



Humber
Local Enterprise
Partnership

Minutes – Business Development Board

18 June 2019, 8.30am - 10.30am
Humber Bridge Board

Attendance

Members: Paul Sewell (Chair, PS), James Sweeting (JS), David Talbot (DT), Mark Webb (MW), Jo Smedley (JoSm), Chris Haskins (CH).

Officers: Richard Kendall (RK), Charis Scott-Holm (CSH).

Minutes

Actions

1 Apologies

Rob Daysley, Cllr Hannigan, Cllr Evison, Gill Alton, Mike Pennington, David Kilburn, Bill Walker, Tim Rix, Kishor Tailor.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held of 25 April were agreed.

Matters arising: It was agreed to revisit housing data, business involvement in the Institutes of Technology and industrial strategy consultation at the next meeting.

4 LEP Chair's update

CH said he was concerned of a widening gap between the economic prospects of the North and South Bank. With British Steel's insolvency, he was concerned about the future for energy intensive industries operating in a competitive global environment.

CH also said he had concerns about Brexit, as this had contributed to British Steel's issues.

CH also discussed the LEP geography - stating he would be discussing the boundary issues further with Greater Lincolnshire and the government.

CH noted the importance of the upcoming NP11 Energy Conference.

5 Humber Business Week

RK delivered a paper on Humber Business Week 2019 and asked the members for their feedback on LEP events during Business Week.

PS asked what follow up engagement there had been after the LEP events and what the long-term influence of the event might have been. He also asked whether there was any chance of having more broadcast media coverage next year.

While members felt the AGM was a good event, JoSm asked that the Growth Hub Live and E-factor business events taking place at Forest Pines be better marketed in the future. MW said that it had been widely marketed across North and North East Lincs.

RK said that the LEP had gauged feedback from the events and said apart from issues with parking and comments on catering the AGM was well received.

On Business Week generally, members felt that the quality of events had been high but there was a need to market some of these more widely.

Action - RK to discuss the feedback with the Business Week steering group.

6 Industrial Strategy

RK asked the members for their thoughts on the Industrial Strategy Prospectus.

PS asked if any sectors felt unrepresented in the report, RK replied more work was needed to include the food, health and tourism/visitor economy sectors.

DT said he felt decarbonisation was the best line of focus for the Humber.

JS said he had some concerns some of the developments were only dependent upon Government backing.

MW said he appreciated the references to the supply chain development in the strategy, and asked how the LEP could engage with smaller businesses as well as larger ones. He also recognised the importance of the renewables sector as a focus for growth in the Humber.

JoSm said that it was important to get the right people to engage with the feedback to get the most out of the consultation.

JS asked how Brexit might affect the delivery of the strategy, with unknowns about tariffs on food etc.

CH echoed JS's concerns and said he had many points the LEP would need clarification from the government on following on from Brexit such as potential staff shortages.

PS suggested it might be good to have a symposium on cleaner food production.

7 Appointment of a new Deputy Chair

PS proposed MW to take over as Deputy Chair of the board following Richard Tuplin's resignation. Members were supportive of this recommendation, although MW felt it was appropriate only to take this on until implementation of the LEP Review was complete.

Agreed – MW was appointed as Deputy Chair, with the appointment to be reviewed after completion of the LEP Review.

8 Board Recruitment

Members discussed recruiting for new members to the BDB, as there had been no recruitment for the last 5 years.

JoSm suggested more women be present on the board, and suggested someone under the age of 30, such as from the digital sector, might be a good addition to the board. She suggested that the board did not always need to be made up of the most senior people, as sometimes more junior members may have a broader understanding of how their business works.

PS suggested that members think of the sectors they would like representing on the board and use their networks to seek suitable applicants for the role, which would be publicly advertised.

9 Project reports

Reports on the Growth Deal, Growing the Humber, The Business Loan Fund and ESIF were noted.

On the Growth Hub, a conversation took place noting that the Hub was behind target on 'high intensity' business support.

MW said that the support was taking a little more time to 'file through' than other types of support but numbers would catch up. He and JoSm were engaging with partners on this.

CSH took questions from the members on the communications strategy at the LEP and its future direction.