

Strategic Economic Plan refresh

Report to the Business Development Board, 10 November 2015
Report from Richard Kendall, Executive Director – Strategic Policy & Business Development

1. Summary

1.1. This paper updates the Business Development Board on the planned refresh of the Humber LEP's Strategic Economic Plan and asks for feedback.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That the Business Development Board notes the report and provides feedback.

3. Background

3.1. In common with other LEPs, the Humber LEP produced its Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2020 during 2013/14 in response to a request from Government. It was submitted to Government at the end of March 2014 as part of the Growth Deal submission. The SEP forms the basis for all of the LEP's activities, and also provides some of the strategic context for partners' activities.

3.2. The process of developing the plan involved a broad consultation and input from a wide range of partners and stakeholders. The ambition set out in the plan is as follows:

The ambition is to maximise the potential offered by the Humber Estuary, leading the Humber to become a renowned national and international centre for renewable energy and an area whose economy is resilient and competitive. We will continue to develop our strengths in key sectors, supporting our businesses to grow and helping our residents to access the opportunities they need to lead prosperous and rewarding lives.

3.3. The plan identifies five strategic enablers:

- Creating an Infrastructure that Supports Growth
- Supporting Businesses to Succeed
- A Great Place to Live and Visit
- A Skilled and Productive Workforce
- Flood Risk and Environmental Management

3.4. It also identifies seven priority sectors:

- Energy
- Ports and logistics
- Chemicals
- Engineering and manufacturing

- Creative and digital
- Food
- Visitor economy

4. Rationale for refreshing the SEP

4.1. Several LEPs are in the process of refreshing their SEPs, and the LEP Board agreed on 11 September that the Humber SEP should also be refreshed.

4.2. Refreshing the SEP will enable it to take account of:

4.2.1. Current Government policy following the general election, including devolution in England, the Northern Powerhouse and the Chancellor's Productivity Plan.

4.2.2. The emerging wider northern policy context, including the development of Transport for the North and its Independent Economic Review of the north.

4.2.3. Major investments around the Humber since the plan was agreed, including in relation to offshore wind.

4.2.4. An updated economic evidence base.

4.2.5. The strategic work undertaken by the LEP at a sub-board level, including the Employment and Skills Strategy, the finalised Humber Spatial Plan and sector development work.

4.2.6. The updated Humber transport vision being developed under the Investment & Regulation Board.

4.2.7. The range of projects referenced in the first Growth Deal submission which were approved and are now underway.

4.3. The SEP refresh is an opportunity for the LEP Board to consider whether the LEP's focus is still correct and, if not, adapt this accordingly. This will then provide the strategic context for any review of the LEP's form and functions which may follow.

5. Process for refreshing the SEP

5.1. At this point in time it is considered that the overall thrust of the strategy remains right, and it is therefore a case of adapting and revising it in line with the above rather than starting afresh.

5.2. Because the SEP is the LEP's main strategic document, it is important that any substantive changes are properly consulted on with stakeholders in line with the LEP's commitment to transparency and engagement. This will help to ensure that the LEP is fully aware of the latest information and any changes which may need to be made. Given that the changes needed are focused in nature, the consultation can also be targeted.

5.3. The Business Development Board, with its business engagement work stream, will be key in determining the approach for gathering feedback from businesses. Membership organisations will be briefed at the next scheduled meeting on 17 November.

5.4. The following timetable will be proposed to the LEP Board for approval on 13 November.

Action	Timescale
Commission external support	Early December
Initial discussions at JSU, with sub-boards and partners	December/January
First draft	February
Consultation on draft, revisions	February
Humber Leadership Board / LEP Board approval	Early March

5.5. The Business Development Board is asked to provide initial feedback on whether the focus of the SEP remains correct, any new areas which may need to be explored, and how best to gather broader feedback from businesses.