the proposed 18/19 LEP core and strategic budget.

The LEP had yet to receive confirmation for the core and strategic funding for 2018/19 from Government. This had been requested from BEIS, alongside the funding conditions that would be attached to the grant. The draft budget had been set on the assumption that the LEP would receive the same funding as in previous years and it would be paid as a S31 grant payment to the County Council who acted as the Accountable Body.

The LEP had received the annual letter from Government confirming LEP Core Funding for the next two years (2018/19 and 2019/20). The multiyear letter was in response to LEP requests across the country for more certainty over funding to allow LEPs to capitalise on opportunities they may experience.

The letter identified support for £0.500m per annum for the next two financial years. As with previous years this must be match funded locally to a minimum of £0.250m.

Funding would be provided at the start of the financial year. This would be contingent on compliance with the LEP National Assurance Framework being met and confirmation that the relevant recommendations of the Mary Ney review had been implemented.

The Accountable Body's Section 151 Officer was required to confirm in writing that compliance with the above had taken place, and this letter had now been sent to Government.

Members asked that when contracts were renewed for 2018-19 that they include a one month notice period to enable the new Chair and new Chief Executive to have flexibility to review current arrangements. . This was **AGREED**.

The Leader of Cumbria County Council raised the issue of the agreement currently in place for the use of the LEP building. He would take this back to the County Council for clarification (**Action: SY**).

RESOLVED that the Board approve the proposed 2018/19 core and strategic LEP budget.

89 FORWARD PLANNER (STANDING ITEM)

It was **AGREED** that the following items be added to the Forward Planner:-

Friday 18 May 2018 (Ordinary Meeting)

- LEP Communications Plan
- LEP and the Accountable Body Relationship

90 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cumbria LEP Chair

George Beveridge announced that he would be stepping down from the role of Chair at the end of March. He had originally agreed to stay on until such time as the new Chair was appointed, but this had taken longer than expected and was unlikely to have been completed by the end of March.

Although the last few months had been difficult he had enjoyed 7 years as the Chair of the LEP and was very proud of everything that had been achieved in that time. The Private Sector Vice Chair had agreed to take over the role of Chair for LEP meetings in the meantime, until such time as the new Chair was appointed.

All the Board members thanked George for what he had achieved during his time in office. They wished him well for the future.

91 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 20 April 2018 at Redhills, Penrith at 9.30am.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm