

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Business Support Board held its latest meeting on Thursday 17th March 2022.
- 1.2. This paper provides a high-level summary of the meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Board notes the latest progress report.

3. Report

- 3.1. The following items were discussed:

- **Levelling Up White Paper & LEP Review**

Andrew Hewitt talked the board through the main implications of the government's Levelling Up White Paper which included for the HEY LEP area opportunity for a County Deal form of devolution, the future role of LEPs in devolved areas and the government's intention to set up a new pan Humber entity Opportunity Humber.

LEP Chair James Newman James Newman reported that a letter from the government re Opportunity Humber has been received and a meeting is now being arranged with LEPs, local authority leaders and the Chair to discuss how it will work. The scope of the group is under discussion and BEIS are taking a keen interest in the development of this group.

- **HEY LEP Growth & Workforce Wellbeing Strategy**

Andrew Hewitt noted that the HEY LEP Economic Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy had been launched on the 17th of February. He talked the board through the business support elements of the strategy and outlined the approach to development of delivery plan for the strategy.

- **Growth Hub Operational Update and Growth Hub Review**

Jon Brunton provided an operational update and briefed the Board on the Growth Hub review. It has been a positive year for the Growth Hub

with business engagement up on last year and most KPI's met. Business Intelligence is being gathered regularly which provides a useful insight into the main issues faced by businesses. Funding for 22/23 remains unknown which is hindering future planning. There are several new services to note which are positive. JB reported that the review is going well and there has been a good response from the business community (over 700) which will give a strong evidence base to draw conclusions from.

- **HEY LEP Investment Programme**

Kirsty Barr gave an overview of the business support projects within the LEP's Getting Building Fund programme and summary of delivery progress of the Getting Building Fund to 31st December 2021 (last complete reporting period).

KB briefed the Board on the new Growing Places Fund business support programme which is a mixture of grants and loans, and expressions of interest are now being received, all relevant information is available on the LEP website.

KB also reported on delivery of the Growing Hull and East Yorkshire (GHEY) business grants programme on behalf of the Investment Panel.

- **Made Smarter Programme**

Jon Brunton gave a presentation on the Made Smarter Programme which is a government funded business support programme that enables manufacturing SMEs to explore, adopt and implement digital technology within their operations; with the overall aim of improving SME innovation and productivity.

The HEY Growth Hub is part of a Made Smarter Pilot Programme being delivered in Yorkshire and The Humber in 2021/22, with the Programme being contract managed by Sheffield City Region LEP on behalf of the four Yorkshire LEPs.

JB gave an operational update on the performance of the 2021/22 Made Smarter Pilot in Yorkshire & The Humber, as well as an update on the future funding position for Made Smarter for the period 2022 – 2025.

- **ERYC Supply Chain Network**

Katheryn Gregory of East Riding of Yorkshire Council attended to provide information on the Supply Chain Network Project.

The Yorkshire and Humber region has seen significant economic growth thanks to continued investment from throughout the UK and beyond.

The Supply Chain Network has been created to help share intelligence regarding developments and assist in making business opportunities visible for local businesses and to offer support for these businesses to access the supply chains of larger companies.

This is very topical due to the desire for companies to shorten their supply chains following Brexit and the Covid 19 pandemic.

An opportunities map is housed on the Supply Chain website, which is a powerful tool, but it needs input from businesses to make it more effective. BSB board members undertook to assist with work.

4. Financial and resource implications

None at this stage