

Hull & East Yorkshire LEP

Paper C - Chief Operating Officer and LEP Team Board Report 23rd March 2023

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. Progress is reported on many aspects of work at today's meeting.

The recent funding letter has resulted in further conversations on the LEP priorities and necessitates a review of the Delivery Plan, recognising limited resources are available.

2. Recommendations

The Board to note the report and to discuss implications and priorities.

3. Report

A) Strategic issues

3.1 **LEP funding**, please see Appendix 1 attached to the finance report. The further reductions in funding will have an impact on the ability of the LEP to engage in the wider aspects of business delivery. The reduction in budget will mean that vacancies will not be replaced and several of those previously on hold such as the Business Office Manager and the Communications Lead will now be deleted.

3.2 As HEY LEP does not have the reserves other LEPs can use to continue 'business as usual' a different approach will be necessary. The changes will bring the core team posts down to:

- Chief Operating Officer
- Employment and Skills Manager
- Business Support Manager (Inward Investment)
- Senior Advisor Employment and Skills (currently delivered by two p/t post holders)

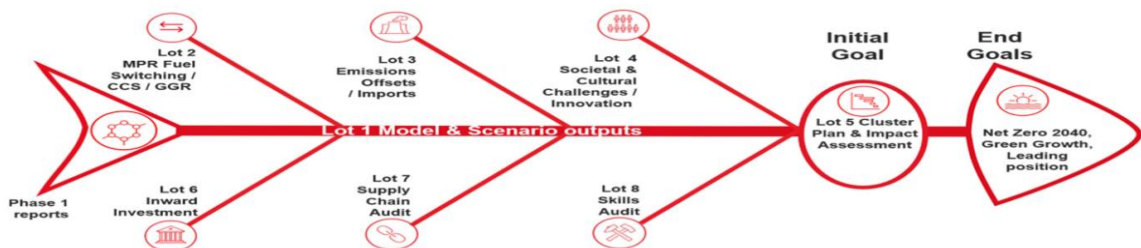
3.3 All other LEP staff are programme funded via different contracts, with different contract end dates and deliverables. These team members are

mapped into the core structure for leadership and management purposes. (Please see staff references below).

3.4 The letter indicates that required outputs for LEPs will be clarified in the near future, at the time of writing this report no further information has been received. We also await confirmation of Growth Hub funding for 23/24.

4. Careers Hub developments – the Careers Hub has received financial support from two major employers which will enable the growth of the team and delivery to all HEY schools, providing an equality of provision to 52 schools and colleges in our region. Further conversations are underway with other potential employer partners. This work is the result of prolonged negotiations and partnership building and has been recognised as a national exemplar by the Careers and Enterprise Company who match fund the Hub via the Department for Education. More details can be found in the Employment and Skills paper on this agenda).

5. The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan – the project closes its second phase on 31st March with the publication of the Plan and its component research pieces:



5.1 As the Humber is the largest emitter in the UK, emitting more green-house gases than any other cluster, there is significant need to rapidly reduce emissions. The Plan provides a route way to deliver this, using a series of technology and investment options to become a global blueprint.

5.2 The Plan was launched on 9th March 2023 in Grimsby, with over 90 delegates attending including all industry partners, CATCH colleagues, NL colleagues and Dr William Joyce, UKRI and Seyhan Turan UKRI Audit lead. <https://www.humberindustrialclusterplan.org/>

5.3 To enter the next stage of delivery, the Humber Energy Board, founded by both HEY and GL LEPs will become the strategic ‘guardian’ of the Plan, receiving reports on progress and feeding these to the Humber Leadership Board with North Lincolnshire Council acting as secretariat.

5.4 Conversations are ongoing regarding who will take the lead on bringing together that progress, providing the operational monitoring etc. with a meeting planned for the end of the month, led by James Newman

6. The LEP Network - The Network is continuing to work with government on clarifying and promoting the role of LEPs who are not yet within a Combined Authority and in further defining the private sector's role.

6.1 The Network is looking to appoint a new Chair with the opportunity shortly opening. LEP Chairs have been invited to contribute to the recruitment process.

6.2 There are ongoing discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions designed to help address the issues around people aged 50+ who have already left the workplace. The former Humber LEP worked on this aspect and delivered a specific conference aimed at recruiters before developing a 50+ ESF funded programme re retaining, retraining and recruiting' older workers. The '50+ Lifelong Skills for Growth' programme is being delivered by East Riding of Yorkshire Council until December 2023.

6.3 The HEY Workforce site promotes all aspects of work and wellbeing and will also feature further support for employers looking to recruit people over 50 years, success can often result of more flexible working patterns etc.

7.0 Annual Performance Review - The LEP's APR took place on Monday 6th February 2023 where received verbal indications stated that the LEP's information sent prior to the meeting and subsequent conversation met requirements. (The results of the APR are only met or unmet). This is yet to be confirmed formally in writing.

7.1 Thanks formally go to the Accountable Body for their support with the APR, in particular via Graeme Smith and Deborah Gray.

8. LEP External Communications

8.1 Following the last Board meeting the LEP continues to be supported by colleagues in Hull City Council's communications team. The Growth Hub has been operating a radio and digital marketing campaign in support of its ERDF Business Growth Scheme, which has generated a number of new business enquiries with the Hub. Furthermore, a number of press releases have been issued over recent weeks covering Growth Hub activity including the launch of the HEY Manufacturers Network and the delivery of bespoke workshops for businesses in the region's visitor economy – the "THRIVE" programme.

Good media coverage has arisen from these press releases, including print articles and radio interview. A selection of these can be found below:

Manufacturers Network

Hull Daily Mail 22nd Feb - [PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions](#)

Insider Media - [HEY Growth Hub to launch manufacturing network | Yorkshire Manufacturing News \(insidermedia.com\)](#)

Business Live - [Manufacturing peer support to be offered in Hull and East Yorkshire with new network - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

‘THRIVE’ sales and marketing workshops

Jon Brunton interview on Beverley FM 8th March

BBC Radio Humberside interview with Jon Brunton - [David Burns - 28/02/2023 - BBC Sounds](#)

Hull Business – Your Future

Yorkshire Times - [Hull Business – Your Future \(yorkshiretimes.co.uk\)](#)

Hull What’s On - [Hull City Council to unveil new business support & funding opportunities at networking event \(hullwhatson.com\)](#)

For Entrepreneurs Only -
<https://twitter.com/FEOHull/status/1632775607162482695?s=20>

Business Link - [Hull City Council offers free advice and breakfast to SMEs - Business Link Magazine \(blmforum.net\)](#)

The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan

Yorkshire Times - [Humber Industrial Cluster Plan Launches With Seven Powerful Mandates \(yorkshiretimes.co.uk\)](#)

Carbon Capture Journal - [Carbon Capture Journal](#)

Business Works Magazine - [Humber Industrial Cluster Plan launches with seven powerful mandates | BW Magazine \(bw-magazine.co.uk\)](#)

Yorkshire Post - [New plan for turning Humber's heavy industries green is launched | Yorkshire Post](#)

8.2 The Convention of the North – HEY LEP participated in the annual convention, held in Manchester on 25th January. Guest speakers included Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Lisa Nandy, Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Over 700 delegates attended the event and board

member, Dafydd Williams, was interviewed by the BBC in regard of logistics and transport issues.

8.3 The LEP Employment and Skills Board hosted a visit by Deputy Chief Exec. of the Careers and Enterprise Company, John Yarham on Monday 27th February. Mr Yarham attended the Employment and Skills Board meeting to provide a national update, followed by a working lunch with key partners including both local authorities. Mr Yarham congratulated the LEP and its Careers Hub for the way it had developed its employer partnership and commented on it being a national example of good practice additionally it was acknowledged the progress made to engage all schools and colleges in the region in the Careers Hub.

8.4 the LEP Employment and Skills Team have led on several skills related activities and events in the region – please see the ESB report for more details.

8.5 Andrew Finch, Export lead helped organise a visit by a US delegation on 16th March. The agenda included a visit to Drax, the ORE Catapult, the OREC Grimsby Port Facilities and an evening dinner event, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Hull at the Guildhall which James Newman attended with other stakeholders including the Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce.

8.5 The Made Smarter programme will also be sponsoring the LEP stand at The Business Day and providing a break out workshop to engage SMEs in supporting their digital transition.

B) LEP Operational Matters

9.00 Staff team update - Further team changes have occurred since the last LEP meeting in January:

- Andrew Hewitt will be leaving the LEP at the end of March to re-join the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. We thank Andrew for his excellent contribution to the LEP and wish him well. This vacancy cannot be replaced due to funding limitations.
- Tracy Pallett, the former Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership Manager (LDSP) has now left the LEP. The team are currently considering the best ways of ensuring business continuity for the LDSP and has identified a number of options.
- The three new Careers Hub vacancies are now in recruitment with the first Green Skills Project Administer post having a preferred candidate.

- The two-year funded vacancy for the Investment Programme Officer also has a preferred candidate in place who should be joining the LEP in April.
- The Growth Hub's Made Smarter Digital Transformation Specialist vacancy has appointed a new colleague, Les Selby has started his post on 6th March and will ensure the service delivery of Made Smarter in line with the funding agreement in place with Sheffield City Region LEP.
- Colleagues funded by ERDF resources who deliver the additional activity will enter into the Accountable Body's redeployment system if no further funding is available for this SME support activity. Five members of staff are impacted.