

## Local Industrial Strategy

Report to the Business Development Board, 5 September 2019  
Report from Richard Kendall, Executive Director – Strategic Policy & Business Development

### 1. Summary

1.1. The paper updates the board on the development of the strategy following the publication of the Prospectus and Government's decision to accelerate the process.

1.2. The Business Development Board has responsibility for the "business environment" theme. The current draft chapter is provided for comment.

### 2. Recommendation

2.1. That the board considers the draft chapter and provides feedback.

### 3. Progress update

3.1. Development of the local industrial strategy has continued at pace since the launch of the Prospectus in June. The target remains agreeing the strategy with Government by the accelerated timescale of the end of September, with publication anticipated sometime in October.

3.2. The LIS is being drafted to broadly the same structure as the Prospectus:

- "Strategic opportunities"
  - Accelerating clean growth in the Humber
    - Decarbonising the Humber
    - Clean energy generation
  - Developing the Humber's ports and manufacturing clusters
    - Ports and logistics
    - Energy-intensive industries
    - Engineering and assembly
    - Food and agriculture
  - Knowledge economy (working title) – incorporating digital tech, R&D and higher-value knowledge-intensive jobs
- Five foundations
  - Ideas
  - People
  - Infrastructure
  - Business environment
  - Places

- 3.3. As previously advised, the LIS is not a bidding document so there is no scope for new financial commitments; neither is it a devolution-style deal, so there is minimal scope for policy flexibility. The focus is on reaching a shared view of priorities for the area and identifying joint commitments for closer working between Government and the Humber. It is also an opportunity to write in “hooks” for potential future funding and policy flexibilities, and to develop new relationships in Government departments.
- 3.4. The LEP has been working closely with Government to develop and refine the proposed commitments over the summer. Feedback has been particularly positive on the propositions put forward on clean growth, ports and working with Defra and its agencies.
- 3.5. The consultation on the Prospectus closed on 31 July, although some individual discussions continue. Responses are in the process of being analysed, but generally there was strong support for the focus proposed in the Prospectus and some useful specific points which are being picked up in drafting.

#### **4. Business environment chapter**

- 4.1. The business environment is one of the “five foundations” of the industrial strategy, as set by Government in the national strategy. Its focus is making the Humber a better place to do business, and measures to improve business growth and productivity.
- 4.2. The current draft of the chapter is **appended** to this report. At the end of the chapter, proposed local and joint (with Government) commitments are set out. These are expected to be specific and deliverable, with an emphasis on near term action. This contrasts with the previous Strategic Economic Plan, where the priorities were comprehensive over a five-year period and largely related to local actions.
- 4.3. The wording of the commitments is being continually adjusted as the proposals are tested, and is likely to change further as more feedback is received from Government.

#### **5. Issues for consideration by the board**

- 5.1. **The board is asked to review the draft chapter and provide feedback on the narrative and proposed commitments.** Specifically, the board is asked to consider:
  - Does the chapter accurately summarise the Humber’s business environment and issues that need addressing?
  - Are the proposed commitments the right priorities for the Humber?
  - Is there anything missing?