

Hull & East Yorkshire LEP

Paper C - Chief Operating Officer and LEP Team
Board Report - 23rd November 2022

1. Summary

The LEP Team has continued to deliver on a wide range of various responsibilities to support the region's Economic Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan.

2. Recommendations

The Board to note the report.

3. Report

a) Strategic issues

4. The LEP Network

4.1 The LEP Network recently asked HEY LEP to lead on the development of a paper in response to a government call for evidence on developing workforce skills, this paper has been added to by various LEP colleagues and has been sent to the Government. In conversations with the Chair of the LEP Network, we are considering further work with a range of lead special advisors across several government departments to discuss strategic skills issues. This is likely to include representation from the Departments for Education, and of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Work and Pensions.

4.2 The Network has also requested quarterly updates on opportunities for Ministerial visits. As we are considering the launch of the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan in March 2023, we have suggested this as a key event which has raised government interest. The HICP team and Steering Group will discuss the legacy options and the launch and the Plan on 16th Nov followed by additional legacy discussions to be held at the Humber Energy Board in November. There is a good opportunity to use the Plan as a catalyst to promote the Humber and further develop the supply chain as well as to gain support for further research activities. Further updates to this board will be provided once these ongoing conversations have been developed.

4.3 Following the request made to the board members at our last meeting, Madge Moore has kindly joined the Agri-food and Rural working groups. The LEP is also participating in Net Zero, International Trade and the Equality and Diversity activities. Any board member wishing to find out more about

potentially joining one of the remaining groups, would be welcomed. (Coastal, Innovation and Digital).

4.4 The Network has sent welcome letters to all senior ministers in the new government and has already met with Rt Hon Michael Gove who had previously confirmed the 'vital role' he saw LEPs continuing to play when he published the Levelling Up White Paper.

5. LEP External Communications

5.1 The LEP is being supported in our communications work by Hull City Council colleague, Lucy Bannister. Lucy has taken over the responsibility of producing the LEP newsletter, our social media content, helped with our website and is supporting the development of press releases and newspaper articles. Lucy has had support from many different LEP colleagues to help write and publish a number of press releases, the latest examples can be found on the links below:

- [First ever joint event between HEY LEP and British Business Bank will help build business resilience » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#)
- [HEY Growth Hub to showcase four local digital SMEs at Tech Week Humber Expo 2022 » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#)
- [Grant funding helps fuel local hydrogen producer » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#)

5.2 A selection of the upcoming items Lucy has been working on with LEP colleagues includes:

- A feature for the Yorkshire Post on how the LEP and Growth Hub supports businesses with digitalisation
- The SME free Digital Competency Assessment Tool
- The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan

5.3 Lucy is very happy to work with any LEP Board member on any potential article which supports and demonstrates the delivery of the LEP Economic Growth and Workforce Wellbeing Strategy.

6. Mid-Year Review

6.1 BEIS have confirmed the process for mid-year reviews for those LEPs who are considered of higher risk. In the HEY LEPs case we have been invited to meet with BEIS colleagues, partly as we are the youngest LEP and therefore have access to very few reserves. The meeting was held on 15th November and included a review of the Investment Programme outputs, the Strategy Delivery Plan, LEP Governance and Strategic Issues and any

additional matters we wished to raise. A verbal update will be presented to the board at the meeting.

7. The Humber 2030 Launch

7.1 Following additional support from the CBI, the Humber Energy Board has worked in partnership with Marketing Humber and 18 industrial Partners to produce a compelling portfolio. The publication demonstrates the £15bn pipeline of decarbonisation and energy projects which will create thousands of new jobs in the Humber. This brochure, produced in record time, was taken to the party conferenced where it received excellent feedback and levels of interest. It was also featured as part of the annual Waterline Summit, led by Marketing Humber. You can find the Humber 2030 Vision online at: <https://www.cbi.org.uk/articles/humber-2030-vision-decarbonising-the-uk-s-largest-industrial-cluster/>.

7.2 In addition, a House of Lords Reception, hosted by Baroness Liz Redfern, was held on Tuesday 1st November to celebrate the publication. The event was very well attended by industry leaders and politicians including Rt Hon. Ed Milliband, the Shadow Secretary of State for Climate Change and Net Zero who gave a speech on why net zero is vital for the British economy. Local MPs in attendance included Emma Hardy MP, Andrew Percy MP, Martin Vickers MP and Dame Diana Johnson

8. North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub

8.1 On the 1st August Phil Glover was seconded from the HEY LEP into the role of Net Zero Hub lead. Phil brings to the role a public sector background in business support, inward investment, capital projects and economic policy delivery. Strong existing relationships with the local authorities will assist in integrating the work of the Hub within the public sector ecosystem. Following induction into the Net Zero Hub programme, meetings have taken place with the energy and climate change lead officers within Hull and East Riding Councils to get a better understanding of current and future Net Zero projects. This role also participates in the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan steering group, advising on the economic benefits of decarbonisation to the local area.

8.2 Recent activity during this period includes preparing tender specifications for a circular economy study; attending the Northern Hydrogen Forum; representing the Net Zero Hub on a Cross Hub working group; working on discussions for a Green House Gas Abatement scheme across the Humber; organising and chairing a round table discussion on Sustainable Development Goals activity in the HEY LEP region.

b) LEP Operational Matters

9. Staff Team Update

9.1 Further team changes have occurred since the last LEP meeting in September:

- The vacancy of the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan Manager is being managed by the use of an external contractor who is working two days per week to add capacity to the existing team. This will ensure the Plan team has sufficient capacity to meet the March 23 deadline for publication.
- The Key Accounts Manager vacancy is currently being filled by both local authorities via their investment teams who are working in partnership with the LEP. This will ensure that foreign owned businesses are fully supported; if a further year's funding is secured by the Department for International Trade a recruitment exercise will be carried out.
- Significant developments have taken place in regard of the Careers Hub (details on the Employment and Skills Paper on today's agenda). These have resulted in further opportunities to increase the current team of colleagues to employ a further three people. The opportunities are as follows:
 - One FTE Enterprise Coordinator (for 3 years) to allow every school and college in the region to become part of the careers hub and supported to strategically develop their careers programme (working only in HEY LEP). Funded by a private investor.
 - One FTE Employer Engagement Enterprise Coordinator to work specifically on engaging Green/STEM employers with schools and to facilitate workplace visits for teaching staff so that they can develop their own understanding of the world of work. This post is hosted by HEY LEP but shared with Greater Lincolnshire Careers Hub – funding jointly secured until August 2023 by the Careers and Enterprise Company and the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan.
 - One FTE Project administrator to support the Employer Engagement Enterprise Coordinator to work specifically on engaging Green/STEM employers with schools and to facilitate workplace visits for teaching staff so that they can develop their own understanding of the world of work. This post is hosted by

HEY LEP but shared with Greater Lincolnshire Careers Hub – funding secured until August 2023 by a private investor.

The recruitment process for each post is underway.

- Since the Board last met, the Local Digital Skills Partnership MOU has been agreed with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (further details can be found in the Employment and Skills Report presented at this meeting). The resource is ring-fenced to employ a Regional Co-ordinator to manage the activity. The current post holder's contract will therefore be extended to August 2023.
- The Investment Programme Officer has submitted a letter of resignation following a career opportunity with an external organisation. As this post is funded for a further 2.5 years the LEP will try to recruit to this role to ensure that the required regular monitoring and reporting of all investment projects continues efficiently.
- Following final confirmation of BEIS funding to March 2025, the Yorkshire & Humber Made Smarter programme is currently in a period of commissioning and recruitment prior to the hard launch of the programme in January 2023. A funding agreement between South Yorkshire Combined Authority (as accountable body) and HEY LEP was executed w/c 14 November that allows for the recruitment of 1 FTE Digital Transformation Specialist by the HEY Growth Hub. This job role will help promote the programme throughout Hull and East Yorkshire and will manage a caseload of manufacturing SMEs to aid their access to the various strands of programme delivery, including digital road mapping, advanced technical support, student internship, leadership & management development and a capital grant scheme.