

Hull & East Yorkshire LEP

Paper B - Chief Operating Officer and LEP Team Board Report 29th September 2022

1. Summary

The LEP Team has continued to deliver on a wide range of various responsibilities over the summer months aligned to the Economic Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan. Main areas of focus have been on the strategic priorities of export, the finalisation of this year's Growth Hub contract and the continued development of the Careers Hub which are covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Recommendations

The Board to note the report.

3. Report

a) Strategic issues

4. The LEP Network

4.1 The LEP Network continues to act as an advisory body, feeding in national and regional issues and requests and responses to various government departments which have proved of value, for example during the LEP Review, when criteria were agreed, and negotiations took place.

4.2 As part of the wider networking and partnership aspect of delivery, the LEP continues to be an active member of the Network. The Network is progressing in developing its own sectoral groups to review economic opportunities and challenges alongside other groups such as the LEP Integration group which James is a member of. The initial six sectoral groups are stated below, and it would be helpful to hear if board members are interested in attending and supporting these discussions.

4.3 The current proposed meetings are as follows:

Net Zero, chaired by Gary Woodman, CEO, Worcestershire LEP – previous meeting held Weds 21st Sept 11am – 12am – James is our representative

Equality & Diversity, chaired by Andrew Smith, Chair, Buckinghamshire LEP, held Weds 28th Sept 2pm - 3pm. Lloyds presented on the Black Entrepreneurs Programme – Jon Brunton attended the first meeting and will

verbally feedback at this meeting, noting the emerging EID priorities of the Growth Hub.

Coastal, chaired by Chris Starkie, CEO, New Anglia LEP, Weds 5th Oct, 10am - 11am. Representative welcomed.

Agri-Food, chaired by Ruth Carver, CEO, Greater Lincolnshire LEP, Mon 10th Oct, 3pm – 4pm Andy Hewitt will attend as the officer support; representative welcomed.

Innovation, chaired by Hilary Chipping, CEO, South East Midlands LEP, Thurs Oct 13th 10am-11am. Representative welcomed.

The **Rural** group has already begun to meet and is being chaired by Mandy Thorn, Chair, The Marches LEP. Andy Hewitt will attend; representative welcomed

Dates for the **International Trade** group and **Digital** group are still under discussion. Andrew Finch and Chris Howell will attend from an officer's perspective, board interest can be further accommodated.

5. LEP external communications

5.1 Whilst the LEP has minimum resources to allocate to specific communications activity and following board agreement, support is being provided by HCC on a part time basis. Initial conversations have taken place to develop and deliver a work plan that can be flexed to accommodate any immediate arising requirements.

5.2 Board members are asked to review the initial activity and suggest any additions that can be considered for the plan.

***Please note columns read downwards**

Sept	Oct	Nov	Additional notes for consideration
PR 2 – DIT visit and Export focus	PR 3 – HICP Quarterly Review with UKRI	PR 4 – Growing Places Fund activity	Potential success of the DCMS Cultural Industries Bid for Sept
Social media focus - Export	Social media focus – Careers Hub developments	Social media focus - Growing Places Fund	Local Skills Improvement Plan – Chamber and LEP Partnership – Oct/Nov
YP article from James Newman, focus: Energy	18 th – Skills Network Event @ MKM Stadium	YP article from Stephen	LEP Delivery Plan – Nov/Dec

solutions including hydrogen, wind and the domestic market and the development of the Humber Energy Board – ‘Yorkshire leading the way’		Parnaby – subject tbc.	
LEP Newsletter/online news stories	LEP Newsletter/online news stories	LEP Newsletter/online news stories	Future areas: Devolution developments (when the time is appropriate) Rural Fund developments

6. Export update

6.1 As part of the LEP Strategic Delivery Plan, a visit from DIT was held on 08 09 22 which welcomed Philip Kelly, International Trade Manager, Department for International Trade, to the region to discuss the recent changes to the way that international trade services will be delivered directly, following the in-housing of all international trade support services in July 2022.

The visit confirmed HEY LEP’s commitment to growing the region’s exports and having the Export Partnerships Manager role embedded within HEY LEP is evidence of DIT’s wish to further strengthen its collaboration with key stakeholders partners across Hull and East Yorkshire.

6.2 Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce was recently selected to deliver a 16 week import and export bootcamp training programme, with up to 100% of the training costs funded. The programme aims to support and upskill people employed in import and export roles across the region. Import and Export was included as a potential lot in the overall DfE Skills Bootcamp funding bid, which HEY LEP coordinated with Hull City Council.

B) Operational Matters

7. Staff team update and office move

7.1 Further team changes have occurred since the last LEP meeting in July:

The vacancy of Net Zero Projects Lead has been taken as a secondment opportunity until the end of March 2023. This role is intended to drive Hull

and East Yorkshire's representation within the North East and Yorkshire (NEY) Net Zero Hub and coordinate cross sector engagement and collaboration in the implementation of local energy and net zero strategies. The role will be an advocate for the area's energy strengths and decarbonisation opportunities. They will develop and maintain strong relationships with the local authorities and wider energy community in the area and will play a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of local energy strategy, identifying, and leading a collaborative response to opportunities that would support delivery.

7.2 This leaves a gap in the investment activity resource which will be filled in the interim period by the local authorities who have both an established role and great experience in this field. The role provides a portal for investment enquiries which are signposted to the LEP by DIT. DIT prefer to use LEPs ideally to deliver this central role, given their impartiality and significant knowledge and experience. Given we cover two LAs areas, DIT have agreed to this interim arrangement.

7.3 The Key Account Manager for Foreign Owned Direct Investments has left the LEP to set up his own business, this follows an extended period when further funding was not confirmed by DIT until very recently. It is likely that this gap will be filled by either a secondment or a consultant to ensure this work is delivered. A further option is to pause the offered six-month contract until further extended funding is guaranteed in order to recruit successfully. Discussions surrounding the optimal solution to filling this post are being discussed and the board will be updated at the next meeting.

7.4 The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan Manager is due to leave his post to take up a senior role within CBI as the national Cluster Plan Manager. The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan Steering Group is currently considering how to fill this vital role to ensure the finalisation of the Plan with publication due at the end of March 2023. It is likely that the discussion outcome will conclude with the recruitment of a consultant given the length of the remaining contract.

7.5 On a positive note, we have welcomed back both colleagues who had been longer term absent from work due to ill health.

7.6 The LEP Hull office move took place in August as planned. The move went well due to the significant efforts of the team. This move has incurred additional costs which will be found within budget savings that have occurred regarding vacancy management. Excess furniture and office goods have been reallocated to Hull City Council for re-use and an approximation of costs savings of £8 - 9k.

Thanks also go to colleagues at both local authorities for their help and support with the move.

8. Hull Trains

8.1 To support the launch of the new fleet of five Hull Trains, Stephen Parnaby and Teresa Chalmers participated in a naming competition with suggestions coming from Hull Train employees. In addition to the chosen finalists a wild card offer was put on the table for the public to make their choice. The last name given to the remaining train was Jean Bishop, (the bee lady) named after Hull's own charity ambassador. The other names include Amy Johnson, William Wilberforce, The Land of Green Ginger, and The Humber Bridge.