

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Board

Paper A - Minutes of the Board meeting held at 9am on Thursday 30 September via Microsoft Teams

<p>Attendance</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>James Newman OBE (Chair) Stephen Parnaby OBE (Deputy Chair) Councillor Jonathan Owen Councillor Daren Hale Diana Taylor David Hall Gill Alton Professor Susan Lea Catherine Bishop Madge Moore Jayne Adamson</p>	<p>Observers</p> <p>Claire Watts - East Riding of Yorkshire Council Mark Jones - Hull City Council Peter Campey - BEIS</p> <p>Executive Team and Secretariat</p> <p>Teresa Chalmers - COO Caroline Sansam - Secretariat</p> <p>Guests</p> <p>Karen Oliver-Spry - HEY LEP Jon Brunton - HEY LEP Andrew Finch - HEY LEP</p>
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1. **Welcome**

JHN welcomed the Board and several LEP team members to the meeting as they would be presenting on specific agenda items.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from:

Caroline Lacey
 Dafydd Williams
 Matt Jukes

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on the 21 July and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21 July were approved as accurate.

Matters arising:

DT advised that a letter has been sent to the Prime Minister on behalf of businesses, the LEP, local authorities and the University of Hull, inviting him to visit the region in October/November and a response is awaited. DT will update the Board further when a response is received.

JHN reported that Thomas Martin will update the Board on the work of the BEB at the next meeting.

The LEP Board terms of reference have been agreed and the Sub Boards terms of reference have been slightly amended for consistency and these will be approved at the first meetings of the new Sub Boards.

An Audit, Finance and Governance meeting will take place in November.

5. **Chair's Update**

JHN apologised to the Board for the number of Board papers that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This is due to the large and essential amount of activity that is taking place.

JHN updated the Board on several important areas:

- **LEP Review** - JHN stated that following the Cabinet reshuffle several ministerial changes should be noted. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) is taking place on the 27 October and a sense of direction on the role of LEPs in the economic, the levelling up, growth, Global Britain and net zero agendas may emerge. Ministers appear keen to retain private sector involvement in economic matters, so there is cautious optimism.
- The LEP's financial position is tied into the Review and to date all LEPs' have only received 6 core months funding with the remaining 6 months being delayed. This should hopefully be clarified in the CSR.

- **NP11** - JHN explained that the NP11 is the Northern Powerhouse group of 11 Northern LEPs. JHN suggested inviting David Levene, NP11 CEO to the next Board meeting to present to the Board on this work. HEY LEP has been contributing and the NP11 is submitting a bid and report into the CSR. JHN hopes that the Government recognise and value this collaboration and want it to continue.
- **Greater Lincolnshire LEP** - JHN reported that regular meetings with GLLEP are continuing and SP would update further under the Pan Humber item.
- **Devolution** - JHN thanked the Board for responses on the devolution proposals, which has been well received by both local authorities.

6. Pan Humber Issues

Freeports - SP explained that the Humber Freeport work is being developed at pace by the Steerco and it could be one of the first to be announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Steerco needs to be ready and organised for this announcement, which means the full business case will need to be approved by Govt and then the tax sites will go live and the customs sites will be applied for. David Gwynne has been appointed as the interim CEO.

There are still some hurdles to overcome but there will be some opportunities such as additional funding coming into the region and driving the decarbonisation agenda. SP and Kishor Tailor are arranging several meetings across sectors to bring a lot of information together for the Steerco's review and a smaller Freeport working group may be set up.

Greater Lincolnshire LEP and the Humber Leadership Board - the two LEPs continue to meet in a positive way and there are several opportunities for both LEPs to consider, including Freeports. The Energy Board proposals are going to the HLB for discussion and if approved, will be established in conjunction with Greater Lincolnshire LEP and the private sector. Further information will be provided to the Board at the next meeting. TC reported that the LEP is also working with GLLEP on skills, and several pan Humber opportunities are now being considered, which will go to the Employment and Skills Board for discussion.

SL enquired if anything that was needed from the Board members to ensure we are fully taking all the opportunities and delivering for the Humber region. SP advised nothing at this stage, but he was grateful for the offer of support. JHN explained that the Energy Board proposal comes from a recognition that we need to work together on certain issues, which add value to both LEP regions and to maintain the cross Humber collaboration.

TC reported that the Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport has now

formally announced that the Local Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP) has been officially adopted by Government. TC offered thanks to Becky Huxley-Binns from the University of Hull, who is the Chair of the LDSP Steering Group and to all members, who have worked hard on this agenda. GA stated that FE colleges are also part of the Humber LDSP and several other activities are happening that remain Humber based.

JHN congratulated TC and the Executive team for delivering this funding.

7. Local Authority Updates

Councillor Jonathan Owen for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council

JO stated in regard of the recent Government changes and the appointment of Rt Hon Michael Gove MP as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, there is not yet clarity on what this means for the devolution agenda. The Hull and East Yorkshire LA proposals are currently with Government regarding a potential County Deal and both local authorities are awaiting a decision and/or feedback. There are unfortunately now no specific northern representatives in Cabinet. The local authorities are considering writing to SoS Gove for clarity.

There are huge pressures in the ERYCC care sector due to workforce shortages. Domiciliary care is the hardest hit, and this is having a big impact on care packages. Funding is a major factor and recent Government proposals on health and social care mean that there is no additional resources allocated to LAs for care workers. As part of the Levelling Up agenda, the local authorities are now having to pay more of the cost of residential care. For ERYC, if rates of pay need to be increased to attract staff, this could mean an additional £1.6 million on its budget. Local authorities are now putting pressure on the Government for additional short-term funding.

Councillor Daren Hale for Hull City Council

DH stated that the ball is in the Government's court on devolution so we will have to wait for their response. DH concurred with JO re the issues in the care sector as nationally it is in crisis, the level of pay being the main issue and with competition for workers regarding other low paid jobs.

On the Freeport Steerco, DH advised that HCC has expressed concern about the lack of detail in regard of some important decisions and the need to see the detail to make these decisions with proper due diligence and transparency of governance. In addition, there are attempts to prioritise the South bank Freeport site over the two North bank locations on the basis that the south bank site is ready. HCC has asked for a further meeting to discuss asap.

Transport for the North (TfN) – there are concerns about the proposed Integrated Rail Plan, as electrification may be downgraded or not mentioned at all. There is a meeting with Tim Wood (TfN) next week to push for the electrification. Hull CC is not comfortable that North Lincolnshire is representing the Humber at these meetings, so it is imperative that the North bank has a place on the Rail North Committee, as major changes have been proposed to local rail services and neither Hull CC nor ERYC were consulted. Hull CC is now talking to East Yorkshire Buses to try to fill the gaps.

JHN agreed re the representation on the TfN Board. DH has suggested that a governance review is required, and the North bank needs to be included. JHN agreed to support the local authorities on electrification. PC advised that there are on-going discussions regarding representations on these bodies. PC will raise the cuts in service with the Department for Transport as well as the issue of north bank representation. On devolution, the Government is carrying out a stocktake and it is expected that details will emerge in the next few weeks in line with the CSR.

JA reported on ongoing discussions between the health and care sectors regarding the current care crisis, which also has an impact on the health sector. Additional resources are being brought in to see how health and care can work together and transformative solutions are being considered. Care package requests are up significantly post-Covid, which is compounding the issue. JHN stated that the loss of overseas care workers is not helping the situation either.

8. Chief Operating Officer's Report

TC reported that the LEP's six-month mid-year review is taking place on 1 October to assess programme performance and outputs on existing investments as well as legacy. This year, LEPs have also been asked to provide some additional financial data for Government, which will be used to inform recommendations in the national LEP Review. TC agreed to report back to the Board at the next meeting

TC updated on several new recruitments to the team with two preferred candidates now in place to support the work of the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan.

TC has been invited to work with HCC, the University, Reckitt, DT and other colleagues on the 'Vision for a Better Hull' programme. TC is currently acting as Chair of the Skills Group, but this may change if a private sector member chair forward from the group. DT reported that two workstreams of the proposed Vision workstreams, Power and Energy have now been combined. There has been some good engagement from businesses, but gaps remain in representations from health services, communities, agriculture micro businesses and SME's. JHN stated that it is important that we support this activity and the

LEP is represented on each of the workstream groups.

The LEP is working with the North East and Yorkshire Energy Hub and a review is underway with a decision on funding being expected as part of the CSR.

TC asked the Board to approve the proposed Vision Statements, thanking members for their suggestions for inclusion.

The Board agreed to approve the Vision Statements.

9. HEY LEP Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy /Consultation & Presentation

TC presented the progress being made in developing the HEY LEP Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy. TC explained that the draft consultation document was circulated the Board prior to the meeting for members consideration. Following the presentation, the Board were asked to focus on the questions at the end of the document.

Comments from the Board were as follows:

Title:

- The title isn't reflective of the contents, contents were surprising given the title, the economic element needs to be included
- Need to include economic growth in the title
- Need to be explicit about how we are engaging with the Voluntary Communities Sector and this links back to the wellbeing aspect in the title
- Like the inclusion of wellbeing in the title, important in the wake of the pandemic

Ambition:

- Some of the ambitions need to be less ambiguous and they need to be specific and clear with data expectations
- Needs to be more explicit about inequalities, and including the Community and Voluntary Sector references, we should promote the benefits from having anchor institutions involved and maximising future employment opportunities
- It is hard to judge the ambitions, we need to know what it would look like in five years re the outcomes

TC added that more specific data is to be included in the actual strategy document and that the LEP team will continue to work on the final strategy during the consultation period, incorporating feedback as its arrives.

Length of document:

- Length of the consultation and proposed strategy is fine but in the main document an executive summary will be needed.

Priorities/content of the consultation document:

- The visitor and rural Economies should be included
- Include the LEP's role in marketing and promoting the region
- Include reference to collaborating with other parts of the UK
- Make it clear there is a difference between upskilling and reskilling and employment/labour shortages
- The rural references could be stronger, and the East Riding Rural Partnership will feed into the document

JHN explained that the direct questions included in the consultation will help to focus the responses we receive. Any further comments from the Board to be submitted by 5 October.

The Board agreed to:

- **approve the consultation draft of the Economic Growth and Workforce Wellbeing to be published for public consultation.**
- **approve that the consultation period for this document run from Monday 11th October 2021 until 14th November 2021.**

10. Growth Hub – The Future

JB reported that the Growth Hub continues to deliver several business support services in the region and is currently expanding its team with several job posts being advertised. JB provided the Board with an operational update on the Growth Hub for the financial year to date.

JB explained that given the LEP Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review, this is the opportune time to review the Growth Hub strategy and to identify growth and development opportunities. JB outlined the process for the review and the proposed a timetable for this to be undertaken and he asked the Board for their thoughts.

Comments from the Board:

- Timetable looks fine and will bring proposals back to the March LEP Board following discussion and agreement at the Business Support Board, who will drive the Growth Hub direction.

- Will the Growth Hub be able to focus on the more successful aspects to provide an aligned core offer to businesses?
- It is important to ensure the Growth Hub offer continues while the review is underway and to promote these services more widely.

The Board agreed to:

- **Note the Growth Hub operational update**
- **Support the review of the Growth Hub as described in the paper**

11. HEY LEP Export Plan Presentation

AF presented the HEY Export Plan to the Board and referenced the recommendations contained within the report, which would enable its development and alignment with the HEY LEP Economic Growth and Wellbeing Strategy and the wider strategic objectives of the LEP's key export partners.

The Export Plan will look to build an overview of the pan-Humber exporting environment and encourage engagement amongst key partners to increase international trade through export, with a strong focus on supporting earlier stage businesses and SMEs to plan for international growth. The Export Plan will be key to achieving maximisation of export service provision and uptake across the HEY LEP region, helping to foster a spirit of engagement across all key export stakeholders and contributing to the national ambition for exports to represent 35% of the UK's GDP. The HEY LEP has a unique opportunity to position itself as an independent advocate and strategic convener for international trade through export in alliance with key partners and business support organisations.

Comments from the Board:

- There is a huge amount of work going on in an understated area of economic policy, which we need to put more emphasis on
- Need to be clear, who need to contact (communication) and simplify the exporting process, there needs to be a closer working relationship with the Growth Hub.
- Regarding the Freeport reference within the presentation, currently this does not feel like it is an opportunity for SME's
- How will we measure success?
- Good links in with the proposed strategy and it is good to look broader than Hull and East Yorkshire as many companies do not export. (e.g., Agriculture) so Agri food inclusion is welcomed.

- Small businesses do not know about exporting so this could help them recognise their potential.
- Fantastic report, like the idea of HEY LEP as a convenor, this is a very good approach.
- Good communications is key. There will be a need to bring the various communications strands together to get the message out using local business networks. Although slightly conflicted through Marketing Humber, DT is happy to discuss with AF.
- Need to include some hard and fast metrics.
- Promoting Hull and the region as an export opportunity is useful.

AF thanked the Board for their comments. AF stated that he is interested in meeting with DT to discuss getting the message out and he will follow up on the metrics. AF reported that he is currently working closely with the Growth Hub and there is work promoting the Export Academy and a joint roundtable is taking place soon.

The Board agreed to:

- **Approve the evolving Export Plan**
- **Digest the KADA export research findings and consider the recommendations, feeding back any further comments to AF**
- **Consider further appropriate export related research commissions in future**

12. Investment Programmes

KOS provided a summary of delivery progress of the Getting Building Fund to 30 June 2021 (Q1 reporting period) and sought approval from the HEY LEP Board in relation to two decisions below. JHN was supportive of these decisions as the programme needs to be flexible to meet demand.

The Board agreed to:

- **Note the latest progress report.**
- **Reallocate £200,000 within the Getting Building Fund programme from management and administration to Growing Hull and East Yorkshire Business Investment Grants.**
- **The proposed variations to the legacy Local Growth Fund programme.**

13. COP26 Battle Bus

JB outlined progress made in the planning for the LEP's COP26 event on Monday 18 October 2021 – "HEY on the Road to Net Zero". JB reported that there is an interesting programme with several exhibitors taking part and the final details are being confirmed. The key focus over the next few weeks is driving SME business engagement and a detailed PR campaign is underway. The event can be booked via Eventbrite to ensure limited numbers adhering to Covid requirements. The focus of activity is with the SME community.

JHN stated that the programme looks good and interesting. DT stated that this event includes the launch for the Waterline event as both occur on the same day. The Waterline run by Marketing Humber has more than 100 attendees so far.

The Board agreed to:

- **Note the event planning update**
- **Approve the event programme, event vision aims and objectives**

Any other business

JHN suggested that future Board meetings should be extended by half an hour to give the Board enough time to consider all items on the agenda. This was agreed by the Board and therefore, the meeting on 25 November will run from 9am – 11.30am. This meeting will be held virtually via Teams and further information will follow on in due course.

Signed:

James Newman
Chair