

**Hull & East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Business Support Board
5th April 2023 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Via Teams**

Draft Notes

1.	As new Chair, Dafydd Williams welcomed all members and thanked previous chair, Gill Alton for her former role in leading the board. Apologies were received from David Kilburn, Jo Dooley and Rachel Smurthwaite.
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February were approved with the following matters arising: MM reminded colleagues that she represents the LEP on the East Riding UKSPF Partnership Board and as such, had been recently requested to nominate a fellow board member to act as a deputy in case she was unable to attend meetings. This was increasingly important given that Andy Hewitt had now left the LEP and whilst TC would try to attend the meetings it would be helpful to have another colleague in place. All meetings are held quarterly via Teams with dates in place. MM offered to share the Terms of Reference with the meeting notes to help members consider the request. TC echoed this request, as the UKSPF programme was now increasing in pace and in year three, new skills and employability programmes were needed. For this board's interest both local authorities had used this resource to bolster their business support offers. Given that the Growth Hub's ERDF funded provision for SMEs would cease shortly, the opportunity to influence business support in the region is much welcomed. JS also reminded colleagues that he is the LEP's representative on the Hull UKSPF Partnership Board. PB added an update from HCC; the use of the UKSPF for business support will allow more flexibility and responsiveness to local business needs, there will be a total of £2.7M invested in four projects. JB informed the board that the much long awaited DBT national evaluation on the performance of Growth Hubs had been partly published but only after a Freedom of Information request had been received. The report is based on performance between 2015 – 2020 and provides very positive impact data with 8% of all SMEs nationally engaging with the Growth Hub network, in comparison to a 2.5% target set by government. The report contained many other impressive statistics on the impact of the Growth Hub network. JB offered to share this national evaluation with BSB members upon request. JB advised that the collation of client engagement statistics, impact and client satisfaction data for the 2022/23 year had now begun; this being required for the annual report due for

	submission to BDT by 31st May. A summary of this annual report will be presented at the next meeting of the BSB in June. As stated, the Growth Hub's ERDF programmes will end on 30th June. The Summative Assessment reports for the three projects will be ready by the end of April and will also come to the next BSB. The Made Smarter Programme is now in delivery with Les Selby, appointed as the Digital Transformation Specialist. In addition, Oxford Innovation act as technical support to enhance the offer. The Programme will hold launches in Hull, Goole and Bridlington in May. The Programme is funded until March 2025. Actions: MM to share ERYC UKSPF Partnership Board Terms of Reference via TC; any interested member in becoming the deputy representative on the ERYC board please let TC know by Friday 28th April. JB to share national evaluation report on Growth Hubs to BSB members upon request. JB to present annual report summary of Growth Hub activity in 2022/23 and also summative assessment reports for the ERDF projects at the next BSB.
4.	LEP Funding and Implications TC presented the paper which outlined the LEP's position for the financial year 23/23 and the latest position for the year ending 31st March 23. Core funding has been further reduced to £250k with the addition of £50k from each local authority. The paper illustrated the use of the potential surplus generated by vacancy management to continue funding activity for year 23/24. BSB members discussed the paper, sharing their views and disappointment at the reduction. There was general surprise that the business community had not responded publicly to the announcement but recognition that if employers were not aware of the LEP and its functions, then the implications would not be understood.
5.	Growth Hub Report JB informed the board that the Growth Hub funding had now been confirmed and had actually increased by £45k (a 21% uplift) for this financial year which would provide a modest marketing budget with some additional support delivery via events and workshops. Board members welcomed this news. The Growth Hub would act as an 'open door' and then signpost businesses to the best solution via the two local authorities, relationships with both are very positive and the teams work well together. JB had supported DH to launch the Manufacturing Network which is now looking at TOR

	and key speakers for meetings. The main thematic is process efficiencies and the ability to form positive business relationships that add value and in speaking with one voice for the sector. DH said if resources allowed future ambitions would include developing an online resource to match manufacturers needs with suppliers and reduce waste by repurposing. This could include export activity; DH is in conversation with EU businesses and then will work with AF to look at the opportunities presented locally. AF added that the local Supply Chain Network was working well, and this could be replicated on a European basis. DW added that there is significant opportunity to transfer goods to Europe by the current empty containers that leave the port daily.
6.	Export Report AF presented the report which updated on the success of use of the HCC UKSPF allocation following a bidding process. This resource would support an £100k Export Growth Grant which would allow approximately 12 Hull based companies to receive grants to exhibit at international trade shows. The project will run from April 23 to March 25 and have two distinct dates for businesses to apply for support. AF is keen to explore the expansion of the offer to ERYC businesses having received a number of requests for support for businesses located in the East Riding. In addition, AF had been supporting 'Inward Missions' where international visitors are hosted to visit exemplar business activity, a recent example being the USA Midwest visit which included a tour of industrial sites and dinner hosted by the Mayor of Hull. Key stakeholders invited included James Newman, LEP Chair. Further visits by Polish and Bulgaria colleagues are expected in the near future to look at technology developments in the region. The Department for Trade had appointed a new Northern Director, Liz Bennington, who plans to visit the HEY region. DW offered support to the LEP team and asked what more could this board do. Use of networks to promote the activity was helpful and any queries sent to the LEP team for action.
7.	FDI Arrangements PG updated the board on the delivery of the Northern Powerhouse Foreign Direct Investment Key Account Management Project for the last 6 months and the proposed delivery model for the project for the 23/24 year. All contract outputs have been achieved to date, with 41 FDI companies engaged and 31 actively receiving support. The LEP is currently developing the required business plan for 23/24 with proposals that the LEP takes the management role and delivery being undertaken by the two LAs. The LEP would retain the responsibility for reporting and claims processing. This arrangement

	has been in place for the last six months and is working well.
8.	Investment Programme Report TC reported on the progress of the legacy capital programmes, Getting Building Fund, Local Growth Fund and the Growing Places Fund. Projects continue to progress with all submitting claims and output deliver continuing to be seen. Some outputs will continue to be delivered beyond 2025 such as housing, jobs, apprenticeships and commercial floorspace created and or occupied. The physical completion of the Hull and East Yorkshire Cycle Route has been further delayed due to utilities work in the area and agreement on design elements. The Growing Places Fund 3-year support programme has now received a total of 89 Expressions of Interest (24/03/23) with a 50% split between businesses in Hull and the East Riding. These have resulted in 39 full applications to date with 25 grants being awarded with a total value of £428,484.36. There are no calls on the core LEP budget for this programme management as administration costs are included within the programme itself. Thanks go to the team for their commitment to launch and manage the programme.
9.	Economic Report/ Employer Skills Survey- CH updated the board on the range of work the Employment and Skills Team are undertaking. This includes the commissioning of several research pieces and the continuing support of the Chamber of Commerce in the development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan. The local Employer Skills Survey had now closed, and the report will be shared with the board in due course. A recent development working with the Integrated Care System has resulted in the development of an inclusive careers programme to deliver pilot activity and increase the numbers of younger and older residents entering the health and social care workforce. The initial proposal will be further refined with stakeholders and focus on those facing barriers to employment as well as providing enhanced careers services to people of all ages. CH then presented the State of the Economy report via a detailed presentation – a copy will be made available.
10.	Business Support Policy Horizon Scan On behalf of Andy Hewitt, TC presented a range of policy announcements that were of interest to board members.

11.	DW gave a summary of today's meeting and asked members to suggest any future agenda items. On behalf of the board, DW thanked Andy Hewitt for his significant contribution to this board and the LEP generally. Board members wished AH well in his new role.
13.	Any Other Business JS discussed the local lack of degree level apprenticeships which was causing some issues for local businesses. JS is meeting with Professor Dave Petley, University of Hull to discuss this shortly. Action - DW asked for this to be reported back at the next meeting.
14.	Date and Time of Next Meeting – in person Wednesday 14th June 2023, 2 pm- venue to be confirmed