

**Hull & East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Business Support Board**
Held on 10th January 2024 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm via Teams

Draft Notes – to be confirmed Paper I Appendix 1

DW welcomed all members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Jo Dooley, (Dawn Hall was representing ERYC), Madge Moore, David Hall Jason Speedy and Rachel Smurthwaite.

Minutes from the previous meeting, held 8th November were agreed as correct with all matters arising addressed on this agenda.

LEP Update - devolution and integration

JHN updated the Board regarding the LEP. The LEP will close on 31st March 2024, however the activities will continue after this under new transition arrangements prior to the proposed development of the M/CA.

JC informed the Board that the Devolution Deal consultation had now being promoted, the process started last week for residents to comment on. JHN said that within the Business Engagement Board, they had been letting other businesses know to support the deal.

With regards to the LEP integration, a further meeting with both Councils is planned to discuss the integration and consider how they services and both LAS will work together under the new arrangements.

Growth Hub Report

JB updated the Board regarding the submission of the Growth-Hub's half-year report to DBT, government had indicated that they were satisfied with the contents of the report and that the Growth Hub had provided all the information required.

The government's Autumn Statement on 22nd November 2023 confirmed continued funding for Growth Hubs in 2024/2025, and that the government's internal business planning process for determine 24/25 funding levels is y well underway. Notification will be provided as soon as possible from January 2024.

The Growth Hub is working with the two LAs regarding the local UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). Regular meetings take place between the Growth Hub Manager and the business support leads of both local authorities, which ensures that each organisation can help promote and amplify each other's provision.

The development of the revised Business Support Handbook for the HEY region is progressing well and is scheduled for completion in late January 2024. It will contain details of all publicly funded business support that are currently available for businesses in the HEY -region.

The government also announced the expansion of the Made Smarter programme in the Autumn Statement. This included a commitment to roll-out Made Smarter to all English regions by the 2025/26 year, before discussions with devolved bodies to take the programme forwards from 2026/27.

Following the confirmation of the application for the DCMS Create Growth Programme, we are still waiting

for the funding offer letter to arrive (expected early mid-January 2024).

JB suggested that it would be a good idea to create a manufacturing event to help with status of the regional caravan and leisure home-manufacturing industry.

Action – Board members to consider the Devolution Proposal, completing in their own rights and help amplify the message.

Employer Self-Assessment Tool & Careers Hub Update

James Hardstaff from BAE Systems introduced himself. JH gave his presentation regarding Employer Self-Assessment in careers activity, a process which has been developed by the Careers and Enterprise Company to help businesses consider the impact of their support. This assessment is designed to support employers and help them understand and deliver best practice in careers education.

There self-assessment contains nine 'Employment Standards', which together form a framework with related self-assessment questions. Each standard is based on the best available data about what works most effectively. After completing the self- assessment, businesses gain an understanding of how they are performing against each standard, they can analyse how they compare against other businesses and how they can access specific support and resources to improve quality. The full report can be found on the [CEC website](#).

The Career and Enterprise Company provides a Local Hub fund for each Careers Hub. The Hub then utilises the fund to deliver a specific range and number of projects, as agreed in negotiation with the CEC and designed to support the areas most needed by schools and colleges to develop the high-quality strategic careers programmes.

Proposal for Establishing a Professional Services Network Group

The former Humber LEP facilitated a quarterly meeting of professional services firms as part of a 'Professional Services Network'. This network was attended by representatives from the regional banking, accounting, and legal industries. The network was disbanded at the closedown of the Humber LEP on 31st March 2021 and was not reconstituted under the HEY LEP, due to recued staffing and budgetary resources.

The work required to re-establish such a network could be undertaken by existing LEP personnel. The ongoing secretariat function and any modest meeting costs arising would need to be born by the HEY LEP or successor organisations.

Action - written feedback from the rest of the members regarding establishing the network group, either within the current LEP or under the new arrangements pre M/CA.

UKSPF Updates

PB updated the Board on the UKSPF funding. Hull has been allocated £9 million core UKSPF to be spent between April 2022 and March 2025. Further to previous reports, an additional 6 months has been granted to allow any carry over between funding years. The Business Advisory team include 1-1 advisors, start-up advisors and youth enterprise advisors.

More information can be found at [Invest Hull | Home](#)

Investment related activity

The Net Zero post holder has now been with the LEP for a few months, focussing on domestic decarbonisation and public/private sector partnerships. The investment landscape remains challenging with the volume of inward investment enquiries noticeably reduced during this reporting period. At a more domestic level however, interest is still being received by companies looking to expand their footprint or invest in capital equipment.

Following a meeting of the Freeport Innovation Liaison Group (FILG) it was decided to run an Innovation event to showcase current and future innovation projects that are linked to the Humber Freeport. The event concluded with a tour of a 5g innovation project aimed at supporting the offshore industry. The event was promoted through a number of routes including the HEY LEP Growth Hub and experienced a good turnout on the day.

Proposed CIPD Project

The Employment & Skills Team have received confirmation that the proposal submitted to the government's Innovation Fund along with the CIPD and the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT,) has been successful, and the partnership expects to enter into a funding contract early in 2024.

At the time of writing, the HEY LEP has a notional funding allocation sufficient to meet the cost of employing 1 x FTE for 18 months to deliver the project and associated programme reporting requirements in addition to other project related activity. A detailed budget, activity and deliverables will be developed when funding allocations are confirmed. AS the LEP is now in transition to the new arrangements, this project will need to move over and be subject to the new reporting and governance arrangements.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

6th March 2024 in person (venue tbc)