



Executive Board – 18 February 2018

Minutes for the Midlands Engine Executive Board

Attendees:

| Name | Position |
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| Sir John Peace (SJP) | Chairman of the Board. |
| Anthony May (AM) | Chair Midland Engine Operating Board. Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council. |
| Fiona Piercy (FP) | Midlands Engine Programme Director. |
| Maria Machancoses (MM) | Midlands Connect Programme Director. |
| Ian Curryer (IC) | Midlands Engine SRO and Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council. |
| Cllr Jon Collins (JC) | East Midlands Councils. Leader, Nottingham City Council. |
| Cllr Barry Lewis (BL) | East Midlands Councils. Leader, Derbyshire County Council |
| Cllr Martin Hill (MH) | East Midlands Councils. Leader, Lincolnshire County Council |
| Cllr Nicholas Rushton (NR) | East Midlands Councils. Leader, Leicestershire County Council. |
| Cllr Philip Atkins (PA) | West Midlands Councils. Leader, Staffordshire County Council. |
| Cllr Simon Geraghty (SG) | West Midlands Councils. Leader, Worcestershire County Council. |
| Professor Paul Boyle (PB) | Midlands Innovation Universities. Vice Chancellor, University of Leicester. |
| Kevin Harris (KH) | East Midlands LEPs. Chair, Leicester and Leicestershire LEP. |
| Gayle Aughton (GA) | Midlands Engine, Senior Executive Officer |

Observers:

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| Rowena Limb (RL) | HMG Regional Director, Cities and Local Growth. |
| Simon Hall (SH) | HMG Regional Director, Department for International Trade. |
| BBC Radio Derby | |

Guests:

| Name | Position |
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Apologies:

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| Mark Stansfeld (MS) | West Midlands LEPs. Chair, Worcestershire LEP. |
| Professor Edward Peck (EP) | Midlands Enterprise Universities. Vice Chancellor, Nottingham Trent University. |
| Cllr Ian Ward (IW) | West Midland Councils. Leader, Birmingham City Council. |
| Andy Street (AS) | West Midlands Councils. Mayor, WMCA. |

| Item | Narrative | Deadline |
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| 1 | Introduction & apologies | |
| | <p>The Chairman welcomed members to the Midlands Engine Executive Board.</p> <p>1.1 There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies noted above.</p> | |
| 2 | Approval of minutes | |
| | <p>2.1 Approval of the Minutes</p> <p>The Board approved the Minutes from the meeting held 22 November 2018 without amendment.</p> <p>2.1 Matter arising</p> <p>None recorded.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members of the Board and invited members to consider the alignment of priorities and provided an update on the work of Midlands Connect.</p> <p>Members reported a successful meeting with the Secretary for State for Transport and reported the Secretary of State demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of the needs within the Midlands and members should be reassured that transport projects are being seen as important by Government.</p> <p>The Chair and members of the Board felt there is much work is still needed to ensure the Midlands as the largest economic region outside of London, and the importance that the Midlands in receiving its fair share of investment. The Chair further commented that without this investment to grow the Midlands economy, limits will be placed on the contribution the Midlands will be able to make to the UK overall.</p> <p>The Chair invited members to reflect and comment on their thoughts and priorities in relation to the current uncertainty around the UK departure from Europe.</p> <p>Representatives from the Universities commented on their priority concerns in relation to current uncertainties. Members aired concerns around European students and European supported programmes. The Chair offered an opportunity to review the role Midlands Engine can play in supporting universities.</p> <p>LEP representatives commented on the concerns of business and Board members acknowledged that disorderly exit from the European remains a huge concern for all.</p> <p>Members commented on the importance of working collegiality to ensure any resulting economic shock is essential.</p> | |

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| 3 | Internationalisation EB2.2 | |
| | <p>The Chair invited AM to provide an update on the Internationalisation Strategy.</p> <p>It was reported that the Rt Hon. James Brokenshire MP will be supporting the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Maharashtra and great progress has been made with China with conversations with Treasury and DIT taking place. The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP had acknowledged the support that this strategy would have on the SME sector and it was reported that Baroness Fairhead had met with the Chair and remains supportive of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed the support of the Mayor from the West Midlands Combined Authority and asked members for their thoughts and views.</p> <p>Members of the Board endorsed the Internationalisation Strategy.</p> | |
| 4 | Supply Chain EB2.3 | |
| | <p>The Chair invited AM to present to the Board a paper in respect of the Supply Chain Initiative.</p> <p>Members commented on the importance of support to business and discussed how the MEIF could support the delivery of the Supply Chain initiative.</p> <p>The Board endorsed further dialogue with regard to the Supply Chain initiative between the Midland Engine and Treasury.</p> | |
| 5 | Midlands Engine Economic Observatory EB2.4 | |
| | <p>The Chair invited FP to present an update on the Midlands Engine Economic Observatory. Members made the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LA areas need to be identified in the data set • Dashboard needs to demonstrate Midlands Data against a comparator <p>Members observed the importance of having robust economic data for the Midlands is.</p> <p>The Board approved the principles on how commissions to the MEEO will be made and requested and recommended this Board to be kept updated.</p> | |
| 6 | Accountable Body EB3.1 | |
| | <p>The Chair invited IC to share the report of the Midlands Engine Accountable Body.</p> <p>Members noted good progress in gathering in partner contributions was reported alongside a positive Governance review.</p> | |

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| 7 | Governance EB3.2 | |
| | <p>The Board approved the appointment of the new Chair of the LLLEP as representative for the East Midlands LEPs to this Board.</p> <p>The Board also approved the co-opting of the Chair of the Midlands Engine Business Forum and appointment of the Chief Executive of Worcestershire LEP to the Midlands Engine Operating Board.</p> | |
| 8 | Programme Directors Update EB3.3 | |
| | <p>The Chair invited FP to provide members with an update on Programme Delivery.</p> <p>FP presented an update to Board members highlighting the progress and key risks.</p> <p>Members welcomed the update and agreed with the proposed next steps for programme delivery.</p> | |
| 9 | Any Other Business | |
| | No items of other business received. | |
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| | <p>Dates of next meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Board will be 17 June 2019, West Midlands, venue to be confirmed.</p> | |