



Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency.

I was appointed to the role of HEY LEP Chair in January 2021, following an open and transparent recruitment process that met all National Assurance Framework requirements. A Deputy Chair was also recruited by the same process and now works with me on LEP duties.

The HEY LEP has continued to uphold high standards of governance and transparency throughout 2021/22. Our governance processes are now embedded into all operations, including the open and transparent recruitment of a new Board and three Sub-Boards, who are now functioning well, with a fourth to be developed next year.

The LEP Board also appointed Champions for SME's, Rural Affairs and Diversity from amongst its Board, and these individuals are already working closely to ensure that all three issues are identified and considered in all Board discussions and activities.

In addition to the current three sub-Boards, we have worked in close partnership with the Business Engagement Board, an independent private sector group, that provides additional advice to the LEP.

To provide even more assurance for the Board and AB, the LEP has set up an Audit, Finance and Governance Panel (AFG), consisting of an independent Chair (Lawyer and ex-Deputy Chair Humber LEP), a Chartered Accountant (Partner in one of the big four national firms) and a Solicitor (Partner in one of big regional Law Firms) to provide independent advice and guidance on governance, financial and audit issues and any remuneration matters not covered by the AB. The Chair and one other LEP Board member also attend these meetings.

Whilst this year has experienced the continued impact of Covid-19, the HEY LEP has successfully continued delivery of inherited programmes from the previous Humber LEP and has grown our business support functions via the Growth Hub, enabling hundreds of SMEs to sustain business activity and grow.

Our work with schools and colleges has proven invaluable to many partners, providing online training and support for over 36 Careers Leaders in schools and colleges via the HEY LEP Careers Hub. With respect to the Careers Hub, we have also recruited 38 regional employers who act as Enterprise Advisors,



partnering with schools to ensure high quality, impartial careers information, advice and guidance is delivered to our young people, linking them with current and future job opportunities.

We published the new HEY LEP's Delivery Plan in June this year to cover the first year of the HEY LEP's activity. The Delivery Plan will be revisited once our work on the first HEY LEP Economic Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy is launched early next year in order that the second HEY LEP Delivery Plan is in place for April 2022 and that it reflects the priorities outlined in the strategy.

The HEY LEP Economic Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy is currently being finalised, following a successful consultation exercise. This was concluded on 14th November and received 35 good quality constructive responses from a diverse range of partners and representative bodies, including the three of the four previous Humber LAs, health, education, and the voluntary and community sectors. The LEP's Chief Operating Officer and other LEP officers have also attended a number of events, meetings and committees in order to present the Strategy and to gain feedback.

We continue to support the Local Resilience Forum, having commissioned a set of three Economic Impact Reports which illustrate the region's recover and challenges arising from the pandemic.

We were planning to hold the former Humber LEP AGM at a legacy event on 1st December. However, following rising cases of the new Covid variant we decided to further postpone this event to ensure the health of over 60 partners, who had signed up to attend this physical meeting. This will be held as soon as possible in 2022.

The HEY LEP continues to participate in meetings of the Humber Leadership Board, and we have already attended four Scrutiny Committees since our April launch (3 for HCC and 1 for ERYCC plus a Hull and East Riding Unitary Leaders board on 16 Dec 21). The latter, we are also planning to attend on a regular basis to update on LEP activities.

In respect of the transition of south bank legacy projects to Greater Lincolnshire LEP (GL LEP), we have continued to work in partnership with our neighbouring GL LEP colleagues to ensure a smooth handover of 6 projects for output monitoring and reporting by GL LEP to 2025 (we understand that GL LEP does not intend to monitor beyond this point). The HEY LEP will retain responsibility for monitoring and reporting of a further 6 south bank projects pending physical and financial completion – most of these are expected to complete in full by the end of the financial year 2021/22.

However, the ongoing monitoring and reporting of LGF and GBF programmes is currently funded through the GBF M&A allocation and therefore funding for the staff charged with this responsibility will end in March 2022. This is something that will be picked up with the Accountable Body and the Board in



terms of how this will be managed going forwards.

The delivery of the Humber Estuary Plan has now become the responsibility of the HLB with each LA leading on one area of work, supported by both HEY LEP and GL LEP.

Specifically, HEY LEP has contributed through membership of the Freeport Steering Committee, (Deputy Chair and CEO) to the successful bid for the Freeports in the Humber and continues to support the Steer Co by leading on skills and ensuring that proper governance processes are put in place as part of its submission of a Business and Delivery Plan.

Recently, via an initiative by both LEP Chairs, working with the lead LA, the Humber Energy Board (HEB) has been created, which, whilst being private sector led, does include LA, University, Government and business representative organisations with an interest in the whole Net Carbon Zero sector in the region. This will provide advocacy and cohesion to the sector and is supported by the HLB.

The HEB board will include representatives from both LEPs and a north and south bank local authority representative, with North Lincolnshire acting as the secretariate function to this board. North Lincolnshire Council are the lead LA on the Estuary Plan in terms of decarbonisation.

This is in addition to the CEO and HEY LEP team members leading the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan (HICP) on behalf of BEIS and Innovate UK. This has progressed well under the chairmanship of the HEY LEP CEO, with proper governance in place to ensure conflicts of interest are well managed.

We also meet regularly with the GL LEP Chair and CEO, discussing and agreeing on any pan-Humber activity, where appropriate, as identified above.

A suitably qualified transport representative acts as the HEY LEP's representative on Transport for the North (TfN) and reports to the Chair and Deputy Chair on any issues of concern or interest.

The Chair of the HEY LEP regularly attends NP 11 Chairs meetings and the HEY LEP CEO attends NP11 and LEP Network CEO meetings. The Chair is joint Chair of the Net Zero activity of NP11, which has made significant progress during the year. The Chair also took part in the LEP Review, currently ongoing by Government, as a member of the Funding and Implementation Review Group.

From an almost standing start and in the context of political division across the Humber and private sector scepticism on how the economy was being run locally, the new HEY LEP has made a positive impression and impact on the economic landscape of the newly defined HEY region.

It has continued to engage with and convene partners across the region throughout the year in order to support the local economy, through a



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challenging business recovery period. We will continue this work in facilitating, convening, and supporting both private and public sector colleagues to deliver recovery and economic growth for our region.

Name: James Newman

Position: Chair, Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Date: 14/01/22

Name: Teresa Chalmers

Position: Chief Operating Officer. Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Date:14/01/22