



Minutes - Business Development Board

16th December 2014, 8.30am - 10.30am
 World Trade Centre, 48 Queen Street, Hull, HU1 1UU

Attendees

Members: Paul Sewell (PS) Anne Laudage (AL), Malcolm Scott (MS), Richard Tuplin (RT), Helen Bissett (HB), Mike Pennington (MP), David Kilburn (DK), Councillor Jane Evison (JE), Bill Walker (BW), Laurence Harte (LH), Chris Haskins (CH), Gary Warke (GW), Lindsay West (LW), Richard Stansfield (RS), Councillor Neil Poole (NP)

Observer: Phil Benson (PB)

Officers: Richard Kendall (RK), Emma Toulson (ET)

| Item | Action/key points | Responsible |
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| 1. | <p>Apologies</p> <p>Kishor Tailor Sean Royce Councillor Briggs David Keel James Sweeting Tim Rix</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Minutes of the previous meeting on 19th August and matters arising:</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as accurate subject to the addition of Gary Warke on the list of attendees.</p> <p>The Board also discussed:</p> <p>Item 5 – LEP’s approach to sectors on the Agenda</p> <p>Item 8 - Business Engagement on the Agenda</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Chair/Executive update</p> <p>CH reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able UK situation which is still not resolved. • A number of large business Investments due in next six months • Combined Authorities discussions and agreement that further discussions should be left until after the General Election. The Board discussed the importance of not | |

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| | <p>being left out of the debate and the need to engage with other LEPs around Yorkshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board recorded its thanks on the success of the National College bid and particularly on the good PR. • Autumn Statement £1billion to bid for. • Flooding <p>RK reported on the Autumn Statement and ongoing work by the other sub-boards of the LEP.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Check in with all members</p> <p>The following items were reported on and discussed by Board members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Director of University of Hull Logistics Institute, Amar Ramudhin • A number of new investments planned at the University of Hull • Hull College managing the University of Hull Campus in Scarborough • Increased number of apprentices • Challenges in skills • Business Expansions • Internal business communications • Recruitment still being an issue • Increased Growth • City of Culture 2017 • Business engagement • Finishing process around awarding degrees • National College input • Business, Community & Sporting events and Christmas markets • Supermarkets and retail • RGF3 really good take up and most funds committed | |
| 5. | <p>Issues arising from agenda items 3 and 4</p> <p>These were covered in the discussion.</p> | |
| | Items for discussion | |
| 6. | <p>LEP priority sectors</p> <p>RK introduced a paper setting out options and a proposed way</p> | |

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| | <p>forward on the LEP's sectors work, building on the discussion at the previous meeting.</p> <p>Board members felt strongly that there was a need to focus on actions and outcomes, and prioritise the LEP's resources accordingly.</p> <p>MS asked for statistics on the size of sectors and potential employment.</p> <p>Agreed: The Board endorsed the approach set out in the paper and agreed to recommend it to the main LEP Board for approval in January 2015.</p> | <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>Humber marketing</p> <p>PS updated the Board on recent discussions at the Marketing Group and the LEP Board. Board members noted the progress that had been made with the Energy Estuary brand under the LEP's leadership and the effectiveness of lobbying in Westminster, but agreed there was a need for strong leadership and co-ordination of marketing work in general. The use of the complementary Humber/Energy Estuary, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire brands was discussed as a potential way forward.</p> | |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Business engagement</p> <p>RT reported that Business engagement since the Board's formation has started well with 2 successful LEP Forums and increased take up in the newsletters. The Board discussed current progress.</p> <p>RT explained that direct engagement was planned in January/February 2015 with key business groups in the Humber to ask the simple question – What barriers are restricting the growth of business. RT explained that these issues would be fed back to Business Development Board to take to the main LEP Board to deal with and feedback to Business. There would be a LEP Forum in March 2015, the content is still to be agreed but it would be specifically around the business engagement and feedback for the LEP.</p> <p>Agreed: The Board noted the position.</p> | |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Business Growth Hub</p> <p>The Board considered the future shape of the Humber Business</p> | |

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| | <p>Growth Hub. The current provision and its associated funding under the contract with Lancaster University will come to a physical end on the 31st March 2015, with financial completion of the scheme by the end of June 2015. Further funding at a reduced level would be available for 2015/16.</p> <p>RK explained that decisions would need to be made soon on how the programme would continue. The Board discussed the importance of gathering case studies and continuing engagement with businesses, particularly with Humber Bankers/Accountants and Commercial Lawyers.</p> <p>The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To delegate the LEP Executive to determine and implement an appropriate way forward in discussion with partners, the accountable body and staff, and report back at the next meeting. • To instruct the LEP Executive to try to fill the funding shortfall in the first instance, and scale back the service if sufficient funding cannot be found. • Subject to LEP Board approval, to carry forward the remainder of its budget for this year into next year and use that and its budget for next year as a contribution to the Business Growth Hub's programme management costs which may be reimbursed if an application for ERDF funding is successful. | <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> |
| <p>10.</p> | <p>European Structural and Investment funds</p> <p>LH reported on recent developments with regard to the development of plans to utilise ESIF in the Humber LEP area and the recent shadow Board meeting he attended. The following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Programme information submitted (frustration of sign off being delayed). Funding therefore won't be available until mid 2015 at the earliest. • Access to finance – problem that within funding mechanisms/instruments different to a straight forward grant. Therefore, need consultation with business to see how that might work e.g. equality funding or loans • Seem to be a lot of frustration from practitioners who would be spending money. • Generally felt though as an area that projects aren't | |

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| | Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RGF Investments • Priority actions for 2015 | |
| 13. | Summary RK summarised the key points. | |
| 12. | Feedback & issues to escalate to Main Board Issues to be raised at the main board included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a clear direction on marketing • Recommended approach on sectors • Emphasis on the need to be ready for ESIF • Emphasis on priority actions for the new year | RK/PS |
| | Next meeting: 08.30am Tuesday 12th February 2015, WTC, Hull | |