

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Board

Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy – Draft Consultation Version

Report to the Board, 30th September 2021

Paper C - Report from Andrew Hewitt, Senior Policy and Business Manager

1. Summary

- 1.1. Strong progress has been made in developing the HEY LEP Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy in line with discussions held at the last meeting.
- 1.2. The consultation draft of the document is circulated with this paper.
- 1.3. This strategy has been developed to provide a regional level set of priorities and objectives which communicate the needs of the private sector in the HEY LEP region whilst aligning with local authority partners economic strategies and providing regional grounding to other local and national strategies and investment plans in areas such as skills, wellbeing, infrastructure, innovation, and place. The document outlined 4 key priority areas:
 - **Priority 1 - Ensuring a Productive and Innovative Economy** – Growing the economy for all
 - **Priority 2 - Driving Clean Growth Economy** – Optimise growth in low carbon industries whilst supporting the decarbonisation of the economy.
 - **Priority 3 - Leading on a Skilled and Inclusive Economy** – Ensuring that everyone in the HEY LEP region can contribute and benefit from growth in the economy
 - **Priority 4 - Developing Productive and Resilient Locations** – Ensure that the HEY LEP region develops infrastructure, marketing, and place-based interventions to ensure the area is an attractive place to invest, live and visit.
- 1.4. The strategy is intended to be opened for consultation from Monday 4th October 2021 at 9am until midnight on 15th November 2021. The LEP team will be actively seeking comments from stakeholders in the region.
- 1.5. It is intended the final version of the strategy will be presented to the board on the 25th November 2021 and launched at the LEP celebration event on the 1st December 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the HEY LEP board:
 - approve the consultation draft of the Growth and Workforce Wellbeing be published for public consultation.

- approve that the consultation period for this document run from Monday 4th October 2021 9am until midnight on 15th November 2021.

3. Report

3.1. Background

- 3.1.1. The economy of the HEY LEP Region is currently at a dynamic point of great challenge and great opportunity. Long term structural weaknesses in the economy have been exacerbated by COVID-19, which has accounted for a 10% loss of GVA in 2020, and the impact of UK leaving the EU on the HEY LEP area with its maritime and trading heritage has yet to be fully quantified. Environmental challenges are becoming more acute due to climate change with the risk of flooding and coastal erosion increasing.
- 3.1.2. Despite this, great opportunities exist within the HEY LEP's region including; absolute and relative sector specialisms that have high-value growth potential; great ability to enhance the region's world leading reputation as a crucible for clean growth activity and a rapidly growing research and innovation capability in areas such as renewable energy, rail manufacture and agri-tech.
- 3.1.3. It is against this backdrop that a consultation draft of the HEY LEP Growth and Wellbeing Strategy has been produced. This consultation draft provides a concise overview of the range of regional level strategic aims, priorities, objectives, and interventions which will be required to be actioned from 2021 to 2026 to grow the economy of Hull and East Yorkshire whilst enhancing the wellbeing of the people in this area. This is underpinned by a detailed evidence base and policy log which will be expanded upon in the final strategy document, providing additional context and justification for the interventions outlined in this document.

3.2. Strategy Vision and Key Priorities

- 3.2.1. The vision for the region discussed and developed by the board at the last two meetings will be utilised by the strategy: "Leading the UK with a dynamic net-zero economy, Hull and East Yorkshire is a region with prosperous, productive, and innovative businesses, across all communities. Our diverse and resilient economy includes a skilled workforce across all key sectors with opportunities for all. We are home to high-quality services and facilities that meet the needs of our unique urban, coastal and rural geography, while supporting the health and wellbeing of everyone."
- 3.2.2. The key priorities, aims and objective are summarised on the 'plan on a page' contained within the document at section 3:

HEY LEP Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Priority 1 - Productive and Innovative Economy

Aim – To stimulate business growth, increase productivity and employment by developing the conditions in the HEY LEP area for business to start up, innovate, invest and trade.

Key objectives–

- Support key sector growth
- Drive innovation in the HEY LEP R’
- Boost trade and investment
- Support pre-start/ micro / SME businesses and driving entrepreneurs’ culture

Priority 2 - Clean Growth Economy

Aim – To maximise opportunities to drive economic growth in green industries whilst meeting targets. To be a net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040, and significantly lower carbon by 2030.

Key objectives –

- Optimise clean energy generation
- Drive industrial decarbonisation
- Promote resource efficient Businesses



Priority 3 – Skilled and Inclusive Economy

Aim – To lead the transformation of the HEY LEP regional skills profile, to deliver a highly skilled, healthy and productive workforce, reducing inequality and increasing life chances for our communities

Key objectives –

- Driving higher level skills
- Upskilling and reskilling the Workforce
- Embedding digital skills
- Delivering a green recovery through skills development
- Retaining and attracting young people
- Supporting labour market participation
- Matching out of work people with sectors with labour need
- Economic inclusion
- A healthy Hull and East Yorkshire workforce

Priority 4 - Competitive and Resilient Locations

Aim – To enhance the regions infrastructure and natural assets to maximise the contribution to the HEY LEP economy and generate competitive locations to invest, live and visit.

Key objectives –

- Enhance transport infrastructure and services
- Maximise digital infrastructure
- Promote flood resilience
- Deliver quality employment sites
- Provide an attractive housing offer
- Maximise use of natural capital
- Promote our locations

3.3. Next Steps

- 3.4. Following comments received by the board the intention is to open the strategy up to a period of public consultation. It is intended that this will cover the period Monday 4th October 2021 at 9am until midnight on 15th November 2021. The LEP team will be actively seeking comments from stakeholders in the region.
- 3.5. A final, full, version of the strategy will be presented to the board on the 25th November 2021 and launched at the LEP celebration event on the 1st December 2021.

4. **Financial and resource implications**

5. None at this stage