



Humber LEP Ltd - Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 19th March 2020 via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Board Members

Directors

Stephen Parnaby OBE (Chair)
Stephen Savage (Deputy Chair)
Tim Rix CBE (Vice Chair)
Isobel Mills CBE
Councillor Richard Burton
Professor Susan Lea
Simon Bird
Sallyann Garrard - Hughes
Councillor Stephen Brady OBE
Chris Haskins
Darren Cunningham
David Kilburn
Brendan Conlan

Observers

Peter Campey - BEIS
Alan Menzies - East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Mark Jones MBE - Hull City Council
James Newman - Chair designate of Hull and East Yorkshire LEP

Secretariat

Richard Kendall - Humber LEP
Teresa Chalmers - Humber LEP
Caroline Sansam - Humber LEP

289 Apologies

Dr Paul Sewell OBE
Councillor Rob Waltham MBE
Jo Smedley
Ian Plunkett
Councillor Philip Jackson

290 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were submitted by the Board.

291 Minutes of meeting held on 22nd January and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd January 2020 were approved as accurate.

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

292 Chair's Report

SP noted that this was the last meeting of the Humber LEP Board. He thanked all Board members for attending meetings and for giving up time to be part of the work of the Humber LEP, the contributions made by the Board members

over the years had ensured it was successful. All Board members played a crucial role in the success of the Humber and the LEP has been extremely successful over the last 10 years, one of the most successful in the UK. In particular, SP thanked Chris Haskins who had worked tirelessly to bring the Humber partners together. He thanked his Deputy (SS) and Vice Chair (TR) for supporting him throughout his tenure as Chair. SP also acknowledged KT's role in the success of the Humber LEP and wished him a speedy recovery. SP briefed the Board on some of the Humber success stories in terms funding and programmes. Some elements of the work were unique to the Humber region such as the Single Conversation. SP explained that there would be a legacy event to celebrate the work of the Humber LEP and further details would follow on in due course. SP also reported on a number of recent good news stories. SS thanked SP on behalf of the Board for his leadership during his tenure as the Chair.

293 Executive Report

RK reiterated SP's thanks to the Board for their support over the last 10 years.

A brief overview of current staffing issues was provided by RK and a number of changes were noted. RK reported that he would be leaving the Humber LEP on the 16th April and moving on to work for the Humberside PCC. RK reported on his attendance to give evidence at a House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee inquiry on green jobs. On Clean Growth it was noted that the LEP had brought partners together to develop a Humber pitch to COP26 Green Zone. RK asked the Board to consider sponsoring the 2021 virtual Business day event. The sponsorship would enable the event to go ahead with quality speakers and on the basis that it would be free for all.

The Board agreed to sponsor the virtual Business day this year at a cost of £2500 funded from the Humber LEP reserves.

RK and TC updated the Board on the LEP's Covid recovery and outlined business support available and the impact of the national lockdowns on the labour market. The Board were asked to comment and provide their own business insights. The main points raised in the discussion were:

- A number of employees were on Furlough but most would be brought back when the scheme ended
- Businesses were optimistic about upturn in second half of the year
- Lots of staff continued to work on site as normal
- Enquiries were picking up
- Possible boom when lockdown ends
- Traffic on Humber Bridge not much reduced and could massively increase post lockdown
- Supply chains stretched
- Raw material costs had increased
- Brexit impact appeared to be minimal to date

TC reported that more government announcements on 50+ initiatives were expected shortly.

A number of Board members personally thanked RK for his work at the LEP and wished him well. SP thanked RK on behalf of the Board and wished him well in his new role.

SL highlighted the work of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission an independent advisory body set up to bring actors from public, private and third sectors to support and guide ambitious climate actions across the region.

294 Spring Budget

The Chancellor delivered his Budget on 3 March. RK summarised key funding and strategy announcements relevant to the Humber and LEPs. There was good news to report on:

- Humber Freeport was announced at the Budget that the Humber had been successful in its bid for a Freeport alongside seven other areas.
- Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP) will receive investment of up to £75m toward infrastructure costs to support its development as an offshore wind port. AMEP is a Humber Enterprise Zone site and a proposed tax site in the Humber Freeport.

Points to note:

- £4.8bn has been committed to the Levelling up Fund, to be spent by 2024/25. The fund is jointly managed by HM Treasury, MHCLG and DfT and replaces the Local Growth Fund managed by LEPs.
- Government published “Build Back Better: Our plan for growth” alongside the Budget, replacing the 2017 Industrial Strategy. The Industrial Strategy Council of business leaders was abolished at the same time.
- Changes to the way funding is managed with no formal role for LEPs. Unless this approach changes, it appears that LEPs will not be responsible for managing any significant funding once existing programmes end in the next financial year.

The Board agreed to note the report.

295 Humber Freeport

On the 3rd March the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Humber had secured Freeport status following a competitive bidding process. SB thanked to KT, RK, CH and all colleagues across the Humber for their involvement in the bid. The recently published criteria report by government showed that the Humber scored the highest in all categories. This gives the Humber a good change of delivering the first Freeport activities in the UK. SB referred the Board to the Humber Freeport Fact Sheet for further information on what a Freeport is. Next steps were outlined and it was noted that a number of webinars were planned to get the message out to the public. Carbon capture, decarbonisation and Clusters were discussed as other opportunities for the region.

296 Transition and Legacy Plans

RK reported that over recent weeks, outstanding issues have been reviewed and most are now resolved, including agreement with Greater Lincolnshire LEP (GLLEP) on programme monitoring and Growth Hub arrangements.

Because of this, there is now clarity on how responsibilities will be distributed between the new Hull & East Yorkshire LEP (HEY LEP), GLLEP and the Humber Leadership Board. The only outstanding administrative issues to deal with as the Humber LEP relate to the year-end outturn for 2020/21.

The proposed plan for sub-boards and groups was outlined to the Board and it was noted that a number of Boards would continue to meet at least once post the transitions and report to the new HEY LEP Board until the new arrangements were put in place.

It was noted that the Humber LEP's place on the Transport for the North Board will also be inherited by HEY LEP. No decisions have been made as yet on how the south bank's businesses will be represented on TfN in future.

The Board agreed to:

- **Note the agreed arrangements for handover of the Humber LEP's work.**
- **To appoint Mark Jones as a director of Humber LEP Limited.**
- **That all Board members would resign as individual directors of Humber LEP Limited effective 31 March 2021, leaving Mark Jones as the sole director.**
- **Approves the transition and closure arrangements for the LEP's sub-boards and groups; records its thanks to members for their contribution to the LEP's work; and delegate the Chair to write to them on its behalf.**

297 Investment Panel - CONFIDENTIAL

This item is redacted as it is commercially confidential.

SS thanked the LEP and Hull City Council for providing exceptional administration support to the Investment Panel and the members of the Investment Panel for giving up their time to make the loan fund a success.

298 Growth Deal Programme

RK reported that the Quarter 3 claims have now been received and processed and have provided the programme delivery team with a more accurate picture of likely slippage of spend into the next financial year. The programme is currently likely to carry forward an underspend of around 4m, however, this currently still falls within the provision made for slippage within the programme and the Accountable Body has agreed to use capital switching freedoms and flexibilities to manage the underspend.

The Board agreed to note the report.

299 Getting Building Fund Programme

RK reported that the Quarter 3 claims have now been received and processed and have provided the programme delivery team with a more accurate picture of likely slippage of spend into the next financial year. Although all projects have started delivery or preparatory activity, just one project has submitted a claim in this quarter, though more claims are expected in Q4. No project is currently flagging any serious cause for concern, although two projects are now RAG-rated Amber for delivery slippage. The programme is currently projecting slippage of approx. £2m GBF into the FY21/22, based on the annual allocation of £6,700,000 from MHCLG. Hull City Council as the Accountable Body for the programme is able to utilise capital switching freedoms and flexibilities to manage spend, in the same way they have done with the Local Growth Fund programme.

The Board agreed to note the report.

300 European Union Structural & Investment Funds

IM reported that the Humber has secured additional funding from the ESF Reserve Fund and projects / businesses in our area have also had the opportunity to access the EAFRD National Reserve calls. The Managing Authorities are utilising the National Reserve Funds to respond to Covid-19 related issues. IM reported that the ESIF Committee would continue until December 2023 and would report to the HEY LEP Board. IM thanked all parties that have worked on the programme and made it a success.

The Board agreed to note the report.

301 Employment and Skills Board

SS reported that work was underway to publish a Local Skills Reports (LSR). The LSR will build on the existing evidence based Skills Analysis report 2019 and will help to grow influence and engagement with local partners.

SS reported that over 40,000 people had been helped through Employment and Skills initiatives during the 10 years the Humber LEP operated. A number of new skills programmes were outlined for the Boards information. SP thanked SS for chairing the Employment and Skills Board.

The Board agreed to note the report.

302 Business Development Board

RK provided an update on recent work under the remit of the Business Development Board. SP stated that the Business Development Board had made a good contribution to the Humber LEP over the last 10 years. DC and SB endorsed this view. RK explained that the many Board members had expressed that they would like to remain involved in the work of HEY LEP.

303 Investment and Regulation Board

SB asked the Board to take the report as read as there was nothing further to add.

The Board agreed to note the report.

Any Other Business

The Board discussed if the Single Conversation group would continue as part of the HEY LEP. The Board discussed a number of other groups that currently operate on the Humber geography and the possibility of these continuing and how they could be resourced. There was general agreement that some of the work of the Boards should continue. It was suggested that a case for additional funding from government could be made to support Pan Humber work. PC reiterated that the Humber Leadership Board is the agreed model for driving forward Humber activity. CH suggested pooling resources in order to create a structure to take some of these issues forward. DC suggested that Humber Leadership Board membership should be expanded to include the private sector. SB agreed a joined up approach was need and the private sector needed to be included. RB reported that the Humber Leadership Board is currently being refreshed. It was agreed that the HEY LEP and Greater Lincs LEP would work together to support this activity where appropriate.

Signed:

Stephen Parnaby OBE
Chair

DRAFT