

Hull & East Yorkshire LEP

Paper C - Chief Operating Officer and LEP Team Board Report 18th January 2023 via Teams

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

3.1 The Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review

The Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER) is a collaboration across NP11, TfN, LEPs and Central Government and seeks to map out the sectoral capabilities and potential for growth of the economy of the North of England. This is the second iteration of this document with the original NPIER published June 2016

This first version of the document:

- Defined seven key sectoral capabilities in the North
- Identified £97bn pa additional GVA and an extra 855k jobs in a transformational scenario

3.2 It has been decided that this now the right time to undertake a refresh of the NPIER in the context of:

- TfN's role as a statutory body
- Changing economic and political context since the 2016, and longer-term economic outlook

3.3 The refreshed NPIER in collaboration with Northern Partners will provide critical evidence to inform the TfN Strategic Transport Plan refresh and a rich evidence base to inform LEPs strategic work.

3.4 The process of revising the NPIER started in Autumn 2021 and will be completed in early 2023 in time to inform and prompt discussions at NP11's Conference of the North. The HEY LEP has assisted NP11 and TfN in

shaping and sense checking this work and will receive a LEP level data set which will be an invaluable asset for the area. We will update the next board meeting on specific HEY LEP findings of this work.

4. The LEP Network

4.1 The LEP Network continues to promote the promotion of the Business Voice in any devolved arrangements; for example Business Cornwall recently published a powerful case demonstrating the strength of the LEP in developing a range of strategic projects ([Guest post: delivering devolution | Business Cornwall](#)).

4.2 The Network continues discussions with BEIS and DLUHC government colleagues to provide a range of evidence-based proposals to be used with ministers to advance ideas over the festive period. The Network seems fairly confident that core funding will be approved by the end of January with the Growth Hub funding taking longer due to BEIS internal business planning processes.

4.3 In regard of the various Network working groups, decisions have been made by LEP Chairs to make the following changes:

- The two working groups of Agri-food and Rural to be combined (Madge Moore being the HEY LEP representative). This group is currently developing a brief for work which will start to reflect how the changed demographics of work post Covid 19 lockdowns, make a compelling case for investment in rural areas.
- The Coastal Group will now support the work of the Coastal Communities Alliance (<https://www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/>).
- The International Trade Group will now meet regularly with DIT.
- The Innovation Group will write to MP George Freeman to support the establishment of a joint group comprising of LEPs and UKRI to help develop local activities to support the MP's priorities - <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-uk-politics-2022-10-george-freeman-outlines-his-r-d-priorities/>

4.4 The Network has received communication from DLUHC Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Dehanna Davies, to indicate that round two of the Levelling Up fund will be delayed until January due to a number of high-quality applications.

5. LEP External Communications

5.1 Following the last Board meeting, there are proposed changes to the support being offered by Hull City Council colleagues due to several staff

vacancies. With thanks to the team, support will continue and further information will be shared in due course. For information recent articles can be found below:

- [Local employers invited to complete our Employer Skills Survey » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#)
- [HEY Growth Hub to host biggest Hull and East Yorkshire gathering of business support and funding providers since pandemic began » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#)
- [First ever joint event between HEY LEP and British Business Bank will help build business resilience » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#)

5.2 The LEP Team are very grateful for the support that Lucy and HCC colleagues have provided to date.

5.3 The Convention of the North – HEY LEP has been invited to participate in the annual convention, this year to be held in Manchester on 25th January.

5.4 Invitations went out via the LEP Chair and Deputy Chair to board members, a range of business stakeholders and representative bodies. To date 7 people will be attending from the invitation list along with both Council Leaders who were invited separately. Andy Hewitt and Teresa Chalmers will be at the event and staffing an information stand to promote the region.

7. LEP Annual Performance Review

7.1 BEIS have confirmed the process for the annual performance reviews for those LEPs who are considered of higher risk. In the HEY LEPs case we have been invited to meet with BEIS colleagues due to the previous reasons in regard of funding/reserves etc. The meeting will be held on 6th February and the team is now preparing a number of responses to the required proformas that will form the basis of discussion.

7.2 These include the Section 151 Officer Assurance Statement, the Annual Governance Statement, and details of LEP resources. As part of these assurance processes Dave Bell, the Section 151 Officer for the Accountable Body is joining us at the board meeting as required.

8. Update on the Energy Hub Circular Economy Activities

8.1 Discussions continue to take 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. As a result, up to 10 public owned buildings owned by Hull City council are to be surveyed utilising Net Zero Hub funds to ascertain the best carbon saving measures.

8.2 Work on the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan is nearing the final stages and the Net Zero Hub lead has been assessing the various report outputs produced as part of a working group role.

8.3 The Industrial Symbiosis study has now been commissioned and the successful consultants International Synergies Ltd have completed the initial desk top study and are now consulting with key stakeholders on approaches to maximising the industrial resources within the region. The report, which is funded through the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub, is due to be completed by the end of March 23 and will highlight potential options for pilot schemes to be resourced and delivered within the HEY region in the near future.

9. Support for HMP Hull

9.1 The LEP has been approached by HMP Hull to assist with the resettlement of Ex-Offenders. Having previously worked with both local prisons under the former Humber LEP, support is sought to raise the awareness of the business community, where appropriate, on the strengths and qualifications gained whilst in prison, with employment of ex-offenders a key government priority.

9.2. The prison has excellent workshop facilities and a team of skilled instructors/tutors who assist prisoners to develop a range of skills in such areas as digital, print, construction, engineering, and horticulture. These facilities can also be used by employers who wish to train their own staff teams. The prison also has a large, well-funded education service for prisoners, with an emphasis on functional skills.

9.3 In addition the prisoners can take on additional commercial contracts as part of their programme. Often this is at a reduced cost in comparison to other suppliers and provides an excellent route for future employment. There is capacity to partner with business to deliver from prison facilities, benefiting prisoners with skills, experience, and improved employment opportunities on release, whilst giving employers to deliver cost effective

9.4 Given that HMP Hull and HMP Humber release around 70 former offenders each month and that those who find employment are 1/3 and ½ less likely to commit further offences, the LEP can assist to reduce costs on the public purse.

9.5 HMP Hull is also looking to set up an Employer Advisory Board and the LEP has been asked to nominate a representative voice on this Board. Any board member who is interested is welcome to have a further conversation with Mark Grasby, Head of Reoffending.

B) LEP Operational Matters

10. Staff team update

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

- The three new **Careers Hub** vacancies discussed at last board meeting have been approved with the first Enterprise Coordinator interviews shortly taking place for the two roles.
- The third Careers Hub Project Administrator post is currently out to advert, and interviews are hoped to be held mid-February.
- The vacancy for the Investment Programme Officer for a further 2 years is now out for advert. The vacancy is due to close to applicants on the 25th January with interviews programmed to take place on 9th February 2023.
- The Growth Hub's Made Smarter Digital Transformation Specialist vacancy closed to applications on 12th January, with interviews to take place on 20th January. It is hoped that a preferred candidate can be in post by the end of February at latest, to ensure service delivery of Made Smarter in line with the funding agreement in place with Sheffield City Region LEP.