

	<p><b>Humber LEP Ltd - Board Meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 via Microsoft Teams</p>
---	--

## Attendance

### Board Members Directors

Stephen Parnaby OBE (Chair)  
 Tim Rix CBE (Vice Chair)  
 Stephen Savage (Vice Chair)  
 Isobel Mills CBE  
 Darren Cunningham  
 Councillor Richard Burton  
 Brendan Conlan  
 Simon Bird  
 Kirsten Bolton  
 Councillor Stephen Brady OBE  
 Chris Haskins

### Observers

Alan Menzies  
 Mark Jones MBE  
 Simon Green  
 Peter Campey

### Secretariat

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

### Co-opted members

Ian Plunkett

### 241 Apologies

Dr Paul Sewell OBE  
 Professor Susan Lea  
 Jo Smedley  
 Councillor John Fenty  
 David Kilburn  
 Councillor Rob Waltham  
 Sallyann Garrard - Hughes

### 242 Declarations of Interest

SP declared an interest in agenda item 5 paper C in relation to the decision of Finance and Remuneration Committee and he reported that he would leave the meeting when this item was discussed by the Board.

### 243 Minutes of Meeting Held on 17<sup>th</sup> July and Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as a true record.

#### Matters Arising:

KT referred Board members to minute 240 in which the Board were asked to submit expressions of interest if they were interested in becoming the deputy chair. SP reported that Stephen Savage had expressed an interest and there

were no other interests received, and he would therefore recommend that Stephen Savage be appointed the deputy chair.

**Agreed: The board unanimously agreed to appoint Stephen Savage as the new Deputy Chair.**

SP reported that he was now looking to appoint a new vice-chair to replace SS and he asked the board to contact him if they wish to be considered.

**Action: Nominations for vice chair to be submitted to SP - action ALL**

SP reported that since taking on the role as the Chair of the LEP, it was not appropriate from him to continue to Chair the Investment and Regulation Board (IRB). Therefore he had asked SBird to assume the Chair. **The Board approved the action.**

## 244 Chair's Report

SP stated there was no reason to revisit previous discussions on devolution and geography as all positions were fully understood. SP reported that he had written back to local authority leaders but to date had not received a reply. He reported that the LEP would also be to writing to the new Minister, Luke Hall MP, expressing the view of the private members of the Board and to request a meeting. PC suggested that as the Minister was new in post the LEP was likely to receive a holding reply. SP explained that the previous Minister had asked the LEP to respond by the 23rd of September and the LEP would do so unless advised otherwise. **The Board agreed on the importance of writing to, Luke Hall MP, Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the board views. SP also agreed to circulate the letter to the Board. Action SP**

SP reported that Humber LEP and Greater Lincolnshire LEP had agreed to establish a transitional board, the membership would consist of four private sector board members from each LEP and the four local authority leaders, the focus would be on transitional arrangements. This arrangement would ensure that the private sector voice was heard in the transition. DC supported the activity outlined by SP and was pleased that the private sector were going to be included in the transitional arrangements.

SP reported that Able UK had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a South Korean company. This was the beginning of a major investment on Southbank which was welcomed.

SBird enquired if TUPE would apply to staff currently employed by the Humber LEP if a new Hull & East Riding LEP was established. SP explained that this was still to be worked out and likely to be discussed at the next Humber Leadership Board meeting taking place on 1st October. KT reported that he was working with Hull City Council as the Accountable Body and also having discussions with Greater Lincolnshire LEP on this issue. The Board asked to be kept informed on the progress.

## 245 Chief Executive's Report

KT referred the Board to a number of points within his report:

- Transitional arrangements
- Challenges of Covid19 and Brexit
- Growth Hubs and Business Support
- Restructuring Process

MJ was asked to brief the Board on the restructuring process. MJ reported that Hull City Council would be commencing the process next week, a meeting with unions was planned followed by a staff briefing on the proposals to reform the Humber LEP executive structure to the new Hull and East Riding LEP. Hull and East Riding had submitted a proposal to government for a Combined Authority which included the outline of Hull and East Riding LEP. MJ reported that the Hull and East Riding Councils had agreed to set up shadow LEP Board which would go live on 1st April 2021. PC commented that BEIS would continue to recognise only the existing Humber and GLLEP Boards until such time as the new Hull and East Riding LEP was formed recognising the proposals as being 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

MJ also stated that via the restructured Humber Leadership Board the reformed LEP would include a revised executive function in line with requirements and that it would migrate within a Combined Authority in May 22. There would be a revised funding envelope and a fair process to fill the structure and engagement with Greater Lincolnshire LEP to ensure TUPE was in place as appropriate. The main impact would be on the core LEP Staff.

KT reported that discussions with Greater Lincolnshire LEP around programmes were ongoing. Legacy remained a challenge. KT explained that the LEP delivers on a number of other programmes funded by different government departments including DFE and DIT, working to different timescales some of which were complicated, based on Humber geography and would not be easy to resolve. The suggestion was not to novate them unless absolutely necessary.

SP enquired about the involvement of current board directors. MJ reported that the Hull Leadership Board would take over as the shadow LEP Board until recruitment of new board members could take place. He stated that Thomas Martin was going to be appointed as the Shadow Chair. Board members would be able to apply to be on the new LEP Board if they wished. MJ explained that the establishment of a Combined Authority required a LEP to support it that was coterminous. This would result in a change in how economic regeneration was delivered. AM stated East Riding of Yorkshire Council fully supported the position as set out by MJ.

DC was concerned about the lack of private sector involvement in the process. CH reminded the Board that the Minister Simon Clark had made it clear that the Humber LEP should continue during the transition phase and this was being put at risk through these new proposals.

#### **SP left the meeting.**

DC reported that since AT had resigned from the Board, there were only two members left on the Finance and Remuneration Committee and it was difficult to reach the quorum. The Board agreed that a new member should be appointed to the Finance and Remuneration Committee.

DC asked for a volunteer to join the Finance and Remuneration Committee, he asked members to contact KT if they were interested. MJ suggested that when a new member was appointed the board should endorse the decision. KT agreed to bring this back to the Board for endorsement. **Action KT**

DC explained that the Finance and Remuneration Committee had reviewed the work undertaken by SP since his appointment as Chair in April and concluded that an additional six days remuneration should be paid for the last quarter, above his basic remuneration agreed by the Board.

#### **The Board agreed**

- **To endorse the decision of the Finance and Remuneration Committee to award the Chair, 6 additional days above the base remuneration for the period (24<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> July).**
- **To delegate authority to the Chair to appoint an additional member to the Finance and Remuneration Committee, and the nomination would be brought back to the Board for endorsement**

#### **SP returned to the meeting.**

KT reported that the deadline for representations to HM Treasury on the Comprehensive Spending Review, due to be completed this autumn, is 24 September. It is proposed to submit a response setting out key Humber priorities around clean growth, ports & manufacturing and flood risk (following the areas agreed by local authority leaders for continuing collaboration across the estuary).

#### **The Board agreed to delegate authority to the Chair to approve a submission on behalf of the LEP.**

KT reported that the process of updating and revising the draft LIS (Local Industrial Strategy) into a plan reflecting the areas agreed by local authorities for continued collaboration across the Humber Estuary was nearing completion. Consultation with the JSU and other partners was underway, and it was expected that a final draft would be completed before the next meeting of the Board. KT requested delegated authority to finalise the LIS. The revised version would be circulated to the Board.

The following comments were made:

- The rationale for document being revised when only the delivery should be revised
- A Humber construct was needed to deliver the LIS - The strategy still applied to the region and the industrial landscape
- The revised LIS would also need to be signed off by Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- What was the role of the new Hull Leadership Board in delivery ( could get clarity when the Humber Leadership board meets in October)
- Some schemes would happen anyway as they were led by the private sector but would lack public sector involvement

- Infrastructure and Carbon Capture are cross Humber only so doesn't make sense to split
- Asking for government involvement, pushing Ministers for an urgent response and involving HM Treasury. Approaching Government to inform them that there was no mechanism in place to deliver the LIS

**The Board agreed that RK and KT should consider options and report back to the Board at the next meeting.**

SBird updated the board and outlined further details of the scope of the work planned to develop a Humber Freeport. SBird reported that Arup had been appointed and consultation was underway. The first stage was to produce a prospectus setting out the vision for the Humber Freeport. Bidding guidance was expected later in the year and the Arup work will help with putting forward a compelling bid for the Humber.

SP suggested that it was important for the LEP to hold an AGM as it had done in previous years, in order to engage with the general public to inform what the LEP has delivered. Further details would be provided to the Board once a date had been set.

## 246 Employment and Skills Board

SS reported that regular discussions were ongoing with local colleges, FE colleges and the University of Hull. All organisations reported that the transition to online and blended learning was working well. Many students had returned to face to face learning which had been well received. SS reported that the University of Hull had plentiful access to outside space so it remained business as usual for them to a certain degree. The young people were being well supported and the providers were doing a good job during this difficult time.

Recruitment positives to note were British Steel and Siemens Gamesa, both companies were recruiting a number of new employees and apprenticeships numbers were improving.

SS reported that the Humber appeared not as badly impacted by COVID-19 as initial projections to date. KT explained that the real impact of the Furlough Scheme would not be known for a while yet, the granular data received had been helpful in understanding what was happening in the region.

TC reported on the over 50+ ESIF bid which would up-skill, retrain and enable progression in work for those over 50 which would support workplace retention and support SMEs to improve business productivity. In addition, the ESB was working with the Fuller Working Lives Team within government regarding additional 50 + Pilot activity for the Humber based on the current workforce make up.

TC reported on the new Kickstart programme which would lead to 6-month work placements. The LEP was currently considering the appropriate way to add value to this programme, recognising that the LAs and other partners had moved forward with applications to become an intermediary organisation to support those businesses who are interested in offering less than 30 placements. A Growth Hub event was taking place on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for smaller

businesses to assess their appetite for involvement and to promote the range of government financial benefits including apprenticeships, traineeships and Kickstart work experience placements. This would include representatives from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the DWP via JobCentre Plus.

CH suggested the current COVID-19 figures for the Humber were sufficiently low enough to determine a case for asking the government not to lock down the region. KT advised that unfortunately the numbers of positive cases were rising again. RB reported on a recent meeting with the Health Minister, Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock MP regarding Covid19 in which it was made clear that the government would aim to keep the economy moving despite any further restrictions.

**The Board agreed to note activity to date.**

#### **247 Getting Building Fund**

The Board were asked to approve 3 new projects and RK reported that a further project would require approval via written procedures.

**The Board agreed:**

- **To note the latest progress report**
- **To make the following funding commitments from the Getting Building Fund allocation for Hull and East Yorkshire:**
  - **£2m to Hull and East Yorkshire Highways Resilience Programme**
  - **£4.8m to Delivering housing Growth in Hull – Ings and Wawne**
  - **£2.7m to Hull and East Yorkshire Cycle Route Delivery Programme**
- **To review further business case assessments outside of the meeting in order to make timely recommendations on funding commitments.**

#### **248 Budget Monitoring Report**

KT presented a joint report with the Accountable Body, setting out spend and projections against the full year budget. KT reported that the budget was tight but was being closely monitored by the Executive.

**The Board agreed to note the report.**

#### **249 Local Growth Fund**

RK asked the Board for approval to submit the Q1 20/21 LGF data submission to BEIS. RK reported that close monitoring of projects would continue and the sub boards would pick up any issues as they arose.

**The LEP Board agreed:**

- **To note the latest progress report**
- **To submit the Q1 20/21 LGF Data submission to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)**

**250 ESIF**

IM reported that government had been in touch with the LEP regarding the change of the geography and the impact on ESIF contracts. The ESIF Committee has until 2020 to commit the money and there would be no gain from unpicking them at this stage. The focus was now on the 50+ and Mental Health bids as mentioned by TC. The Committee continued to be successful in bidding for extra funding from the national reserve fund.

**251 Business Development Board**

RK reported on the meeting held in September which focused on business engagement, future arrangements and business intelligence. Growth Hubs were being provided with some additional resources for business support delivery and it was expected that additional funding would be allocated to the Growth Hubs ahead of the spending review.

**252 Investment and Regulation Board**

SBird asked the Board to take the report as presented and noted that an update on the Freeport's bid was taken earlier on the agenda.

**253 Any Other Business**

DC suggested holding the next meeting in person with social distancing in place. KT agreed to explore options and report back. **Action: KT**

Signed:

Stephen Parnaby OBE  
Chair