



HEY Business Board

9.30am on 13 December 2024

Aura Innovation Centre

Members Present

Jason Speedy (Chair), Phil Ascough, Jo Barnes, Robert Brocklesby, Andy Capes, Amelia Caruso, Martin Corcoran, Chris Crystal, Finbarr Dowling, David Garness, Paula Goldthorpe, Daniel Haley, David Hall, Councillor Anne Handley, Beckie Hart, Phil Jones, Angela Kirkwood, Thomas Martin, Madge Moore, Stephen Parnaby OBE, Councillor Mike Ross, and Katy Swaby.

In attendance

HEY Business, Growth and Skills Hub: Harry Baross (Net Zero Co-ordinator), Jon Brunton (Growth Hub Manager), Teresa Chalmers (Chief Operating Officer).

HCC: Lisa Dixon (Assistant Director Legal Services and Governance), Phil Hall (Enterprise Development Manager), Louise Hawkins (Democratic Services Officer), Chris Jackson (Director of Regeneration), Matt Jukes (Chief Executive).

ERYC: Dawn Hall (Business Support Services Manager), Andrew Hewitt (Growth Programmes and Policy Manager), Claire Hoskins (Director of Asset Strategy) and Alan Menzies (Chief Executive).

Minute No	Item	Action By/Deadline
9	<p>CHAIR AND DEPUTY APPOINTMENTS</p> <p>It was confirmed that following an electronic voting process Jason Speedy had been elected as Chair of the Board.</p> <p>Jason Speedy then took the Chair. He explained that further discussions about appointing a Deputy Chair would take place following the meeting.</p>	JS/LH
10	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>No apologies were received.</p>	
11	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH OCTOBER 2024</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer submitted, for approval, the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2024.</p> <p>Agreed – that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2024 be approved as a true and correct record.</p>	LH

12	<p>DEVOLUTION PROGRESS UPDATE</p> <p>The Board was informed that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A significant amount of work was being undertaken to ensure that the required structures were in place for when the Combined Authority was created; ii. That around half of the funding that had been allocated to set up the Combined Authority would be required to deliver the mayoral election; iii. That, on its creation, the Combined Authority would be a lightly resourced organisation as the newly elected Mayor would make decisions on how the Combined Authority would be resourced and staffed, and iv. The Labour Party had announced a two person shortlist for its mayoral candidate and other parties were expected to announce their candidates in the coming weeks. <p>Agreed – that the update be noted.</p>	
13	<p>GOVERNANCE MATTERS</p> <p>L. Dixon attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update on governance related matters.</p> <p>The Board was informed that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work was underway in preparing the governance arrangements for the Combined Authority which included its Constitution; ii. The Parliamentary Order was bespoke to the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority and it was not possible to simply replicate Constitutions which were in place for other Combined Authorities, and iii. It was important for Board members to understand that the Hull and East Riding Business Board needed to follow the Nolan Principles and that independent training would be made available to Board members to ensure they were comfortable with their role and responsibilities. <p>Agreed – that the update be noted.</p>	
14	<p>BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES IN HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE</p> <p>J. Brunton, D. Hall and P. Hall attended the meeting to provide the Board with an overview of the region’s Business Support Services which were delivered by Invest East Yorkshire (ERYC), Invest Hull (HCC), and the HEY Growth Hub’s delivery.</p> <p>The Board was informed that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The briefing paper set out how partners were working together to deliver service across Hull and East Yorkshire; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. 90% of public funding for Business Support was made available through Local Authorities and the Growth Hub;iii. The services worked collaboratively and were reactive to the needs of businesses;iv. 60% of the businesses that received support were Small/Medium Enterprises (SMEs,) however support was also provided to sole traders which were not VAT registered. There were a number of businesses that are not looking to expand, however they needed business support to ensure sustainability;v. Around 2,800 businesses had been supported of which 70% were new businesses;vi. Businesses who contacted the Business Support Services were provided with a named advisor; that a full event and workshop programme was planned at least three months in advance, and this was led by the business community;vii. Work was being undertaken to create a single point of entry for the Business Support website;viii. Around 26% of the businesses which had been supported had accessed grant funding, however the service was primarily focussed on providing advice and support. The Business Support Services worked with partners and organisations who could provide specialist support when required;ix. The Government was working at pace on its Industrial Strategy; in addition a Humber Economic Strategy was being developed, and the team was also assisting Government colleagues in the development of the new Small Business Strategy, andx. Interested young people were being encouraged and supported into self-employment. It was acknowledged that setting up a business could be challenging, and support could also be provided in relation to mental health and wellbeing. <p>The Board discussed the following matters –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Whether there were any further timelines in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocations. It was confirmed that the Government had not yet made an announcement, however the two local authorities had made a commitment to the continuation of the Business Support Teams;ii. That the Board could provide business intelligence and strategic direction to the Business Support Teams;iii. That agricultural businesses were still currently having issues in accessing funding and as direct payments were due to end soon the Government would need to be asked to provide funding to continue to support those businesses. It was noted that in relation to UK Shared Prosperity Funding specifically this was only available for Farm Diversification projects;iv. Whether any support could be provided to enable businesses to become more efficient. The Board was informed that specialist advice could be provided for example manufacturing reviews could be undertaken to identify efficiencies;	
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	<p>v. That there were teams within both Council’s who worked on developing inward investment in the region;</p> <p>vi. That there was a specialist Workforce Development Business Advisor who could assist businesses in relation to workforce recruitment and had been very successful in obtaining unallocated apprenticeship levy funding that would otherwise go back to the Treasury. This funding had enabled SMEs to grow their workforce via the employment of apprentices;</p> <p>vii. That the Government had announced the Connect to Work programme which would assist inactive individuals into sustainable employment. A substantial amount of funding would be made available and Hull City Council would act as the accountable body, and</p> <p>viii. That the range of programmes could be confusing for businesses who wanted to access support. A regional business support handbook had been developed to assist businesses to find the right option but business advisors can help navigate the offer.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <p>a. That the presentation be circulated to Board members;</p> <p>b. That there in an agenda item on inward investment at the next Board meeting.</p>	<p>JB/LH LH/TC</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>FURTHER LOCAL INTELLIGENCE INTO THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY</p> <p>Agreed – that the item be deferred to a future meeting.</p>	<p>LH/PC</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS</p> <p>C. Hoskins attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update on transport related issues.</p> <p>The Board was informed that -</p> <p>i. The significant strategic decisions relating to transport would sit with the Mayor and that the funding provided to the Combined Authority would be for longer periods of time than it had been previously for been provided to Local Authorities;</p> <p>ii. The responsibility for local bus services would transfer to the Combined Authority and there would be an opportunity for bus franchising opportunities;</p> <p>iii. The Combined Authority would provide one voice in relation to improving rail services;</p> <p>iv. A Key Route Network (KRN) had been drafted which highlighted that strategically important routes in Hull and East Riding. The KRN would be the responsibility of the Mayor;</p> <p>v. The Board member’s views in relation to highways and the transport network were important;</p>	

	<p>vi. In year capital funding of £24.6m had been allocated for the delivery of priority schemes in Hull and East Yorkshire, and</p> <p>vii. It was expected that the Combined Authority would receive £14m each year over the next 30 years for transport related schemes.</p> <p>The Board discussed the following matters –</p> <p>i. That it was important for transport issues to be discussed at this Board;</p> <p>ii. That it was acknowledged that the Mayor would have the power to introduce a bus franchise however it was not a requirement, and</p> <p>iii. Whether it was possible to co-ordinate the delivery of major schemes across the region as to minimise the impact on the network. The Board was informed that schemes currently underway were being delivered by Highways England and the local authorities had little power to determine when they were delivered, however the Mayor would have more powers in relation to that issue.</p> <p>Agreed – that the update be noted.</p>	
<p>17</p>	<p>HEY SKILLS BOARD</p> <p>T. Chalmers explained that the HEY Skills Board had held its inaugural meeting and the next meeting would take place in January 2025. The Chair of the Skills Board, once elected, would be invited to a future Business Board meeting and vice versa.</p> <p>Agreed – that the update be noted.</p>	<p>LH/TC/CW</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>NORTH EAST AND YORKSHIRE NET ZERO HUB</p> <p>H. Barros attended the meeting to provide the Board with an overview of the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub.</p> <p>The Board was informed that –</p> <p>i. There were 20 members of the team which were spread across the North East and Yorkshire region;</p> <p>ii. There was a focus on larger developments due to the reporting mechanisms;</p> <p>iii. That the Business Support Teams could provide a service which would help businesses identify ways in which they could reduce energy usage, and would also assist in accessing funding to implement the required changes. It was possible to evidence the financial impacts on businesses as a result of the changes, and</p>	

	<p>iv. The role of the Hub was to act as a conduit; it could step in to initiate activity if required, and provided an opportunity for linkages.</p> <p>The Board discussed whether there were any connections between the Hub and the Humber Energy Board. The Board was informed that the Humber Energy Board was in a period of change and that a part time Executive Director would be in post from January 2025. HB would be attending the Forum of the Humber Energy Board, not as a full board member which required a financial contribution.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <p>a. That the update be noted, and</p> <p>b. That it is suggested that the Net Zero Coordinator is a representative on the Humber Energy Board.</p>	<p>TC/HB</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>T. Chalmers explained that she would take feedback from the discussions that had taken place at the meeting and an initial work programme would be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>TC/LH</p>