

NORTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday 16 September 2015 at 5.00pm

Special Meeting held at Watson Burton, St James' Gate, Newcastle

MINUTES

Present:

Paul Woolston	Chair, NELEP
Michael Bellamy	PII Pipeline Solutions
Gillian Hall	Watson Burton
Jeremy Middleton	Middleton Enterprises
Paul Varley	Oddballs

In Attendance:

Helen Golightly	LEP Chief Operating Officer
Adam Wilkinson	Head of Paid Service, NECA
Paul Woods	Chief Financial Officer, NECA
Gillian Kelly	Sunderland City Council

Apologies

Dr Arnab Basu	Kromek
Andrew Hodgson	SMD North Tyneside
David Land	Drive 2 Business
Gill Southern	Wessington Cryogenics
Councillor Grant Davey	Leader, Northumberland County Council
Councillor Nick Forbes	Leader, Newcastle City Council
Councillor Simon Henig	Leader, Durham County Council
Councillor Mick Henry	Leader, Gateshead Council
Councillor Iain Malcolm	Leader, South Tyneside Council
Mayor Norma Redfearn	North Tyneside Council
Councillor Paul Watson	Leader, Sunderland City Council
Professor Peter Fidler	University of Sunderland
Anne Isherwood	Association of North East Colleges

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

The Chair advised that the leaders and elected mayor had fully discussed the proposal which was being presented to the LEP Board at the North East Leadership Board meeting the previous day and it had been agreed that it was not necessary for them to attend today's meeting.

The Leadership Board had agreed the proposal. The Monitoring Officer at the Combined Authority advised that the decision would need to be quorate and would be followed up after the meeting.

2. NORTH EAST ENTERPRISE ZONE ROUND 2 PROPOSAL

The Board received a report setting out a proposal which had been developed by the North East LEP and the North East Combined Authority in response to the Government's Round 2 call for Enterprise Zone sites.

Helen Golightly advised that the application had to be submitted to the Government by noon on Friday 18 September. The criteria indicated that preference would be given to proposals which:

- Involve smaller towns, places and districts, and/or clearly identified LEP top growth priority(ies);
- Are commercially viable and will deliver sustainable growth;
- Offer value for money;
- Can be implemented and delivered, with sites brought to the market in a planned way;
- Have a benefit to cost ratio exceeding 1;
- Have robust governance and delivery structures.

A working group comprising of the North East LEP, the North East Combined Authority and BIS representatives had reviewed and developed the submission and had been supported by Cushman and Wakefield (formerly DTZ) in financial modelling and identifying the potential growth and infrastructure requirements.

It was expected that once the bid was submitted, it would be in a competitive situation nationally and it was understood that the Enterprise Zone announcement would be made at the end of November, aligned with the Government's Spending Review.

Having considered the report, **the Board RESOLVED that the approach for a single bid, multi-site approach for a new Enterprise Zone in the North East be approved.**

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - There were no other items of business.

4. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting would be held on **Thursday 24 September 2015** at **5.00pm** at the CDP Centre, The Core, Science City.