



Minutes - Business Development Board

10 November 2015, 8.30am - 10.30am
H&H, Hesslewood Hall

Attendees

Members: Paul Sewell (PS), Richard Tuplin (RT), Laurence Harte (LH), Gary Warke (GW), Richard Stansfield (RS), Helen Bissett (HB), Malcolm Scott (MS), Bill Walker (BW), David Keel (DKe), Mike Pennington (MP), Chris Haskins (CH), Graham Cross (GC), Tim Rix (TR), Anita Pace (AP).

Officers: Richard Kendall (RK), Emma Toulson (ET), Kishor Tailor (KT), Sarah Clinch (SC), Karen Oliver-Spry (KOS), Keely Lead (KL), Harriet Merchant-Turpin (HMT) (minutes).

Presentation: Andy Parkinson.

Item	Action/key points	Responsible
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Lindsay West, Anne Laudage, David Kilburn, James Sweeting.</p> <p>PS welcomed new board member Anita Pace, chair of Bondholders. PS thanked HMT for the work she had done for the board as she moves on from the LEP in November.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting on 15 September 2015 and matters arising</p> <p>Lord Haskins' attendance at previous meeting to be corrected. Minutes of the meeting otherwise agreed as a true record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Procurement – RK to report back on social value work at the next meeting. Forward plan – All should have read this and any comments passed to RK. Bondholders - Now sit on the board and discussions are taking place around the marketing of the Humber and what we have to offer. There will be a full update at the January board. Action: The Marketing group to provide a full update at the January meeting. 	RK
3.	<p>Check-in with all members on the economy</p> <p>Construction consultancy - Locally there is work out there, however not quite as much as planned, with limited margins,</p>	

<p>which is causing some supply chain problems and skills shortages have cropped up in the last few weeks. Announcements around TATA have caused a negative impression - is there anything the LEP can do to help?</p> <p>Leisure - night life in Hull City Centre is still very quiet and it is hopefully improving. The local artists have more success than those out of town.</p> <p>Skills - Funding Cuts and area reviews are currently in process making it hard. Structural changes under discussion.</p> <p>Promotion - Bondholders had a successful meeting on 6th November in Grimsby with the theme of local food. The positive stories which were shared at the event would be useful when marketing the region.</p> <p>University - Currently in the middle of £200m programme. Recruiting new staff to support work between businesses and the university. Student recruitment better than expected. Planning currently ongoing around the Innovation Centre and how it can be moved forward.</p> <p>Caravan industry - picking up.</p> <p>Property and retail - moving well.</p> <p>Marketing/design – moving on well.</p> <p>Digital - the new C4DI building is nearly complete. John Connolly giving evidence on behalf of the LEP digital group to the BIS Select Committee that day.</p> <p>Minerals - Busy in the run up to the election however it has now dropped off. At the moment there are a few projects on hold.</p> <p>Media – Now in event season until December. Doing well in Hull but harder in Grimsby and Scunthorpe. The retail and digital sector of the business is doing well.</p> <p>Logistics - in Europe very static, still bringing more into the country than taking out. Due to the issues in France freight has moved North but may not stay. Outside Europe exports stable and imports should peak shortly in time for Christmas. Coal imports are currently 40% down. Possible discussions with freight organisations about capturing the skills and re training those who are affected by the TATA Steel job losses. Currently</p>	
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	<p>meeting companies who are looking for space on the Humber.</p> <p>Insurance – Hull office performing well.</p> <p>Comms - Sector as a whole looks like it is growing. Seen an increase in the number of tender requests coming though for internal communication projects, companies are now spending money on internal comms to retain staff.</p> <p>Construction – Have grown from 300 to 400 people in the last year with 30 new people since August. Finding a problem with young people in work having an attitude which is not work ready, but do have the skills. Health Sector is growing but contract margins and budgets are tight.</p> <p>RK outlined the work of the Tata Taskforce, which the LEP was supporting.</p> <p>KT reported on the Bankers meeting in September, which had indicated a dip in the number of people borrowing money and investments in the region. Feeling that people were not borrowing from banks they are finding other sources of funding such as crowdfunding.</p>	
4.	<p>LEP Chair’s and Board members’ hot topics</p> <p>CH discussed the issues around public spending and updated members on devolution discussions.</p>	
5.	<p>Communications and business engagement</p> <p>HB and KL gave an update on the communications plan. Members agreed on the importance of raising awareness of the LEP’s work and having a clear and consistent position on the LEP’s role in light of devolution. The Chair suggested that a statement be drafted for circulation at the main Board on Friday.</p> <p>Action: RK/KL to draft a statement with PS and CH and circulate for approval. (See Annex)</p> <p>The next meeting with membership organisations would be the following week, with meetings with large corporates to come.</p>	<p>RK/KL/ PS/CH</p>
6.	<p>Digital sector</p> <p>i) Briefing on digital sector research Andy Parkinson gave a presentation on KC’s digital sector research.</p> <p>ii) Sector Plan</p>	

	<p>SC gave an update on the digital sector plan and the projects currently being worked up for delivery in 2016.</p>	
7.	<p>LEP strategy refresh</p> <p>RK briefed members on the main Board's decision to refresh the Strategic Economic Plan. This was coming up to two years old and a few things had moved on, including City of Culture and renewable energy developments, so would be brought up to date. This would also be an opportunity to take account of developing Government policy on productivity and the Northern Powerhouse. The board would be asked for input in the New Year.</p>	
8.	<p>European Structural & Investment Funds</p> <p>The impact of exchange rate changes on the allocations was noted.</p>	
9.	<p>Innovation</p> <p>RK updated members on the development of proposals for Science and Innovation Audits.</p>	
10.	<p>Updates from project teams</p> <p>The board noted the reports.</p>	
11.	<p>Summary</p> <p>RK summarised the actions.</p>	
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>PS thanked HB for hosting the board.</p>	
	<p>Next meeting: Tuesday 12 January 2016, Venue TBC</p>	

Annex: Position agreed by Business Development Board members

The Humber's Energy Estuary is an essential part of the Northern Powerhouse and the UK's economy. Our location, infrastructure, connectivity into global markets and logistics expertise means we are the busiest port complex in the UK, yet still have space for growth.

This is why it is vital that while the devolution debate continues, we must not lose the momentum or focus on growing the Humber economy.

It is critical that the Humber's economic development is put before political squabbles and that the clear selling points of the Humber as a place to invest is not lost among the debates.

In these times of uncertainty around how the devolved power model might look, plus a changing landscape in which multinationals in the region are going through difficult times, and funding for the public sector decreases, the Humber LEP's role as a public, private sector partnership is more crucial than ever.

The risk that businesses could become disengaged if focus is lost means it is essential that the day to day work of the Humber LEP is supported by all partners to ensure that the momentum of economic growth continues.

The Humber has major economic potential and the excellent work delivered by our partners in deploying devolved funds has already started to have some impact helping SMEs to grow creating jobs, aligning skills provision to the needs of business and bringing in investment for infrastructure that safeguards the region and helps it create the conditions for success.

We must push forward to do things that only the Humber LEP can do to drive our economy – influencing, lobbying and negotiating public and private sector resources.

In short, while we welcome devolution and understand the many complexities involved, we cannot afford for it to detract from the essential work needed to ensure we support the Humber region to maximise its potential to the benefit of its communities.