

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Board

Paper G – Business Support Board Update

Report to the Board – 26th May 2022

Report from Gill Alton, Chair Business Support Board

1. Summary

1.1 The Business Support Board held its most recent meeting on the 12th of May 2022. The draft minutes from this meeting are attached at **Appendix 1**. The meeting was the first held in person since inception and considered issues such as resources available in the region for publicly funded business support activity; how skills can contribute to business growth; key issues facing businesses at present; and what proactive support could be offered to support businesses through this challenging period.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note progress to date.

3. Report

3.1 Key items discussed at the board included:

- Growth Hub Review

The Board received information on the findings of the Growth Hub review which had been delivered following a recommendation from Business Support Board to look at future priorities of the service. A useful discussion was held on the findings of the review and the boards comments on how the review document could be improved were received.

- Business Support Policy Landscape

The Board discussed a range of government policy changes which have impacted publicly funded business support agenda, including cut to Growth Hub budget, launch of UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus, the Queen Speech and the Government's Spring Statement.

- Skills Support for business

Chris Howell attended the meeting to update how the agenda of the HEY Employment and Skills Board compliments and adds value to the work of the Business Support Board and provides value for the business community of Hull and East Yorkshire.

- Update on LEP delivered activity

The board received updates on delivery on the Made Smarter Programme; HEY LEP Investment Programmes; and HEY LEP/ DIT Export activity.