

Investment & Regulation Board

Report to the Humber LEP Board 18th September 2020
Report from the Chair of Investment & Regulation Board

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Investment & Regulation Board met on 4th of September to scrutinise the current position of the Growth Deal Programme and Getting Building Fund. It also considered infrastructure implications of the current Covid situation, received updates on the progress on Enterprise Zones and the Humber 2100 Flood strategy and discussed the development of Humber Freeport proposition.
- 1.2. The Board would have the responsibilities of overseeing and approving three Getting Building Fund projects. Final business cases were being assessed and were not ready to be presented to the Board, however in view of the urgency the Board agreed to consider these under the written procedures prior to being presented to the LEP Board for approval.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. It is recommended that the report be noted.

3. Humber Freeport

- 3.1. The Board received a report setting out further details of the scope of the work planned to develop a compelling case for a Humber Freeport. The work was being overseen by a private sector Working Group and through the JSU. Resources have been secured from the Private, public and LEPs to progress the work.
- 3.2. A joint bidding team was being established and would be coordinated by Humber LEP and included nominated Humber local authority and Greater Lincolnshire LEP officers, working with businesses advocating a Humber Freeport. Other specialists would be drawn in as required. A bidding team would be bolstered by external consultancy support, which had been commissioned by Humber LEP and funded by all partners. Consultants would work flexibly as part of an integrated bidding team, with tasks split to best utilise knowledge, skills and resources.
- 3.3. Pre-bidding guidance was expected later this month and a vision/marketing document was in the process of being developed in preparation for the bidding process.
- 3.4. The Greater Lincolnshire LEP would be involved, as the bid must be Humber wide, with support from all partners and adjoining LEPs.

4. Humber Enterprise Zones

- 4.1. Significant progress had been made on delivering the Enterprise Zone in the Humber, which was one of the biggest nationally. This had played a key role in delivering the area's Energy Estuary aspirations and had supported large scale investments into the area. The Enterprise Zones had developed, and continued to develop a pipeline of good quality sites which would drive economic growth in the future.
- 4.2. Delivering new development on the Humber's Enterprise Zone sites had undoubtedly been made more difficult in the 2020 - 21 financial year thus far due to the Coronavirus outbreak and its resultant impact upon the wider economy. However progress was being made on developments on some of the largest Enterprise Zone sites which would help to drive economic recovery post Covid.
- 4.3. As of 3 September 2020, 43 companies had located on sites with an Enterprise Zone allocation across the Humber since their inception, creating 1,806 jobs on the sites. The Board received a detailed update on progress being made against individual projects.

5. Covid 19 Impact

- 5.1. Labour Market Update – August 2020 – The Board received a detailed update on the latest labour market information as at August 2020. The update including claimant count figures, job retention scheme figures including the number of employments furloughed and those who had claimed for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and the number of job vacancies. It was acknowledged that some of the data may be cumulative and more detailed information had therefore been requested from HMRC.
- 5.2. The Board discussed the challenges surrounding the rise in the claimant count during the Covid-19 pandemic and the potential further impact once the furlough scheme and other schemes such as those for individual business owners, came to an end. It was anticipated that younger people (aged 18-24) were more likely to be effected and reference was made to the Government's kick start scheme which was targeting that age group.

6. Agency Updates

- 6.1. **Humber 2100 – Strategy Progress** – The Board received a presentation from Philip Winn – Environment Agency detailing the Agency's plans to develop a long term strategy for managing tidal flood risk. In developing the Strategy, the Agency was working with the 12 local authorities and LEPs around the estuary. The overall objective of the Strategy was to support the future prosperity of the area and manage flood risk.
- 6.2. The Strategy would align with the National and Coastal Risk Management Strategy, which set out the new long-term approach to improve the resilience

of the nation, setting out national ambitions for England that would work everywhere.

6.3. The presentation set out the proposed timeline for consulting partners and the public on proposals for managing future flood risk, which would be set out in the Strategy. It was anticipated that the Strategy would be submitted to Government in 2023 following extensive consultation. Reference was also made to capital flood risk projects taking place across the Humber.

7. Special Development Order

7.1. It was reported that the Government had announced a Special Development Order on the 3rd of September which grants temporary planning permission for 'development consisting of the use of land for the stationing and processing of vehicles (particularly goods vehicles) entering or leaving Great Britain'.

7.2. All Local Authority areas in the Humber were included in the order along with a range of other traditional and non-traditional port areas around England.

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10/09/20