



Humber LEP Ltd - Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 17th July 2020 via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Board Members Directors

Stephen Parnaby OBE (Chair)
 Stephen Savage (Vice Chair)
 Isobel Mills CBE
 Darren Cunningham
 Councillor Richard Burton
 Brendan Conlan
 Professor Susan Lea
 Jo Smedley
 Anne Tyrrell
 Simon Bird
 Sallyann Garrard - Hughes
 Kirsten Bolton
 Councillor Stephen Brady OBE
 Chris Haskins
 Councillor John Fenty

Co-opted members

David Kilburn
 Ian Plunkett

Observers

Andrew Battarbee - BEIS
 Alan Menzies
 Mark Jones MBE

Secretariat

Kishor Tailor - Humber LEP
 Richard Kendall - Humber LEP
 Teresa Chalmers - Humber LEP
 Caroline Sansam - Humber LEP

226 Apologies

Tim Rix CBE (Vice Chair)
 Dr Paul Sewell OBE

227 Declarations of Interest

The Chair declared an interest in agenda item 7a and suggested that this item be taken at the end of the meeting and he would exit the meeting at this point.

228 Minutes of Meeting Held on 22nd May and Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as accurate.

Matters Arising:

Minute 217 - KT reported that further information on transitional arrangements would be provided as part of the LEP priorities discussion.

Minute 218 – KT reported that Growth Hub Infographics were being worked up, to ensure businesses had easy to follow advice on how to claim help and financial support.

Minute 219 - the Government was expected to make some announcements around Apprenticeship provision, see link for details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rishis-plan-for-jobs-will-help-britain-bounce-back>

229 Chair's Report

The Chair updated the Board on the activities he had undertaken since being appointed as Chair of Humber LEP, he had met all Board directors, local authority leaders, MPs, and Business organisations including the Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce, CBI, FSB and others. He thanked the Board for their involvement in the 1:1 meetings and reported that the exercise had been rewarding and worthwhile and the input from the Board members and external organisations and stakeholders was overwhelmingly positive. The focus of the meetings had been to secure input into the future priorities and the work of the Humber LEP. The Chair outlined the main priorities based on these discussions and explained that he was keen to keep the number of priorities small and focused. A long list of priorities identified was set out in the paper and he reminded the Board that their consideration on future priorities was essential. In addition, the Chair outlined the headlines that had emerged from his discussions with Board members.

The Chair asked the Board to delegate authority to him and the Vice Chairs to review the work of the Sub Boards in terms of what additional expertise and business involvement may be required going forward.

The Board agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chairs to review the work of the Sub Boards.

230 Chief Executive's Report

KT briefed the Board on the Government's response regarding Devolution and the transitional arrangements for future bidding for regeneration resources. Their views were reproduced in his paper.

A discussion took place and the following points were raised:

- Considerations on the type of pan Humber body that would emerge
- The Humber LEP's involvement in working out the transition
- What confidence was there that Greater Lincolnshire LEP would consider the same priorities as the Humber
- The Humber region and particularly the South Bank could miss out as a result of these changes
- Being positive about what can be achieved across the Humber as all concerned parties agree that a Humber body should emerge.

- How to ensure South Bank projects receive funding
- Further discussions with Ministers at BEIS may be required
- Greater Lincolnshire LEP had not engaged in dialogue with South Bank businesses.
- Needing collaboration and dialogue in place as the pan Humber relationships are important.
- Imperative to move forward positively
- Focus should be on Energy/Decarbonisation, Flooding and Freeport and doing these well to ensure success.

JF agreed to raise some of these concerns with Greater Lincolnshire LEP and report back to the Board.

KT reported on the impact of Covid-19 on the labour market and referred Board members to the detailed report that was set out at appendix 1. Some of the challenges and issues were discussed and it was noted that there had been an unprecedented increase in the claimant count which has surpassed that seen at the peak of the last recession. The LEP is working with DWP in developing responses. SS stated that this was why the work of the ESB was so critical at this time.

An update on the Humber's Freeport bid was given and it was noted that the Government's consultation had closed on 13 July. KT reported that the LEP continued to engage with public and private sector partners on the development of a Humber Freeport approach, in advance of the Government inviting bids. KT reported that there would be a visionary document setting out what the Humber Freeport would look like and this would be followed up with the development of a detailed bidding document once the guidance was released. There was agreement that the LEP should inform government what a Freeport should look like in the Humber. Support for the bid was discussed and it was noted that Greater Lincolnshire LEP was supportive of the Humber's bid as were other surrounding hinterland areas.

231 LEP Priorities

KT reported on the broad headlines that had emerged from meetings with Board members. It was clear that there was a desire for the LEP to focus on a limited number of priorities for the next two years. There would need to be some flexibility built into the process to allow for urgent local issues to be addressed alongside any government needs that may require LEP involvement. The priorities were presented to the Board for discussion and agreement. The priorities were broadly agreed as: Delivery, Economic Recovery, Devolution and Transition, Energy and Decarbonisation, Humber Freeport and a further discussion would take place at the meeting in August to agree the tasks under each strand.

232 Recovery Planning

RK explained the three stages to the impact and the response to the crisis. Further details of the national plans are expected to be set out in the autumn with a Budget and Spending Review. The Government had also announced that a white paper on devolution and local recovery would be published in the autumn.

RK asked the Board to agree a delivery plan that had been produced outlining how current resources (and those expected to be allocated to the LEP) would be prioritised this financial year to support businesses and residents through the next phase. The following points were raised:

- The need to encourage people back to work as city centres were empty and businesses were suffering as a result
- The Government message on working from home was changing
- Showing leadership at this time
- Public transport was a barrier to getting people back to work safely
- Having a skills focus through all opportunities

The Board agreed to approve the Phase 2 delivery plan.

233 2019/20 Year End Accounts

The end of year LEP accounts were presented and the Board were updated on the Funding position of those funds where Hull City Council is the Accountable Body for the financial year ending 31st March 2020. KT briefed the Board on current reserves commitments and spend to date.

The Board agreed:

- **To note and endorse the end of year position**
- **To note and reaffirm commitments against Reserves, as previously approved by the Board**

234 Getting Building Fund

RK reported that all LEPs and mayoral combined authorities had been asked for proposals for “shovel ready” capital projects that could be delivered within the next 18 months. Projects were required to demonstrate clear deliverability and strategic fit with two priorities; economic growth and green recovery. The Humber LEP, following advice from government, was only able to put forward projects for Hull and the East Riding and any existing Humber projects that the LEP wished to continue would need to be on the basis of this geography. The LEP was able to submit a long-list of projects representing a total funding request of £82m. The LEP was allocated £13.4m, over 2020/21 and 2021/22. Allocations were based on “population and Covid-19 exposure and resilience”.

The following comments were made:

- How many projects were considered
- How to encourage the submission of private sector-led projects, in addition to the business grant programme
- What is the longer term benefits of the chosen projects
- Projects needed to be 'oven ready' so limited options

SB declared an interest.

RK agreed to circulate the list of projects to the Board.

The Board agreed:

- **To delegate authority to the Executive Director Strategic Policy and Business Development, in consultation with the S151 Officer of Hull City Council, the Accountable Body to make the necessary additions to the LEP's Assurance Framework to accommodate the Getting Building Fund programme.**
- **To add the projects outlined in Appendix 1 to the Getting Building Fund Programme**
- **To commit £1.5m from the Getting Building Fund to Growing Hull and East Yorkshire, subject to confirmation of funding from MHCLG.**

235 Local Growth Fund

RK reported that two projects (Growing the Humber business investment grant programme and Central Cleethorpes Regeneration scheme) have highlighted that defrayal of funds is likely to slip into 21/22.

The Board agreed:

- **To note the latest progress report**
- **To note the output profile changes to Humber High street Challenge Fund**
- **To confirm the continued commitment of £672,466 to Central Cleethorpes Regeneration Programme**

236 Business Development Board (BDB)

RK reported the July meeting went well and the Growth Hub Webinars continue to be successful.

237 Employment and Skills Board (ESB)

SS reported on the two meetings that had taken place since the last Board, both meetings had been well attended with constructive and valuable input from members. The main points to note were:

- British Steel were taking on 36 Apprentices and further apprenticeships were in the pipeline.

- Students would be returning to University and Colleges in September
- A refresh of the Power BI SAP data dashboard was underway

238 Investment and Regulation Board (IRB)

SP had nothing further to add and asked the Board to take the report as read.

239 European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)

IM reported that the ESIF programme continued to operate successfully.

240 Any Other Business

SP thanked KT and LEP Executive for work on Covid19 recovery preparations.

The Board wished AT well on her retirement and thanked her for her input into the work of the LEP.

SP reported that he wished to appoint a Deputy Chair as soon as possible and he agreed to circulate an email to the Board seeking expressions of interest.

241 Finance and Remuneration Committee - (Stephen Parnaby was excluded from this discussion – Stephen Savage took Chair for this item only)

DC explained that following the appointment of the Interim Chair in April, the Finance and Remuneration Committee had been asked to consider two issues in relation to the appointment. The Committee had met twice and considered the role, scope and skills required to deliver the role and also considered the remuneration that should be applied following a benchmarking exercise. The Committee's recommendations were presented to the Board for consideration and were approved as set out below.

The Board agreed:

- **The appointment should be confirmed until May 2022 with a review in 2021**
- **A remuneration annual "all in" package (including expenses) of £20K for 6 days a month was approved**
- **Additional time required to deliver the role would be paid at a rate of £250 per day subject to maximum ceiling of 40 additional days per year.**
- **The above is subject of a quarterly review by the Finance and Remuneration Committee. The first review will be towards the end of July 2020.**

Signed:

Stephen Parnaby OBE
Chair

DRAFT