



Draft Hull and East Yorkshire Business Board Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Hull and East Yorkshire Unitary Leaders Board is the democratic governance body which will oversee the development of the proposed future Combined Authority.

To support and advise on this work and provide a diverse, effective, and proactive business voice, the Unitary Leaders Board is looking to appoint the **Hull and East Yorkshire Business Board**. This Board will provide strategic business input to support economic growth, maximising the natural assets of the region's geography, sector strengths and people skills.

The Board will need to recognise the significant strengths of the major sectors in our region, the diversity of our communities and the important role of the VCSE sector, its reach into business and local neighbourhoods and the unique role it plays in delivering transformational change.

Note: This board will be one of two new strategic boards that will provide support to the new governance structures of the HEY region, the second being a new Skills Board, which builds on the foundations established over recent years

Aim

The HEY Business Board will support the Unitary Leader's board's role in the development of a competitive and thriving business environment, where private businesses can start, sustain, and grow thus creating high quality jobs and economic growth for the benefit of the local community. The board will also ensure that local businesses have a voice so they can capitalise on the opportunities presented by the region's strategic growth priorities to drive economic success.

The Business Board will work in close partnership with the Skills Board to ensure alignment and magnification of activity.

Board Responsibilities and duties

1. To promote the development of a competitive, vibrant, and supportive business environment, creating the right climate for businesses to start, innovate and grow and to create jobs for the benefit of the local community.



2. To consider the make-up of the region's existing business community, its various sizes, reach and challenges and ensure a representative voice is used in all decisions and recommendations.
3. To ensure the region collectively responds to opportunities that arise from government and other initiatives to support economic development.
4. To use convening ability and independence to bring appropriate stakeholders together, when required.
5. To collaborate with local authority partners and the wider business communities including the VCSE sectors in support of the future Mayoral Combined Authority.
6. To feed into and support the development of the new Hull and East Yorkshire Economic Strategy, maximising those opportunities within the proposed devolution deal and ensuring alignment with the economic plans of both the Hull and East Riding Councils. To support public and private sector investment and development activity in Hull and East Yorkshire's key growth sectors, to increase the region's competitiveness and to maximise its natural assets.
7. To provide strategic oversight of the HEY Business Growth Hub, and its programme strands, reviewing its performance and operational outcomes. This will include the receipt of performance reports, business intelligence and the provision of insight to further build on established business support services, e.g., those of the Growth Hub and both LA business support services.
8. To harness the collective strength of partnership working with employer membership organisations, trade & industry bodies and individual businesses. This will be achieved through effective collaborative approaches, providing a cohesive platform for policy lobbying, business engagement and intelligence gathering. This will support the development of HEY key sectors and thereby addressing associated barriers to growth.

Membership

The membership of the Board will be primarily from businesses, including micro businesses and the VSCE communities and co-opted members from key statutory agencies; the two elected Leaders will also be Board members.

Employer Representative Bodies may be appointed to the Board and/or may be asked to report as appropriate.

All members will be expected to attend meetings. If a member fails to attend for three consecutive meetings without reasonable justification, a



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conversation between the Chair and member will take place to review the situation. The final decision on board membership issues rests with the Chair.

Membership will be reviewed initially by the Hull and East Riding Unitary Leaders Board and then by the Mayor once elected. Reviews will then take place on a bi-annual basis and in addition when any major factors or government directives indicate a necessary change such as changes to business policy or when new responsibilities are confirmed.

Chair

The Chair will be elected from board membership following the first meeting of the new Board.

Frequency of meetings

1. The Board will normally meet bi-monthly at dates to be agreed by the Chair in alignment with the HEY Unitary Leaders Board to ensure relevant reports are presented appropriately.
2. The meetings may take place physically or virtually as circumstances determine.

Quorum for meetings

A quorum for meetings will be at least 50% of the current membership but must include the Chair. If the Chair is unable to attend the meeting a deputy will be appointed from the existing members for that meeting.

*These will be revisited at the first Board meeting and as the Mayoral Combined Authority evolves.