

## Hull & East Yorkshire LEP Board Report

### Paper C - Chief Operating Officer and LEP Team Board Report 28<sup>th</sup> September 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.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Board to approve the extension of the Chair and Deputy Chair roles and to approve the appointment of Ben Medhurst to the Investment Panel. The remaining report to be noted.

#### 3. Report

##### **A) Strategic issues**

3.1 **Growth Hub – Create Growth Proposal** – As per the Business Support Board notes the LEP has been invited to bid for an additional programme of support for those businesses who are part of the creative sector (as determined by sector SIC codes).

3.2 A grant of £9,500 has been received to enable invited LEPs/CAs to buy in additional capacity to meet the bid deadline of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We have appointed KADA to this role, utilising the evidence from last year and building on employer engagement using an online survey, one to ones and a stakeholder workshop.

3.3 If successful this bid would result in an additional £500k of business support to the Hull and East Yorkshire region. The programme focuses on those businesses which have capacity to grow, providing access to finance in addition to business service support.

3.4 Partnering with both local authorities, the final delivery model is likely to include a lead officer with support from wider business support advisors based in both LAs.

3.5 The outcome of the bid is expected to be announced by late October.

#### 4. Programme Delivery

**4.1 Getting Building Fund** All GBF funds have now been defrayed and the Investment Programme Team continue to monitor outputs and a small amount of match funding, which is due Qtr.2 23/24.

#### 4.2 Local Growth Fund

- a) Stoneferry – all LGF funds have been defrayed and it is anticipated that all match funding and outstanding minor defects will be resolved Qtr2. 23/24. The Programme Team continue to monitor.
- b) Central Cleethorpes – NE Lincs received £18.4m in Phase 2 of the Levelling Up funds. This is enabling procurement works to commence Qtr.3 23/24 with construction works Qtr.1 of 24/25. The Programme Team continue to monitor.
- c) Holderness Drain – This flood alleviation scheme is now making good progress and it is anticipated that works will be completed Qtr.3 23/24. The Programme Team continue to monitor.
- d) Delivering Housing Growth (2) continues, with outputs and match funding anticipated into 2029.

**4.3 Growing Places Fund** - continues to attract interest from a range of businesses across Hull & East Yorkshire. Over 100 EOIs have now been received with 35 businesses being awarded a current approved total of £907,479.30. A recent promotion event at RaisE Business Centre was well received, with a further event planned within East Yorkshire on 27<sup>th</sup> September '23.

**5. Careers and Enterprise Company Work Experience Pilot** - The Hull and East Yorkshire Careers Hub has been asked to participate in a national pilot looking at various forms of work experience including virtual, employer led, and sector focussed. In the HEY LEP's case the CEC are looking for the Careers Hub to lead on a Decarbonisation and Clean Energy Sector approach.

5.1 The Careers Hub lead has met with employers and stakeholder to develop the proposal which should result in an additional 500+ work experiences for young people aged 13/14. This age group has been deliberately chosen to ensure that activities do not displace any apprenticeship or T level work activity and should not encounter the challenges that can exist in releasing Key Stage 4 students from their lessons.

5.2 The full delivery model will be discussed at the next Employment and Skills Board with the activity likely to start in the Spring/Summer terms.

5.3 The funding of £64,000 will cover contracting additional capacity to ensure outputs are achieved by 31 July 2024.

6. **Governance** - The current appointments for the LEP Chair and Deputy Chair currently run until December 2023. Given the LEP's transition to the integration pathway, board members are asked to consider extending these posts initially to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

6.1 The board is asked to formally approve the appointment of Ben Medhurst, PPH Commercial to become a member of the Investment Panel. The Panel meets on a monthly basis to assess and recommend access to grants and/or loans using the recycled funds from the Growth Places Fund programme as previously agreed. Ben will bring additional expertise and add to the strength of the panel. Grant outcomes and existing membership can be found here: [Investment Panel » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#) . Appendix one is attached for the board's review.

7. **The LEP Network Update** – This months' activity highlights relevant to the LEP Board follows:

- 'The UK has re-joined the [Horizon Europe](#) scheme. The LEP Network had been made increasingly aware by colleagues of the impact that the withdrawal was having on research contracts, researchers, collaboration, and subsequent impact on local economies.
- Discussions with the **Careers and Enterprise Company** have confirmed that they are keen to 'keep the ship steady' and to ensure the careers hubs and other work remains on track through the changes which lie ahead. They will shortly launch a report which points to the excellent work delivered by the Hubs for local PR.
- The **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero** have approached the Network to support their work on plans for the government's Business Energy Reduction Campaign – '[Make Energy Saving Your Business](#)'. The campaign is centred around a series of low/no cost actions that businesses can undertake in order to reduce their energy consumption, and therefore outgoing costs. They are looking to partner with organisations whose audiences are business-focussed, in the hope of increasing awareness of the campaign to businesses (in particular SMEs).
- DLUHC officials and the Network have discussed the approach to **LEP Assurance** for the current year's funding. Agreement on a very light touch will be adopted, given where we are in the year and the level of funding in play.

- **Government** - The Government is seeking views on its proposed work for a **UK battery strategy**, it believes a thriving battery ecosystem could support economic growth, productivity, and jobs. Stakeholders can have their say by submitting a [call for evidence](#) response by the **28 September 2023**.
- The [King has appointed](#) the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP as Secretary of State for Defence, Claire Coutinho MP is Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, and David Johnston OBE MP, is appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education.
- The **Cabinet Office** confirmed a fifth delay to the implementation of [post-Brexit border controls](#) on food and fresh products coming from the EU, pushing the launch of the new regime into next year. The FT suggest the Chancellor backed the delay amid concerns new red tape will push up food prices during an inflationary crisis, while traders have also asked for more time to get ready for the new system.
- **Defra** have announced the application date for the **Sustainable Farming Incentive 2023** will be from the 18<sup>th</sup> September although farmers are invited to register their interest now. The SFI will pay farmers for taking actions that support food production, farm productivity and resilience, whilst protecting and enhancing environment. There are twenty-three actions on offer under the new and improved 2023 scheme, including on soil health, moorland, hedgerows, integrated pest management, farmland wildlife, buffer strips, and low input grassland.
- The **Prime Minister** has announced that Bletchley Park is to host a “world first” [summit on artificial intelligence safety](#) on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November to consider the risks of AI, especially at the frontier of development, and discuss how they can be mitigated through internationally coordinated action. It is intended that international governments, leading AI companies and experts in research will attend.
- The [Local Government Lawyer](#) is the latest to cover the government’s LEP announcement, concluding that ***“Whilst this decision on LEPs was not unexpected, the Government should take steps to ensure the talent and expertise built up within LEPs is not lost to the public sector and the good work of the LEPs is continued under the new structures”***. This remains a priority for the Network in its work with officials.’

8. **The Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership** – The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (formerly part of the Department for

Culture, Media and Sport) has changed policy direction on matters relating to the digital agenda. The focus is now on artificial intelligence and business growth and innovation, with digital skills taking a less prominent role.

8.1 This change in policy direction coincides with the competition of the MoU contract and associated funding for the Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership and also the development of the Chamber of Commerce's sector representative advisory groups, one of which is to have a digital theme. The advent of the above changes presents an appropriate juncture to review the Terms of Reference of the Local Digital Skills Partnership in line with the recently published HEY Digital Framework. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership in the first instance and then at the Employment and Skills Board before recommendations come back to this board for review.

**9. LEP External Communications** - As per JHN's verbal report, East Riding of Yorkshire Council have now published a paper setting out the potential development of the LEP integration as we move towards transition and the formation of the Devolution Deal. Appendix two is attached for board members information, along with Appendix three/three.one which was previously circulated to the board and are the HCC published papers.

9.1 Coverage in the media has included a focus on the Made Smarter Programme:

**Hull Is This** - [Made Smarter programme recommences this autumn \(hullisthis.news\)](http://hullisthis.news)

**Business Works Magazine** - [HEY LEP's Made Smarter programme recommences this autumn | BW Magazine \(bw-magazine.co.uk\)](http://bw-magazine.co.uk)

**Insider Media** – *(behind paywall)* [Manufacturing workshop set to boost Humber firms | Insider Media](http://insidermedia.com)

## **B) LEP Operational Matters**

**10. Staff team update** - Further team changes have occurred since the last LEP board meeting:

- The Energy Hub Coordinator will start in post from October 2<sup>nd</sup> and is fully funded by Tees Valley MCA.
- The ICS Integrated Careers Pilot Project Manager post – This post has been recruited to and filled by Lucy Gray who will move from a role as Enterprise Coordinator. The appointment of a further EC has enabled capacity within the existing team to cover that role.

- The remaining Growth Hub colleague working on the closedown of the ERDF funded Business Growth Scheme has secured a new role with HCC's Street Scene service via the redeployment process. They will take up this new role upon the end of their current post on 30 September 2023.

10.1 **Work Experience** – the LEP recently hosted a work experience student who was interested in a potential future career in economic development. Feedback from Polly's experience was very positive and included the following comments:

10.2 "Having now completed my work experience at HEY LEP, I feel really lucky to have been introduced to aspects of all parts of the LEP, and I can genuinely say that I now have a better understanding of what a career in economic development might look like in the future. It was interesting to find out more about economics in the local area, and how the LEP works with local SMEs. These were areas that I was already interested in knowing more about, but after spending time at the LEP I have really expanded my knowledge, as I had several one-to-one chats and attended different meetings that introduced me to various peoples' roles within the LEP. I was also really lucky to have Teresa and Karen as 'line managers'- they prepared a wide range of tasks for me to do and ensured that the experience ran as smoothly as possible. It was also really useful to have them as contacts for any queries I had at any point through the placement".

10.3 We hope to offer further work experience opportunities once the transition arrangements have been established.

