

## **Business Board: Minutes**

(Draft minutes published on 1 December 2023)

Date: 13 November 2023

Time: 2:30pm – 4:13pm

Present: Al Kingsley (Chair), Andy Neely (Vice-Chair), Tina Barsby, Mike Herd, Mayor Dr Nik Johnson, Councillor Anna Smith, Rebecca Stephens and Dr Andy Williams.

### **1.1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence were received from Nitin Patel. No declarations of interest were made.

### **1.2 Minutes – 4 September 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2023 were approved as a correct record and the action log was noted.

### **1.3 Appointment of New Private Sector Members on the Business Board**

The Chair confirmed that the Business Board had appointed five new members:

- Katy Davies (Managing Director, Shift Momentum)
- Sam Bakri (Executive Chairman, Celex Oncology)
- Charlotte Horobin (Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce)
- Barnaby Perks Director, Cambridge Ignition, and
- Andy Williams Director, (Andy Williams consultancy)

The Chair thanked Belinda Clarke for all her hard work and contributions to the Business Board since she joined in January 2022.

During discussion, the following points were raised and responded to by officers:

- 16 applications were received, with eight candidates interviewed.
- A recruitment campaign would run early next year to fill the remaining positions, targeted at identified priority insights and areas of expertise.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- Note the appointment of new private sector members of the Business Board
- Note the resignation of Business Board private sector member, Belinda Clarke (with effect from 30 November 2023).

### **2.1 Combined Authority Forward Planning**

The Chair asked members of the Business Board to identify any priority topics for future discussions for the Board with officers.

### **2.2 Business Board Chair's Update**

The Chair updated the meeting on the on-going work refining the governance of the Board and how it linked to the wider work of the Combined Authority. The Business Board now had representatives on all of the Combined Authority Thematic Committees. Future meetings needed to identify space for reporting back to enable the highlighting of key issues for the Board. To maximise impact,

the timing of the Business Board meetings in the committee cycle would also need to be adjusted.

In addition, the content of agenda packs should also signpost appropriately where topics had already been discussed at other committees.

The representation would need to be revisited to take account of the new Business Board Members.

### 2.3 **CPCA Director's Update**

The Executive Director for Economy and Growth updated the Board on some key national and local issues. These included:

- An upcoming meeting of the M10 Mayors (the ten MCA areas across the country including Cambridgeshire & Peterborough) with Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to discuss the Level 4 Framework and devolution (essentially deeper devolution based on the Greater Manchester and West Midlands Trailblazer Pilots - this could open up an opportunity for a further devolution deal).
- Announcements during party conference season relating to the cancellation of HS2 phase 2, releasing transport funding for other strategic initiatives, including Ely Junction; a lot of work being done by the Mayor to consolidate and embed the commitment and to secure funding and enable implementation.
- An expected announcement about Cambridge 2040 in the Autumn Statement.
- One of our Life Sciences Forum sessions that secured Peter Freeman, the lead adviser on Cambridge 2040 to the Secretary of State, including a presentation from the Executive Director to him and the wider Forum, on the role of the Combined Authority, its narrative and its potential contribution moving forwards.
- A successful Combined Authority Climate Summit on 9 November 2023.
- An outline of new trade and investment work, including work with the OxCam Partnership and Department for Business and Trade, and a decision to take space in the form of a pavilion at UKREiiF, a property and investment conference that is seen as the UK's equivalent to MIPIM, providing an opportunity to pitch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Executive Director emphasised the importance of involving Business Board members in conversations around all of the Combined Authority's key priorities in order to position the Combined Authority in a state of readiness ahead of the next general election. He confirmed that engagement was taking place with all political parties and it was important that Business Board Members and their networks were used to help pitch the area intelligently, enabling us to respond effectively to the outcome.

It was also reported that bringing Growth Works to an end and the transition into a more in-house team, alongside closer collaboration with the local authorities, was making good progress and in hand. Existing relationships would continue to be utilised where possible and there would be actions taken to seek to ensure continuity of inward investment.

### 3.1 **Budget and Performance**

The Business Board received the report which provided an update of the financial position for 2023/24 and analysis against the 2023/24 budgets, up to the period ending September 2023.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- Note the financial position of the Business Division for the financial year 23/24 to September 2023.

### 3.2 **Growth Works - Management Update to Year 3, Quarter 11 (to September 2023)**

The Business Board received a report on latest performance data from the Growth Works Programme for the reporting period to 30th September 2023 (Quarter 11 since programme began). The Board was updated on progress being made on the Exit Strategy to wind down the Growth Works Programme at contract end in December 2023, including the transfer of any staff, activities, pipeline data and assets over to the Combined Authority.

During discussion of the report, the following points were raised and responded to by officers:

- A closure report would be sought from the contractor, upon receipt of which an impact evaluation would be carried out.
- The final version of the ERDF assessment would be shared with Board members, a deep dive evaluation of the businesses that took advantage of the ERDF grants.
- Officers agreed with the suggestion to invite some companies to talk to the Business Board about their experiences
- The Growth Hub team (four officers) had transferred to the Combined Authority and there was funding to increase the size of that team from April. The six roles for the new Economy Team would be going out to recruitment soon.
- By bringing things in house, the potential to build key relationships with employers in terms of brokerage would be critical.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- Note the Growth Works Programme & Performance Update to Year 3, Quarter 11 (to 30 September 2023)
- Note the draft Growth Works Programme Exit Plan (to the contract end on 31 December 2023)

### 3.3 **University of Peterborough Update**

The Business Board received a report updating them on progress with the development and delivery of Anglia Ruskin University Peterborough.

During discussion of the report, the following points were raised and responded to by officers:

- Phase 2 building was completed six months ago, originally with the intention of Photocentric using a substantial amount of the space. The university was reaching out to local businesses to fill the space in the best way. If Business Board members wanted to put anyone in touch enquiries could go through Savilles or through Jim Cunningham at the Combined Authority.
- More detail would be brought to a future meeting of the Business Board to feedback on student number metrics: where they were from, whether they were staying or where they were going on to (metrics being discussed with Ross Renton and his team).
- It was requested that regular updates be provided to the Board on the University's performance and impact metrics.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- Note the contents of the report and comment on how the work of the Business Board could be further aligned to support the University's and partners' ambitions to maximise the economic impact of ARU Peterborough.

#### 4.1 **Business Board Forward Plan**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 15 January 2024, and the Business Board noted the Forward Plan.

#### **AOB**

Mayor Dr Nik Johnson expressed his interest in working with the Business Board as part of the development of the cultural strategy for the area. Mike Herd suggested the importance of engaging with ARU in Cambridge too, as part of this work. The Executive Director confirmed a lot of work has already been done to map the creative and cultural industries cluster working with Creative UK and DCMS and a joint working group was being established to develop a strategic initiative with the MCA. This initiative would feature as part of the strategy development work. This work would come to a future Board meeting.

Chair  
15 January 2024