



**Humber**  
Local Enterprise  
Partnership

## Minutes - Business Development Board

5 September 2019, 8.30am - 10.30am  
Ergo

### Attendance

Members: Paul Sewell (PS, Chair), Bill Walker (BW), Rob Daysley (RD), Jo Smedley (JS), James Sweeting (JSw), Mark Webb (MW), Gill Alton (GA), Chris Haskins (CH)

Officers: Richard Kendall (RK), Kishor Tailor (KT)

Item	Action/key points	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from: Tim Rix, David Kilburn, Mike Pennington and David Talbot.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes and matters arising</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Update on new member recruitment</b></p> <p>RK reported that there had been a good response. PS said there would be group interview sessions. JS asked if there had been many women applicants; RK said that between a third and a half were women.</p> <p>Members suggested considering coverage of the LIS priorities and sectors once the new members had been appointed, to see if there were any remaining gaps.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Project reports</b></p> <p>RK gave an overview of key items in the report.</p> <p>PS noted a recent meeting with For Entrepreneurs Only and said it was important to have a united front from membership organisations.</p> <p>KT outlined the Brexit work the LEP was doing.</p> <p>JSw asked if the Scale-up Programme launch on 18 September</p>	<b>RK</b>

	<p>was going ahead given the short notice. <b>Action:</b> RK to confirm.</p> <p>JSw said that the VAT threshold was one of the biggest barriers to micro business growth, as people were wary of going above it.</p>	
6.	<p><b>State of trade</b></p> <p>Education – Recent funding announcements were positive. Institute of Technology sign-offs delayed by Department for Education scrutiny, now expected end of September. Employer engagement had increased but still need more. Still a shortage of HGV drivers in the region but no funding to address this.</p> <p>University – Clearing had hit targets. Going through a cost-saving process. Aura Innovation Centre close to completion.</p> <p>JS said that Small Business Saturday were coming to Grimsby with their roadshow (7 November), and asked for Growth Hub involvement. <b>Action:</b> RK</p> <p>Business support/property – Planning permission secured for 7 new units, expect to fill off plan. Continued growth in Scunthorpe. Business Hive Live on 4 October at Forest Pines.</p> <p>Signage – Commercial picked up, sports slower in the summer – larger companies reigning in sponsorship spend. Recruiting the right skills difficult.</p> <p>Convenience retail – Good, international visitors in town.</p> <p>FM – Growing, expanding across Yorkshire.</p> <p>Construction – Major construction generally at crisis point, companies downsizing &amp; will face big skills shortage in 3-4 years. Lack of public sector activity.</p> <p>Food – Performing well but weak Pound affecting profitability. Casual dining market struggling.</p> <p>Engineering – UK strong but exports difficult given current UK brand in Europe. A 6-month delay in getting certifications from the DVLA to comply with new regulations on agri machinery was preventing selling abroad.</p>	RK
7.	<p><b>LEP Chair's update</b></p> <p>CH reported that LEP geography remained unresolved and there were uncertainties on some aspects of policy. He felt the</p>	

	trading environment was showing signs of slowing.	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Industrial strategy</b></p> <p>RK introduced the draft Business Environment chapter, which had been circulated to members in confidence. The board was supportive of the proposed focus.</p> <p>Members discussed the document in detail, and made points around productivity-related investment support, survival rates, mentoring, regulation and payment terms. <b>Action:</b> RK to pick up points raised in the next draft.</p>	<b>RK</b>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Any other urgent business</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
	<b>Next meeting:</b> Tuesday 12 November 2019	