

# Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Board

## Paper G – Business Support Board Update

Report to the Board – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Report from Andrew Hewitt, Senior Policy & Business Growth Manager

### **1. Summary**

1.1 The Business Support Board held its most recent meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The draft minutes from this meeting are attached at **Appendix 1**. The meeting was chaired by Jason Speedy from Groupe Atlantic and received a presentation from Paula Goldthorpe outlining the current activity of the Federation of Small Business. Issues discussed included business support activity through UK SPF current export support in the region and what proactive support is being offered to support businesses through this challenging period.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 To note progress to date.

### **3. Report**

3.1 Key items discussed at the board included:

- Federation of Small Business Update

The Board received an informative presentation covering the following areas:

- Who is the FSB?
- What FSB Does and what are the Member Benefits
- Entrepreneurial North - Survey
- FSB Small Business Awards
- Small Business Challenges

- UK SPF Update

Andrew Hewitt and provided an update on UK SPF in region and following this the board undertook a discussion about how, in the context of business support, a seamless customer journey can be achieved by aligning both Hull and East Riding UK SPF programmes. The board felt that it could play a role in this task.

- New support for businesses through the cost-of-living crisis

The board received an update from Jon Brunton outlining that Growth Hub has been proactive in providing support to businesses in relation to the energy and cost of living crises. A dedicated webpage has been established on the Growth

Hub website which provides information on such measures as the government's Energy Bill Relief Scheme, as well as links to other sources of information, guidance, and funding support. JB demonstrated the webpage to the group: [heygrowthhub.com/energy-crisis-the-economy/](https://heygrowthhub.com/energy-crisis-the-economy/)

Additionally, JB noted in collaboration with the Yorkshire cluster of Growth Hubs, a series of webinars are taking place across November and December covering the energy crisis for small and medium businesses. These webinars will examine the government support for business energy bills and will also look at energy efficiency and cost control measures for businesses. Five 90-minute webinars will run in total, covering this topic on both a generic basis and a sector-specific basis for the Manufacturing, Retail & Hospitality, and Agricultural sectors. More details can be found via the weblink above.

- **Export activity**

The board received information from Andrew Finch on current export-based activity in the region including the UKSPF bid to Hull CC and Export Skills Bootcamp activity.