

Audit Finance and Governance Panel

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16th November 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Board Members

Stephen Savage (Chair) (SS)
Daffyd Williams (DW)
Mark Pearson-Kendall (MP)
James Newman (JHN)

Secretariat

Stacey Alexander
Graeme Smith (GS)

Guests

Teresa Chalmers (HEY LEP)
Catherine Bishop (CB)

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

SS welcomed everyone to the AFG meeting. SS explained that Catherine Bishop will be attending the meeting later to discuss the role of the LEP's Equality and Diversity Champion.

2. **Apologies**

Richard Frostick gave his apologies. Karen Oliver-Spry gave apologies but had prepared a paper for GS to discuss,

3. **LEP Review update and implications**

JHN gave an update on the national LEP Review and implications. Due to the LEP only receiving the first six months of funding, for the last 6 weeks, the Local Authorities have provided interim funding. JHN also stated that Hull's MPs have written to Minister supporting a recommendation that the second half of the core funding should be paid asap. JHN indicated that this would take the LEP through to next March, or slightly further if any cost savings were made. JHN was confident that the LEP will get its core funding, but that the wait is frustrating.

4. **LEP mid-year review**

TC informed the Panel about the 6 LEP month review which is led by BEIS and is a standard approach across all LEPs. TC stated that Peter Campey provided the LEP with a "glowing report". PC had indicated that the LEP had provided continued outputs under significant pace.

PC added that BEIS were very pleased by the calibre of the board and in meeting the gender balance and in the appointment of the SME Champion and Equality and Diversity roles. TC also confirmed that the LEP is compliant in regard of the Local Assurance Framework and current Delivery Plan. TC updated the Panel on the work taking place in regard of the Economic Growth and Wellbeing Strategy and the ambition to get it published by end of year/early next year. BEIS had also given positive feedback about meeting mandatory requirements in terms of publishing board papers (with thanks to CS and SA).

TC thanked the Board and the LEP team who had worked tirelessly to get everything in place and meet all governance requirements in just six months, SS acknowledged the pace and accuracy and thanked the whole LEP team for doing such a good job and all their hard work.

JHN confirmed that the LEP review had provided very positive feedback. He also mentioned that the Levelling Up White Paper should be ready by the end of the year. JHN stated that he was confident that the government will want LEPs to continue. SS said that he had listened to Hull MP, Diana Johnson talk about the HEY LEP COP 26 Event and how pleased she was to see this work, giving very good feedback.

From Hansard records:

The Prime Minister

I congratulate the Humber and the whole region on what they are doing in green technology and carbon capture and storage. We will ensure that this country builds on their lead with clean, green technology around the whole country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-11-15/debates/4F58A758-4DBB-4556-8C2D-23526EDA64E4/details#>

5. **LEP Economic Strategic Progress**

TC gave the Panel a slide presentation with regards to the LEP Economic Growth and Wellbeing Strategy progress. TC explained that this was in AH's absence, who had led on the work.

6. **Investment Programmes**

GS provided an overview of the LEP's Investment Programmes and the summary of the delivery process, thanking KOS for her paper. GS advised the AFG in relation to delivery of the Growing Places Fund, the Getting Building Fund, the Local Growth Fund and the Growing Hull and East

Yorkshire Business Investment Grants. Within the paper, there is a breakdown of each funding stream and its current position. <https://heylep.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Paper-A-Investment-Programmes.pdf>

7. **LEP Funding**

GS commented on the current funding challenges within the LEP, restating JHN desire to see the next six months of funding to arrive asap. There is a risk issue here which the Panel needs to recognise. Both LA's are working in partnership to support the LEP.

8. **Equality and Diversity Champion**

To ensure good practice and to comply with the Local Assurance Framework, the LEP has appointed board member, Catherine Bishop to the role of Equality and Diversity Champion to ensure E&D issues, in their widest sense, are considered in any board or sub-board activity.

CB joined the meeting and spoke about her new role as the Equality and Diversity Champion, recommending one change to the role descriptor to add 'Inclusion' to the title and references to E&D. The Panel were fully supportive of Catherine's role, thanking her for taking this key leadership approach which will be vital in the Levelling Up agenda. TC confirmed that BEIS had asked all LEPs to recruit an E&D Champion.