

Hull & East Yorkshire LEP Board Report

Paper E - Chief Operating Officer and LEP Team Board Report

25th May 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.

2. Recommendations

The Board to note the report.

3. Report

A) Strategic issues

3.1 **LEP questionnaire**, following the request from government the LEP and the two local authorities of Hull and East Riding have jointly submitted the response. The questionnaire included questions on staff levels, funding and reserves and the number and details of any externally funded contracts.

3.2 In the HEY LEP's case we have a number of contracts that would need to be delivered beyond any removal of core funding from April 2024. Many of these have ambitious and stretching targets and include the funding of staffing resources to manage this delivery. Therefore, the eventual outcome of the government's decision would impact most significantly on core staff (5 delivering 4 FTE roles). Conversations regarding the potential transfer of programme responsibilities will continue with both LAs.

4. ICS Partnership – The HEY LEP Employment & Skills Team has entered into a partnership with the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). The ICB has invested £300k of non-recurrent funding into the HEY LEP which will lead the initiative. The project aims to address skills shortage occupations within NHS and social care and raise the profile of careers in the NHS and social care including amongst people with additional needs or barriers to employment. More details can be found in the Employment and Skills Board update, agenda item G).

5. The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan – the project was closed on 31st March with the publication of the Plan and its component research pieces. The Humber Energy Board, as the guardian and strategic lead of the Plan, will shortly run an open and transparent Expression of Interest exercise to

determine which partner(s) will continue to monitor progress and delivery of the seven mandates outline in the Plan; see <https://www.humberindustrialclusterplan.org/news.html>

6. The LEP Network - The Network is continuing to work with government and has recently met with the Business and Trade Minister, Kevin Hollinrake, MP, focussing on the work of Growth Hubs and asking for future clarity on funding. The Minister demonstrated his clear support for the work and is keen to explore the whole business journey from start up to export. He indicated a likely decision on Growth Hub funding in the Autumn with a view to the longer-term stability if possible.

7.0 Foreign Owned Business – KAM arrangements – The LEP has secured £58k from the Department of Business and Trade (DBT) to continue to deliver support to existing foreign owned businesses (foreign ownership of 10% or greater) operating in the Hull and East Yorkshire region during 2023/24. The award is part of a 2-year allocation from DBT. Funding for the 2024/25 year will however be subject to final treasury approvals. Under the delivery model the LEP will administratively manage the programme with delivery resource provided by the two local authorities.

8. LEP External Communications - As part of the LEP's transparency and adherence to the Local Assurance Framework there is an expectation that an Annual General Meeting is held to that illustrate progress made and provide the LEP's financial position.

8.1 The next LEP board will take place on 27th July at County Hall in Beverley and there is an opportunity to use the same method as the previous year, a one-hour LEP board meeting followed by the AGM.

8.2 Consideration on the format (physical or via Teams) and public access needs to be confirmed. Board members are asked to discuss their views on the approach.

B) LEP Operational Matters

9.0 Staff team update - Further team changes have occurred since the last LEP board meeting:

- The Project Officer for the Careers Hub has now commenced his role; Elvis Ogah will be providing additional capacity for this growing team. The further two vacancies of Enterprise Coordinator and (a shared post with Greater Lincolnshire LEP) Employer Engagement Enterprise Coordinator will be recruited to in the forthcoming term – these posts are required to support the increased number of engaged schools and

also meet the arrangements agreed with external employers who have provided resource.

- In addition to the above, the ICS Health and Care project, described above which is externally funded, will also include three new roles to deliver the KPIs over a two-year period. These new roles will be line managed by the Careers Hub Lead to ensure all careers activity is aligned appropriately.
- The two-year funded vacancy for the Investment Programme Officer is now filled, Jacquie Newman joined the LEP in April and has significant experience in project management, funding and support.
- Two colleagues funded by ERDF resources who deliver the additional Growth Hub activity have now entered into the Accountable Body's redeployment system. Three further members of staff will be impacted from the Autumn due to the cessation of European funding.