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Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Dear Member,

HEY Combined Authority

The next meeting of the **HEY Combined Authority** will be held at **14:30** on **Wednesday, 04 March 2026** in **Ergo, Bridgehead Business Park, Hessle.**

The Agenda for the meeting is attached and reports are enclosed where relevant.

Please Note: It is likely that the public, (including the Press) will be excluded from the meeting during discussions of exempt items since they involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as describe in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Yours faithfully,



Democratic Services Officer

Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority

To: **Membership:**

Luke Campbell, Mayor of Hull and East Yorkshire
Councillors Ross (Hull City Council)
Councillor Dad (Hull City Council)
Councillors Handley (East Riding of Yorkshire Council)
Councillor Tucker (East Riding of Yorkshire Council)
Jonathan Evison, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner
Jason Speedy, Chair of HEY Business Board
Jayne Adamson, Chair of HEY Skills Board

Officers:

HEY Combined Authority

Alan Menzies, Interim Chief Executive
Tony Maione, Interim Monitoring Officer
Julian Neilson, Interim Finance Director
Louise Hawkins, Democratic Services Officer (x3)

For Information:

Reference Library (public set)

HEY Combined Authority

14:30 on Wednesday, 04 March 2026

Ergo, Bridgehead Business Park, Hessle

A G E N D A

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1 Apologies

To receive apologies for those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2 Declarations of Interest

To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any Personal and Discloseable Pecuniary interest in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Member Code of Conduct.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2026

7 - 18

To approve the minutes as a true and correct record.

4 Minutes of the meeting on 12th February 2026

19 - 24

To approve the minutes as a true and correct record.

5 Announcements from the Mayor

To receive announcements from the Mayor.

6 Public Questions

There will be a period of up to 30 minutes during which members of the Authority will answer questions put by members of the public on matters for which the Combined Authority has a responsibility.

Any person or organisation wishing to put a question should contact Louise Hawkins, Democratic Services Officer for guidance on the procedure.

7 Reports from Committees of the Combined Authority

To receive reports from Committees of the Combined Authority.

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS**8 Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 25 - 64**

This report presents the Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 (HES) for consideration and approval. The HES provides a consistent analysis and underpinning framework for the work of the Mayoral-led Joint Committee of the HEYCA and GLCCA.

9 Joint Mayoral Committee – Terms of Reference 65 - 74

This report sets out the proposed governance arrangements to support and facilitate the commitment to to work collaboratively across the Humber to enhance its economic potential.

10 The Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan 75 - 208

This paper accompanies the Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan (LGP), which is presented to the Board for approval.

11 Hull and East Yorkshire Transport Transitional Arrangements 209 - 214

The purpose of this report is to provide the necessary delegations and assurance to ensure continuation of transport functions whilst HEYCA develops and builds its strategic transport capacity.

12 Skills and Business Advisory Boards - Reorganisation into Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board 215 - 218

The purpose of this report is to propose the merger of the current Skills Advisory Board and Business Advisory Board arrangements into one Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board.

13 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the items listed as exempt.

EXEMPT ITEMS

14 Appointment of Senior Officers

The purpose of this report is to ask the Executive Board to note appointments to senior posts made by recent Employment Panels, in line with the HEYCA Constitution.

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Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority30th January 2026 11:00amErgo, Bridgehead Business Park, HesslePRESENT:-

Mayor Luke Campbell, Councillors Handley, Dad, Ross, and Tucker, J. Adamson (Hull and East Yorkshire Skills Board Chair) and J. Speedy (Hull and East Yorkshire Business Board Chair).

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Councillor Meredith (Chair of the HEYCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee), A. Menzies (Interim Chief Executive), J. Neilson (Interim Director of Finance), T. Maione (Interim Monitoring Officer), and L. Hawkins (Democratic Services Officer).

M. Heppell (Strategic Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development) minute 67, S. Isaacs (Adult Skills Manger) minute 70 and W. Dunnett (Strategic Transport Lead) minute 71.

APOLOGIES:-

J. Evison (Police and Crime Commissioner) and Councillor Ross.

Minute No.	Description/Decision	Action By/Deadline
PROCEDURAL ITEMS		
63.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No declarations of interest were received in relation to the items that follow below.	
64.	MINUTES OF THE HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2025 Agreed – that the minutes of the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Executive Board held on 24 th November 2025 be approved as a true and correct record.	

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65.	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the following public question had been received.</p> <p>Question received from Miss F Jordan. My name is Florence and I am a year 11 student at Tranby school. I would like to know what your plan is to improve bus services and cycling infrastructure in order to reduce the number of cars on the road. This is something I find particularly worrying both from a safety perspective and an environmental perspective as the carbon emissions from private vehicle use are having a negative effect on the planet. Please could you tell me how you plan to promote public transport and active travel in the area to combat this. Thank you.</p> <p>The Mayor provided the following response. Thank you for your question. We are recruiting a Director of Transport. We are excited to be working with Active Travel England during the summer on cycling and walking. We have an active travel policy in place and the funding to deliver it, which is very exciting. The focus is on safer walking and cycling routes to connect homes with schools, colleges, town centres, and transport hubs. We are currently constantly actually engaging with the local community buses in rural and coastal communities which is great.</p> <p>We are just currently putting a strategic plan in place for transport which is very exciting and looking at integrating bus tickets across the whole region.</p> <p>With a new bus bill coming out, it gives us a lot of scope to put more pressure on the local bus companies if we are not getting what we want as a region and what the residents want. We have the opportunity and the power to franchise the buses as well. So, we are going to look at everything. We are going to look at the pros and the cons to make this region a much better place, much better, well-connected place.</p>	
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66.	<p>REPORTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND ANY OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY</p> <p>Councillor Meredith (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) attended the meeting to provide the Board with an overview of the work that the Committee had undertaken.</p> <p>He informed the Board that the Committee was incredibly focused on both processes and diligence; that he was grateful for the commitment and the seriousness with which the duty of performance is taken by the Committee members; there was also a clear priority to ensure provenance with the public purse and to reduce any administration or bureaucracy costs.</p> <p>He requested that the Scrutiny Committee members were sent all copies of every board paper and also any exempt items that were presented to this board to ensure transparency and enable better quality scrutiny.</p> <p>He explained that a Portfolio Holder had attended every meeting and the Mayor had attended the first two meetings. Councillor Handley attended the last meeting. This had been very welcome and it's absolutely crucial. The Director of Finance had given a 45 minute presentation on the budget. The decision makers also needed to be there to point out what the priorities are, address any questions, any key lines of inquiry. That was an absolute priority for the committee and, in line with the guidance and best practice from the Government.</p> <p>Councillor Handley addressed the Board and explained that although she agreed that Board reports should be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee there would be occasions when commercially sensitive information could not be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>There were potential investors and it was not the role of the Scrutiny Committee to scrutinize those decisions. It was a role of the Investment Board of which she had been asked to be set up.</p>	
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	<p>The Mayor explained that he understood the impact of scrutiny however it was important for the Committee to focus on agenda before it as that was important as well; that the Executive Committee was the decision maker and the Scrutiny Committee was there to absolutely challenge what it did however there were things that were decisions for the Executive; that he was concerned that the Authority's budgets had been discussed by the Scrutiny Committee before the Executive Board had seen it; that a balanced and measured approach was required; that he agreed that there were some exempt reports that the Scrutiny Committee needed to consider for example, if it was regarding a purchase by this Authority, however if it was commercially sensitive regarding private sector involvement, then the investment board was there for that, and that the Authority did not need to see duplication or delay.</p> <p>Councillor Meredith thanked the Executive Board for providing an opportunity for him to raise the Scrutiny Committees ambitions, its desires, its concerns and its considerations.</p> <p>He suggested that a work programme meeting in a few months time to set next year's work program would be worth having particularly to ensure the Scrutiny Committee agenda items were seen at the correct times and order.</p> <p>Agreed – that a meeting be arranged between the Portfolio Holders, relevant officers and Scrutiny Committee Chair to review and plan its work programme.</p>	
67.	<p>HEYCA HR POLICY FRAMEWORK</p> <p>The Interim Strategic Director of HR and OD submitted a report requested approval of the policy review schedule and current completed policies by the Executive Board to enable HEYCA to implement them immediately.</p> <p>The Board was informed that this was the final tranche of the Authority's HR policies and a 12 month review period had been suggested.</p>	

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	<p>Moved by Councillor Tucker and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <p>a. That the Executive Board approve the attached draft policy review schedule for adoption by the Combined Authority along with the timeframes for adoption of individual policies, and</p> <p>b. That the Executive Board approve the attached draft HR policies for adoption by the Combined Authority, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Work Performance • Work Experience • Menopause Policy • Flexible Working Policy • Change Management (including Redundancy) Policy • Domestic Abuse Policy • Learning and Development Policy • Retirement Policy • Relocation Policy • Substance Misuse Policy <p>Motion carried.</p>	
68.	<p>HEYCA HR POLICY FRAMEWORK</p> <p>The Interim Strategic Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development submitted a report requested approval of the policy review schedule and current completed policies by the Executive Board to enable the Authority to implement them immediately.</p> <p>A discussion took place and members commented that the policies were key documents for the Authority and that a review would be required at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Dad and seconded by Councillor Tucker</p> <p>a. That the Executive Board approves the draft policy review schedule for adoption by the Combined Authority along with the</p>	

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	<p>timeframes for adoption of individual policies, and</p> <p>b. That the Executive Board approve the attached draft HR policies for adoption by the Combined Authority, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Leave (including Maternity leave, Paternity Leave, Adoption leave, Bereavement leave, Jury Service leave and Family leave) • Absence Management • Recruitment and Selection • Travel, Accommodation and Subsistence. <p>Motion carried.</p>	
69.	<p>HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE SINGLE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK REVIEW</p> <p>The Interim Strategic Director of Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer submitted a report which sought approval from the Combined Authority for the revised Assurance Framework. The revised framework had been updated to ensure it remains robust, compliant, and responsive to changes in national policy and funding requirements.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Single Assurance Framework had been reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee and by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Assurance Team.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the framework and concerns were raised in relation to the need for strong and clear targets.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <p>a. The Combined Authority is asked to approve the revised Assurance Framework. Approval will confirm that the Authority's assurance arrangements remain fit for purpose and capable of responding to the ongoing release</p>	

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	<p>of new Government funding and frameworks throughout the year, and</p> <p>b. That authority is delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 73 Officer to make any necessary, non-material changes to the Assurance Framework to ensure it remains fully aligned to the English Devolution Accountability Framework.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assurance Framework sets out how the Combined Authority will use public money responsibly, openly and transparently, with best value principles at the centre of decision making. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government requires Combined Authorities to develop their Assurance Frameworks aligned with the English Devolution Accountability Framework (March 2023), and as such the final draft Framework will be submitted for approval by the Department prior to publishing. • Approval of the revised Assurance Framework will ensure that the Combined Authority continues to meet Government requirements and is well positioned to respond efficiently to new funding opportunities as they arise. Failure to maintain an up-to-date Assurance Framework could increase the risk of non-compliance and may impact the Authority's ability to access future funding. 	
70.	<p>ADULT SKILLS FUND: DELEGATION OF DECISION MAKING</p> <p>The Programme Director – Employability, Health and Communities submitted a report which sought the approval of the Combined Authority to include delegations in relation to the Adult Skills Fund and governance arrangements.</p>	

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	<p>The Board was informed that the delivery of the Adult Skills Fund would ensure that individuals had access to skills training and that timely decision making was required; that the Department for Education (DfE) could issue changes to the funding rules which would require changes to the Adult Skills Fund Strategic Plan; that the Executive Board; Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Holder for Skills would receive regular updates, and a technical group would be setup up to provide advice.</p> <p>A discussion took place and members of the Board raised concerns in relation to the responsibilities and delegations set out within the report and queried whether the Skills Board would be included within the reporting process. The Adult Skills Fund Manager explained that the decision making responsibilities would be delegated to the Interim Chief Executive and that she would be responsible for operational delivery. It was confirmed that the Skills Board would receive regular updates.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Combined Authority delegates the functions set out in appendix A of the report to the Chief Executive; b. The Combined Authority delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the draft Constitution to reflect these delegations, and c. That the Executive Board, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Portfolio Holder for Skills and the Skills Board receive regular updates on the delivery of the Adult Skills Fund. <p><u>Reasons for Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the governance framework for the Combined Authority in particular in relation to the Adults Skills Fund remains in accordance with all legal requirements. • To ensure that the necessary decision-making powers are in place to allow the 	
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	<p>processes, systems and functioning of the Adult Skills Fund programme management to operate in a timely and efficient way.</p>	
71.	<p>HEYCA TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRANSITION</p> <p>The Interim Chief Executive Officer submitted a report which sought Board approval for the approach, principles and timetable for transferring agreed transport and public transport functions from Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council to the Hull and East Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority during 2026 to 27, in line with the devolution settlement.</p> <p>The Board was informed that there was ongoing policy change from the Department for Transport (DfT) and new guidance had been published the previous day in relation to bus franchises; that a staged transition was already underway as transport powers were currently held concurrently, with the intention that HEYCA would continue to delegate functions to the local authorities until 31st March 2027; that the majority of functions were expected to transfer by October 2026; that the number of TUPE transfers as a result of the transition were expected to be limited.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Transport confirmed that he had been fully briefed on the progress of the transfer of transport powers to the Combined Authority.</p> <p>A discussion took place and members queried whether the legal agreements were in place for the transfer of powers in October 2026; that further work was required in relation to concessionary travel and fares, and whether any further updates would be provided to the Board before October 2026.</p> <p>The Strategic Transport Lead explained that concessionary travel would remain with the local authorities until March 2027 and that a report would be provided to the Board prior to October 2026 to provide an update on progress of transport functions.</p>	

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	<p>Moved by Councillor Tucker and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <p>a. That the Board notes that the transfer of public transport functions is taking place alongside a significant change in national funding and accountability arrangements, which increases the Combined Authority’s corporate responsibility, financial exposure, and accountability for transport delivery;</p> <p>b. That the Board approves the proposed approach to the transfer of public transport functions to HEYCA by March 2027, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the principles guiding the transition; and • the preferred timetable, with the majority of functions transferring by October 2026. <p>c. That the Board agrees that a detailed transition plan and glidepath for the transfer of powers will be developed and brought back to the Board for approval, with overall responsibility for preparing this plan resting with the Transport Lead, and</p> <p>d. That the Board approves in principle the development of an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) to set out the governance, decision-making, funding, performance, and accountability arrangements during the transition period and, where appropriate, beyond it. Responsibility for developing the IAA will sit with the Chief Executive, under the guidance of the Section 73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
<p>72.</p>	<p>THE HEYCA GAMEPLAN</p> <p>Agreed – that the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive Board.</p>	

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73.	<p>UPDATE ON RECRUITMENT</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that a short listing panel had taken place that morning and that interviews for Director level posts would take place on 6th and 17th February 2026. It had been agreed that the role of Corporate Director for Resources would not be progressed at this time.</p> <p>Agreed – that the update be noted.</p>	
74.	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>Agreed – That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, minute 75, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, information relating to an individual, and that the public interest test in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	
75.	<p>UPDATE ON TUPE</p> <p>The Board was provided with an update on the progress of the transfer of staff from Hull City Council to the Combined Authority.</p> <p>Agreed – that the update be noted.</p>	

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Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority12th February 2026 9:30amErgo, Bridgehead Business Park, HesslePRESENT:-

Mayor Luke Campbell, Councillors Handley, Dad, Ross, and Tucker, J. Evison (Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside), J. Adamson (Hull and East Yorkshire Skills Board Chair) and J. Speedy (Hull and East Yorkshire Business Board Chair).

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Councillor Meredith (Chair of the HEYCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee), A. Menzies (Interim Chief Executive), T. Maione (Interim Monitoring Officer), G. Bristow (Deputy Interim Director of Finance), S. Skelton (Investment Lead), and L. Hawkins (Democratic Services Officer).

APOLOGIES:-

None.

Minute No.	Description/Decision	Action By/Deadline
PROCEDURAL ITEMS		
76.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No declarations of interest were received in relation to the items that follow below.	
77.	MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS The Mayor explained that the Combined Authority were expressing an interest in the Local Innovation Partnerships Fund which empowers innovation through partnerships led by Combined Authorities. The Mayor explained that a bid for funding of £60m which would be used to support local businesses could be made and that there would be further updates in the coming weeks.	
78.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that no public questions had been received.	

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79.	<p>REPORTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND ANY OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY</p> <p>Councillor Meredith (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) attended the meeting to provide the Board with an overview of the work that the Committee had undertaken.</p> <p>The Board was informed that when the Scrutiny Committee had considered the Financial Plan at its last meeting members had requested that the allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was addressed as a priority.</p> <p>He thanked the Investment Lead for attending the last Scrutiny meeting and presenting the Local Growth Plan report. He also thanked the Portfolio Holder for Investment for her attendance.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the Community Fund and why it had not appeared as a line in future budgets. The Mayor explained that the impact of the Community Fund would be reviewed and could be added to the budget at a later date.</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that the comments provided by the Scrutiny Committee had been reflected within the Financial Report to be considered by the Executive Board.</p> <p>The Board was informed that a meeting of the HEYCA Employment Panel had taken place on 6th February 2026 and the recruitment process was continuing.</p> <p>Agreed – that the updates be noted.</p>	
80.	<p>FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-27 TO 2029-30</p> <p>The Interim Director of Finance submitted a report which presented the Authority's proposed revenue budget and medium term financial plan for the period 2026-27 to 2029-30, alongside a forecast capital investment programme budget, for approval by the Executive Board.</p>	

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The Deputy Interim Finance Director explained that the Authority was required to set a balanced budget no later than 1st March 2026. It was confirmed that the proposed budget had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a meeting held on 21st January 2026.

The Executive Board was informed that the proposed revenue budget was separated into three key parts; that the final local government settlement was announced on 9th February 2026. As part of the settlement the Authority had received an uplift to its budget for 2026/27 and 2027/28 which would provide additional capacity funding for operational costs; that the largest investment was the Authority's workforce as the organisation was being to expand; that the recruitment to senior positions was ongoing; that a 3.2% increase in pay costs for 2026/27 had been forecast; that there was a capital investment programme of £300m over four years and that the deployment of those funds would be worked through by the Executive and Investment Boards; that there was no Council Tax precept and Business Rates included within the budget; that the Authority would continue to use East Riding of Yorkshire Council policies for treasury management to allow time to develop capacity within the organisation, and that the Authority would be the Accountable Body for the Government's Connect to Work programme.

A discussion around the report took place and members commented that the report did not reflect the additional funding that had been announced by the Government on 9th February 2026. It was acknowledged that there had not been an opportunity to amend the report as it had already been published. The Deputy Interim Finance Officer explained that the budget would be updated through regular monitoring reports to the Executive Committee.

A discussion took place around the UKSPF. The Interim Chief Executive explained that the UKSPF was a fixed term three year programme of funding which had been granted a one year extension; that there were a number of community groups which had become reliant on that funding; that both Local Authorities had been asked to provide details on

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how the funding had been allocated and its impacts; that proposals on how the funding would be allocated in the future would be submitted to the next Executive Board meeting, and that the allocation of funding to be distributed by the Combined Authority was 62% of what had previously been received which would mean some difficult decisions would need to be made.

Moved by Councillor Tucker and seconded by Councillor Handley

- a. That the Board approves the proposed revenue budget, inclusive of a council tax precept of zero, for the 2026-27 financial year
- b. That the Board approves the capital investment programme budget for 2026-27 to 2029-30;
- c. That the Board approves the medium term financial plan for the period 2026-27 to 2029-30, and
- d. That the Board approves the capital strategy for 2026-27, inclusive of the treasury management policy, treasury management strategy, MRP policy and prudential indicators.

Motion carried.

Reasons for Recommendations

- In common with other public bodies and local partners, the Combined Authority is required to set a balanced revenue budget every financial year. This budget must be approved by the Executive Board by 1 March of the preceding financial year. In addition, it is best practice to produce a medium term financial plan that takes account of forecast future expenditure, funding, and the requirements for use of reserves, alongside a budget for deployment of capital funding due to the Authority.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with statutory guidance, HEYCA is required to identify a capital strategy, treasury management policy, treasury management strategy, MRP policy and prudential indicators as part of its budget setting process. 	
81.	<p>THE HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY (HEYCA) GAMEPLAN – PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL</p> <p>The Interim Chief Executive submitted a report that provided an update on the development of the HEYCA Gameplan and included a final draft version for adoption (at Appendix A).</p> <p>The Investment Lead explained that this was the second time the Gameplan had been submitted to the Board for consideration; that the document set out a strategic framework and subsequent plans and strategies would be brought forward; that the Gameplan was an opening document and set out what the Authority wanted to achieve.</p> <p>Members of the Board commented that there were some targets for the Authority set out within the Devolution deal and there were some concerns about whether the Authority had the capacity to deliver and meet those targets; that more detailed discussions with the Portfolio Holders were required; that the ambition set out within the document was recognised and it would develop over time, and that the Portfolio Holders would need to drive the ambitions forward.</p> <p>The Investment Lead explained that there were some resourcing and capacity assumptions that could be discussed further with Portfolio Holders.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Tucker and seconded by Councillor Handley</p> <p>a. That the Board adopts the HEYCA Gameplan (Annex A) as the keystone document in the Combined Authority’s strategic framework;</p>	

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	<p>b. That the Board delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make any necessary drafting amendments;</p> <p>c. That an update on progress against identified outcomes is provided twice a year, and</p> <p>d. That the issues considered in the accompanying Equalities Analysis (Appendix B) be noted.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Recommendations</u> The Gameplan is an important first step in establishing a clear strategic framework to guide policy and investment decision making. It describes the role of the Combined Authority and its organisational priorities, governance arrangements and ways of working; acts as an early statement of what the CA will do, through statements of policy aspiration and initial Portfolio delivery plans that commit to near-term and medium-term actions; and establishes a framework of outcomes across the range of HEYCA activity, against which future progress can be assessed.</p>	
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Report to the HEYCA Executive Board

4 March 2026

Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035

Report of the Chief Executive: Alan Menzies

Report Status:

This item is not exempt

Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

This is a key decision. The matter is in the Forward Plan

1. **Purpose of the Report and Summary**

- 1.1 This report presents the Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 (HES) for consideration and approval. The HES provides a consistent analysis and underpinning framework for the work of the Mayoral-led Joint Committee of the HEYCA and GLCCA.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Endorse the Humber Economic Strategy 2025-35 and note that, once endorsed by all Humber authorities, it will provide a consistent analysis and underpinning framework for the work of the Mayoral-led Joint Committee of the HEYCA and GLCCA.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 Through the devolution deals negotiated with Government, Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council understand the importance of developing the Humber's economic potential and the need for

public and private sector collaboration on both banks of the Humber in maximising area's economic opportunities alongside the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority, the Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport.

- 3.2 The Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 has been developed through extensive engagement by HEYCA with key stakeholders including the Humber Freeport, Humber Energy Board, Local Authorities and the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Authority. The role of this strategy is to articulate the distinctive economic opportunities for the region and the national significance of these.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Humber Economic Strategy 2025–2035 sets out the Humber's distinctive economic proposition and establishes a shared long-term route map for investment, growth and delivery, recognising the Humber as a nationally significant centre for energy generation, advanced manufacturing, ports, logistics and natural capital. It identifies three overarching strategic opportunities: energy security and resilience; Freeport, ports and logistics; and environment and natural capital.

- 4.2 The strategy leads the Humber region's potential with more than £15 billion of potential private sector investment linked to new energy systems, industrial decarbonisation and port-related growth, and highlights the importance of cross-estuary governance, clarity of purpose and partnership delivery mechanisms to unlock this opportunity. By outlining economic viability, resilience and national relevance, the Strategy aims to strengthen the region's competitiveness for inward investment and Government funding while supporting long-term job creation, productivity growth and climate-resilient development.

5. **Summary and HEYCA alignment**

- 5.1 This strategy identifies three opportunities that require a pan-Humber approach to activity in the Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor. These strategic opportunities for the Humber are:

1. Energy Security and Resilience
2. Freeport, Ports and Logistics
3. Environment and Natural Capital

5.2 Five investment and growth priorities for the Humber (as set out in the graphic below) are intended to enable and guide the allocation of resources and investment towards achieving the Humber Economic Strategy’s opportunities. This includes enhanced ways of continued joint working among the Humber stakeholders.



5.3 These five investment and growth priorities align and support the with Local Growth Plan and the Gameplan:

Priority 1 – Partnership and inward investment leadership

The Humber Economic Strategy prioritises sustained collaboration between Humber authorities, combined authorities and economic partners to maximise and unlock investment across the estuary. By creating a single, coherent investment proposition that highlights globally significant industrial assets and strengthens economic leadership, the Strategy supports the Gameplan’s and Local Growth Plan’s ambitions for higher productivity, good jobs and coordinated growth. This shared approach increases investor confidence and ensures Hull and East Yorkshire benefit directly from Humber-wide scale, funding opportunities and long-term economic resilience.

Priority 2 – Strategic infrastructure investment

A strategic and proactive focus on ports, water and energy infrastructure under the Humber Economic Strategy provides the enabling conditions required for private sector expansion and long-term competitiveness. This aligns with the Local Growth Plan’s Big Play 4 to connect and enable growth and the Gameplan’s emphasis on improved connectivity, housing and opportunity by strengthening development readiness, access to employment locations and coordinated resource allocation. The result is a more investable and resilient economic environment for Hull and East Yorkshire within the wider Humber system.

Priority 3 – Jobs and growth through new energy and energy security

The Strategy identifies new energy generation and strengthened

energy security as major drivers of employment, productivity and industrial expansion across the Humber. This directly reinforces the Local Growth Plan's Big Play 1 on powering the industrial future and the Gameplan's ambition for good jobs and improved living standards by enabling high-value roles, expanding supply chains and attracting large-scale investment. For Hull and East Yorkshire, alignment with this priority secures a central role in nationally significant energy and manufacturing growth.

Priority 4 – Innovation and value-chain strengthening

Strengthening innovation capacity and economic value chains across the Humber economy is a key strategic priority that supports productivity growth, innovation, competitiveness and higher-value employment. This aligns with the Local Growth Plan's Part A in improving Hull and East Yorkshire's economic strength, with particular reference to Big Play 3's backing local business and building skills, alongside the Gameplan's focus on opportunity and progression, by improving links between research, industry and SMEs and enabling wider participation in growth sectors. The approach helps translate Humber-scale innovation into tangible economic benefits for Hull and East Yorkshire.

Priority 5 – Climate and nature resilience

Placing climate and nature resilience at the centre of investment decisions ensures that economic growth across the Humber is sustainable, robust and capable of supporting long-term community wellbeing. This complements the Gameplan's commitment to healthier communities and the Local Growth Plan's Big Play 4 on resilient infrastructure and place-based growth, particularly in coastal and industrial areas. Through this alignment, Hull and East Yorkshire can secure durable economic development while protecting the physical assets that underpin the Humber's future prosperity.

6. **Issues for Consideration**

- 6.1 Adoption of the Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 to boost pan-Humber collaboration, a wider regional economic strategy and create a single front door for inward investment.
- 6.2 The Humber Economic Strategy 2025-2035 aligns closely with the Local Growth Plan and the Gameplan, supporting both strategies achieve their aims and priorities, and adoption of the strategy would support these greatly.

7. **Equalities Impact Information**

- 7.1 The Humber Economic Strategy aligns with the Local Growth Plan, the potential equalities impacts of which are considered elsewhere on this agenda.

8. **Options and Risk Assessment**

- 8.1 The HES provides a consistent analysis and underpinning framework for the work of the Mayoral-led Joint Committee of the HEYCA and GLCCA. If it is not adopted, the work of the Joint Committee will lack a clear and agreed strategy, which is likely to undermine investor confidence and the impact from shared programmes.

9. **Legal Implications and Statutory Officer Comments**

- 9.1 There are no direct legal nor procurement implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

10. **Financial Implications and Statutory Officer comments**

- 10.1 There are no immediate financial implications in the proposals. However, the delivery of the strategy will require both Mayoral Combined Authorities, Local Authorities and businesses to work together to achieve the strategy, this will require further human and financial resources to achieve. This will be incorporated into existing plans and budgets.

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Officer Interests:

None

Appendices:

Background Documents:

HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY.

2025–2035



The Humber Proposition

SHARED ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR BUSINESS AND OUR COMMUNITIES

Over the last decade, increasing pan-Humber strategic leadership and partnerships have established a strong proposition in the region. There is a sense of ambition and consensus among leaders across the estuary that the Humber can deliver more for the UK and the time for catalytic investment is now.

The size of the economic opportunity in the Humber is significant at a UK scale – and the range of opportunities that could be delivered in the Humber are at the forefront of the Government’s Modern Industrial Strategy and commitments to driving long-term economic growth, job and skills creation, boosting business investment and supporting high-growth sectors. With the potential to attract fledging industries to the Humber, it is in the national interest to ensure the opportunities available to the Humber are delivered. These opportunities are wider than the Humber and can benefit the surrounding areas beyond Hull and East Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire.

The Humber is paving the way for the UK’s future. Its evolution from a traditional maritime hub and industrial economy to an economy with leading capabilities in advanced manufacturing and energy production symbolises a new era of growth and security. This is positioning the Humber as a region of critical importance in the UK’s journey toward a prosperous, competitive and resilient economy.

The region’s unique combination of a strategic position as a critical trade gateway through the Humber Freeport, deep-water ports, cutting edge energy, industrial innovation, world leading environmental resilience, rapidly growing research and innovation base and abundance of development land along with its interface with the Southern North Sea means that the Humber is a cornerstone in the UK’s plan to increase business investment, jobs and skills and grow the industries of the future. The industrial transformation opportunity in the Humber will provide a huge stimulus to the economy and is critical to skills and job retention, energy security, economic resilience, strengthening productivity and maintaining business competitiveness. This will also drive synthesis between existing industry and assets maximising the Humber’s potential to host opportunities outlined in the UK’s Modern Industrial Strategy.



The Humber Proposition

THE HUMBER IS A NATIONALLY IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ASSET



There is an increasing recognition of the economic opportunity being incubated in the Humber, demonstrated by the high appetite for both domestic and foreign direct investment in the region's economy. The Humber Freeport provides the tools to incentivise investment and accelerate the region as a world-leading hub and exporter of innovation and commercialised energy and advanced manufacturing technology and products and the Freeport builds on the success of the Enterprise Zones which were key to attracting industry leading and innovative businesses to the Humber.

In addition, catalysed by clear policy levers and the local, regional and national vision for growth in jobs and skills, businesses have earmarked at least £15bn of capital investment to deploy in the region to create new and enhance existing assets. This would deliver opportunities in energy industries to enable strong and secure growth and boost living standards.

Building on this platform, the Humber has an unrivalled opportunity to transform the economy by:

- Attracting investment and securing jobs in traditional forms of industry with a focus on energy production.
- Driving up skills and educational opportunities and helping to lift the region's performance against key socio-demographic indices.
- Working in partnership across the region to retain and enhance the resilience of the natural environment which characterises the Humber Estuary.

The Significance of the Humber Industrial Cluster

THE HUMBER'S PROJECTED ECONOMIC IMPACT EXTENDS BEYOND LOCAL GROWTH, FUELLING SECTORS AND SUPPLY CHAINS ACROSS THE UK AND CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL RESILIENCE IN ENERGY SECURITY AND TRADE

<p>With potential to meet 50% of the UK's future energy needs, The Humber Industrial Cluster is critical to powering the nation.</p> 	<p>Over 20,000 new jobs to be created from plans for industrial transformation.</p> 	<p>The largest offshore wind opportunity in the UK with eight operational offshore wind farms</p> 	
<p>The Humber is key to delivering growth ambitions in energy industries.</p> 	<p>The Freeport already attracting more than £1bn of investment from global businesses.</p> 	<p>The Humber houses the largest Enterprise Zone in the UK</p> 	
<p>£15bn of private sector investment is ready to be unlocked in the energy transition in the Humber.</p> 	<p>The Humber has a workforce of 68,000 manufacturing employees - an industrial base with transferable skills to support growth.</p> <p>68,000</p> 	<p>It is experiencing some of the fastest productivity growth outside of London.</p> 	
	<p>New adaptive strategies to manage tidal flood risk and increase resilience for the next 100 years.</p> 	<p>The Humber is the busiest UK trade estuary by tonnage.</p> 	<p>The Humber boasts leading education and training facilities</p> 

Introduction

Background

HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Through their respective devolution deals and together with government, the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority and Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority recognise that optimising the Humber's economic potential will require the public and private sector on both banks of the Humber Estuary continuing to work together on pan-Humber economic opportunities alongside the Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport; with Government acting as a supportive partner.

This builds on the increase in strategic partnership working in the region between partners over recent years in the form of the Local Authorities working together with the Humber Freeport Board and Humber Energy Board and the previous Humber Industrial Cluster Plan.



Overview and Strategic Role

HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY



©Humber Nature Partnership

This Strategy

The role of this strategy is to articulate the distinctive economic opportunities for the region and the national significance of these.

This Humber Economic Strategy is focused on strategic opportunities where a pan-Humber approach is necessary. The two Combined Authorities and delivery organisations in the region, including the Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board, have set out other economic opportunities suitable for delivery at a spatial geography.

This strategy identifies:

- Estuary-wide growth opportunities in the Humber of national significance to direct investment in the region over the next 10 years and beyond.
- Mitigation measures to barriers to growth to catalyse and enable significant and positive change in strategic priority areas.
- Game changing and targeted interventions and actions needed across industry and the public sector to deliver pan-Humber strategic aims.

Other Sectoral Priorities

The implementation of two separate devolution deals in the Humber requires a clear strategic framework between priorities at the pan-Humber level and those undertaken at the geographic level by respective Combined Authorities, Local Authorities, the Humber Freeport, Humber Energy Board or delivery organisations.

The two Combined Authorities will have control over areas such as transport, housing, place and adult skills, and will be developing Local Growth Plans and Investment Plans to shape the future of their areas and outline how local levers will drive growth.

Both devolution deals include the need for the two Combined Authorities, Local Authorities, the Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board to continue to collaborate on pan-Humber economic opportunities. Both the Combined Authorities Local Growth Plans and Investment Strategies, and the Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board Strategy and Investment Plans, will include the pan-Humber priorities in this document as shared priorities and set out the actions and investments they will undertake to help deliver them.

The Combined Authorities, Local Authorities, Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board, alongside educational providers and the private sector in the geography will collaborate on the joint design and commissioning of plans and activity where it makes sense to do so.

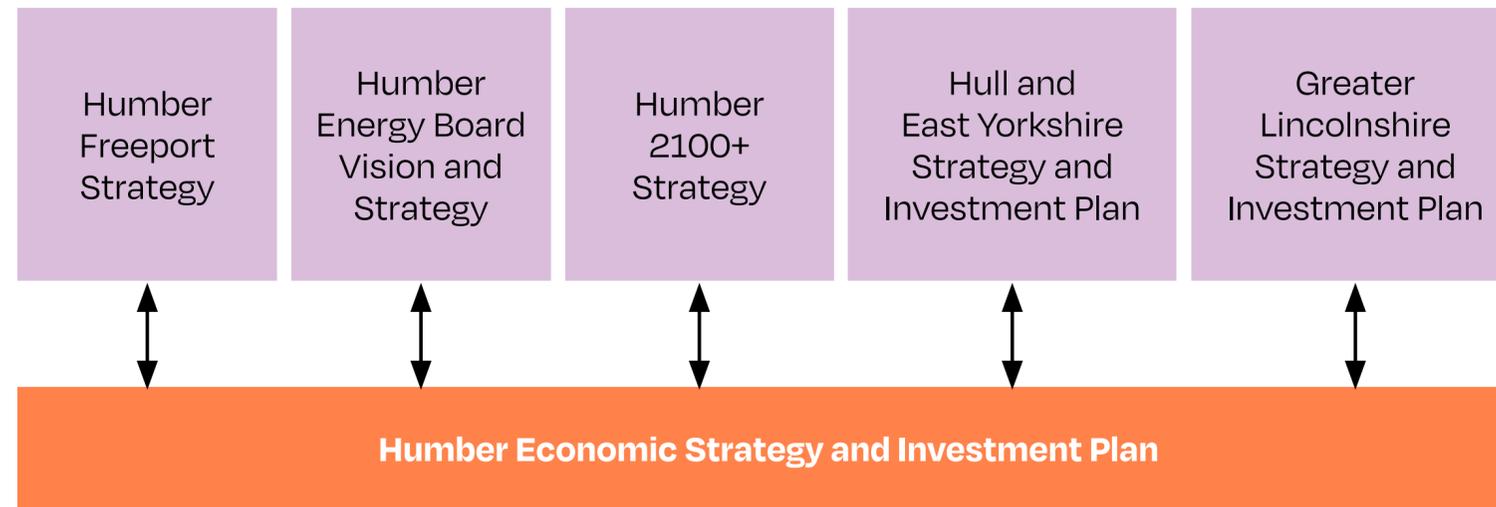
Wider Context

HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY

This Humber Economic Strategy considers the Humber 2100+ Strategy, Humber Freeport Strategy and Humber Energy Board Strategy, in addition to the economic priorities, drivers for growth and emerging Local Growth Plans for the Hull and East Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authorities and the role of associated partner and delivery organisations. Both Combined Authorities, Humber Energy Board and the Freeport are developing their plans on how they will support the Humber strategy directly or through complementary activity to ensure they are aligned and continue to collaborate, codevelop and work together on joint priorities for the Humber.

The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan set the strategic roadmap for transforming energy-intensive industry in the Humber to support the transition towards a more secure and resilient cluster. This Humber Economic Strategy builds on these foundations and further considers the Humber's importance in delivering the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy and growth priorities in energy, alongside the Humber 2100+ strategic approach to managing the long-term impacts of tidal flooding and sea level rise to ensure the region can stay open to business in a changing natural environment.

Developing Strategic Landscape



The Humber Vision

To bring large scale growth, jobs and prosperity to the Humber region by securing unprecedented private sector capital investment to transform the economy into a world leading competitive and resilient industrial economy and, through the Humber Freeport, a national hub for global trade and investment. All whilst harnessing the potential of the natural environment and landscape and sharing the opportunity and benefits with communities and businesses across the region.

The Humber Opportunity

Drivers for Change

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Humber is a source of enterprise and ambition. The economic viability and resilience of the Humber places the region in a prime position to support government objectives and missions around creating a more competitive, secure and resilient economy to provide the stability needed for long-term investment decisions and attract business investment and jobs in high growth sectors.

Linked to these missions, there are three clear priorities that require a pan-Humber approach to activity in the The Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor. These strategic opportunities for the Humber are:

1. Energy Security and Resilience
2. Freeport, Ports and Logistics
3. Environment and Natural Capital

These growth opportunities in the Humber are of national significance due to the scale of potential job creation and impact. In addition to the scale of potential contribution to government objectives.

Realising the full economic potential of the Humber and unlocking growth by overcoming barriers to investment will require holistic consideration of the place ecosystem and enablers for future investment. This includes enabling innovation to drive growth in priority areas, ensuring the labour force is equipped with skills required by future industries to attract and retain business, investing in infrastructure, and coordinating leadership and inward investment at a Humber wide level.

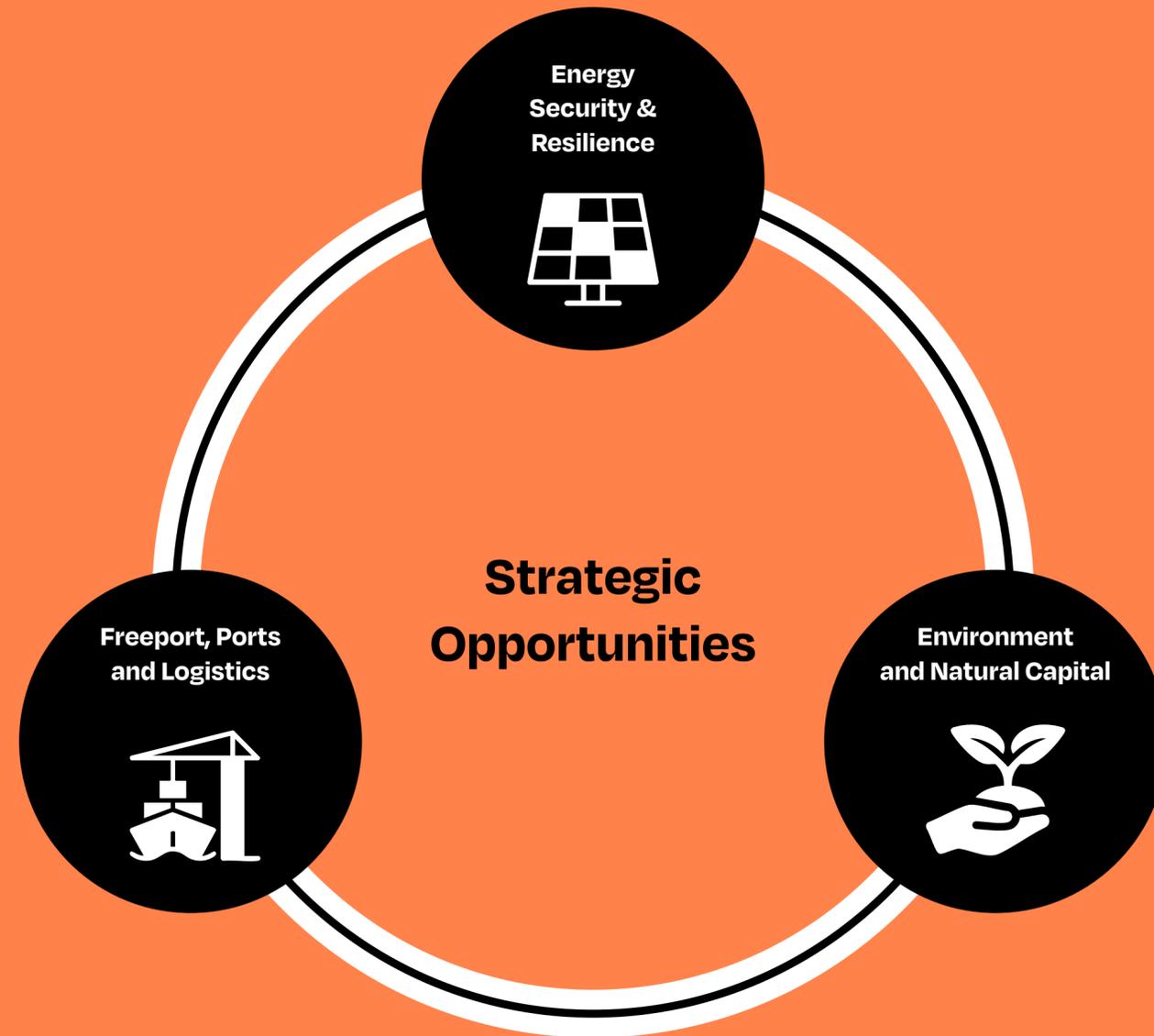
Places that also proactively build environmental resilience into their growth strategies will be better positioned to thrive in the long term by protecting people and assets and attracting investment. This will boost productivity, enable the Humber to remain competitive, attract investment and maximise future opportunities presented.



Drivers for Change

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

These growth opportunities in the Humber are of national significance due to the scale of potential job creation, impact and contribution to Government objectives.



Strategic Opportunity 1. Energy Security and Resilience

THE HUMBER IS THE LARGEST INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ENERGY SECURITY OPPORTUNITY IN THE UK

The Humber is nationally significant and has a key role in the UK's plan to create investment, growth and good jobs in energy industries and is central to the success or failure of the Government's missions around economic and energy security and resilience.

Utilising the natural advantages of the Estuary's geography, and its complementary industrial asset base, the Humber can drive growth, attract unprecedented levels of private sector investment, and improve productivity through generating energy that creates a pathway to long term economic growth and prosperity. This is increasingly important in an ever-changing volatile global context.

As the UK's Energy Estuary, the Humber is revolutionary and pivotal to advancing towards a more resilient future and is pioneering energy technologies such as offshore wind, carbon capture, hydrogen, nuclear and energy storage. There is a world leading opportunity to embrace energy industries and generation of energy as a growth opportunity in the Humber.

This is visibly evident across the array of transformational energy projects in the region, major industrial and power assets in Drax, Scunthorpe, Immingham and Saltend and the size and scale of existing industry.

With the existing foundational sectors and energy infrastructure and capacity to allow the UK to meet demand for energy, the Humber will be critical to the Government's missions to boost economic growth and stability and for the UK to secure a more resilient and competitive energy supply. With the potential to meet 50% of the UK's future energy needs, the region can support the UK to adapt and thrive in a changing world.

£15bn of private sector investment is ready to be unlocked in the energy transition in the Humber.

This opportunity in the Humber can also deliver new jobs and supply chain opportunities to support the national economy. One in ten regional jobs will be safeguarded and thousands of new jobs created by transforming industry in the Humber. By embracing opportunities presented by energy industries, the Humber can maximise opportunities to unlock substantial private sector investments in energy and advanced manufacturing, creating new jobs, and economic resilience.

The UK's Energy Estuary



The infrastructure and **existing energy capabilities** to allow the UK to meet future demand for energy.



£15bn of private sector investment is ready to be unlocked in the energy transition in the Humber.



The Humber has the potential to meet **50% of the UK's future energy needs.**



One in ten regional jobs will be safeguarded and thousands of new jobs created by transforming industry in the Humber.



66% of the UK's licensed CO2 storage capacity is accessible from the Humber.



33% of total UK offshore wind capacity operates from the Humber and growing.

Strategic Opportunity 2. Freeport, Ports and Logistics

THE HUMBER IS THE UK'S BUSIEST PORT COMPLEX



The Humber is a critical transport and logistics hub with excellent rail, road, air and sea connections. As the UK's busiest trading estuary, the Humber serves as a hub for international trade and plays a vital role for the UK as a global gateway.

The Humber is resourceful, and its strategic location allows the region to embrace and catalyse on trade and employment opportunities presented by the four major ports of Goole, Hull, Immingham and Grimsby. Connectivity, vast investment and robust supply chains means the Humber has become a central hub for business development and inward investment.

The Humber Freeport enhances the Humber's competitiveness in logistics activity, and supports a greater share of UK trade in the Humber geography, including improving port infrastructure and connectivity.

Freeport status will inject £650 million of further investment into the Humber, providing a catalyst for job growth and innovation. This presents opportunities to support added value activities in the Humber, and to use the ports as an asset not just a throughput of goods.

The UK's Global Gateway



£75 billion passes through the Humber ports each year.



The Humber ports handle **17% of the nation's trade**.



The Humber ports **support over 24,000 jobs** in the region, contributing £2.5billion to the UK economy.



Strong land, air and sea connectivity, with over 60 sailings a week to mainland Europe.



Freeport status will inject £650 million of investment into the Humber.



Cluster projects could unlock up to **£7 billion of investment across the value chain**.

Strategic Opportunity 3. Environment and Natural Capital

THE HUMBER IS A UNIQUE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

The environment of the Humber presents economic and innovative opportunities to increase the resilience of the natural and biodiverse environment and enhance quality of place as an asset to regeneration.

The Humber is part of a unique ecology system and forms part of a Special Protection Area, a Special Area of Conservation, Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest. There are opportunities for innovation in process to deliver biodiversity benefits in the Humber.

Main enablers to any ambitions around the Humber will be increasing resilience to and adapting to the environmental change (rising sea level, flood risk, coastal erosion, water availability, increased temperatures, food scarcity). It will be critical to plan proactively to integrate infrastructure, land use and environmental mitigation proposals from the outset to make investment future-proof and maximise growth whilst balancing land availability with requirements for biodiversity and development need.

This will require a shift in processes and governance structures. There will need to be joint working and a clear strategic consideration of environmental mitigation and management at a wider level to ensure future investment enhances flood protection and water availability. This will demonstrate the stability, certainty and resilience in the region needed to enable long-term investment decisions.

Placing resilience at the heart of economic strategy and investment plans in the Humber will protect the Estuary's precious natural resources, alleviate the risk of flooding to communities and industries around the Estuary and proactively support investor plans from the outset to ensure investment opportunities are maximised alongside environmental mitigation and enhancements.



Investment and growth opportunities in the Humber

The Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor

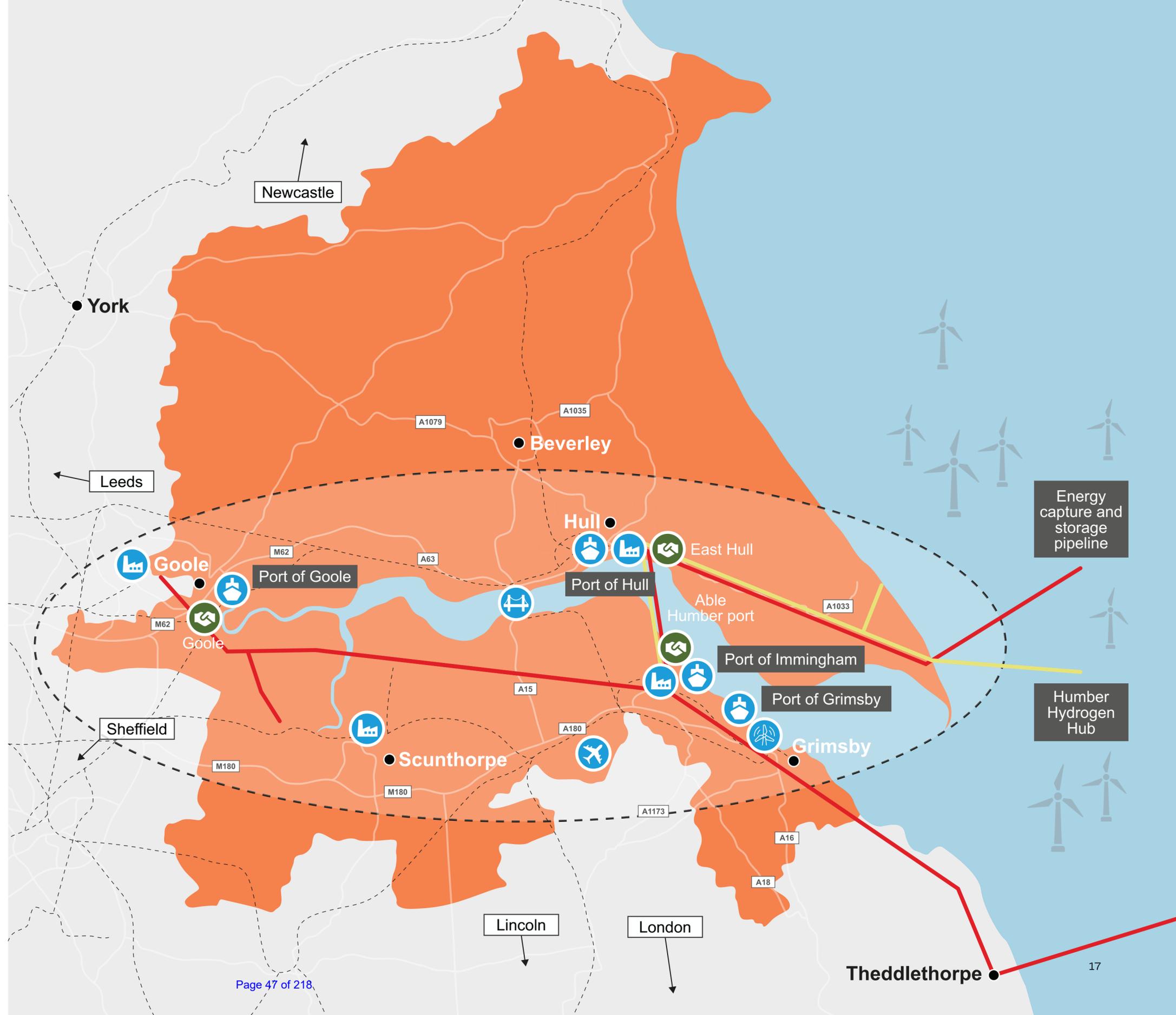
This map seeks to identify the key spatial opportunities of national significance in the Humber and highlights the region's major industrial and power assets.

In addition, there are cross cutting opportunities without spatial elements that apply across the whole of the Humber. This includes growth in jobs, skills and investment across the supply chain of energy and advanced manufacturing industries. The Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor is the focus area for this Humber Economic Strategy and accompanying Investment Plan.

Key

Local Authority Areas	Major road network
Freeport tax site	Major rail network
Offshore wind operations and supply chain	Humberside Airport
Major industrial and power assets	Humber Bridge
Pipeline infrastructure for energy distribution, storage and carbon capture	Ports
	Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor

The Humber 2030 Vision sets out the potential investments required at more detailed spatial level.



Achieving the Vision

FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR THE HUMBER



Achieving the vision for the Humber will require cross-border commitment to both strategic and local priorities.

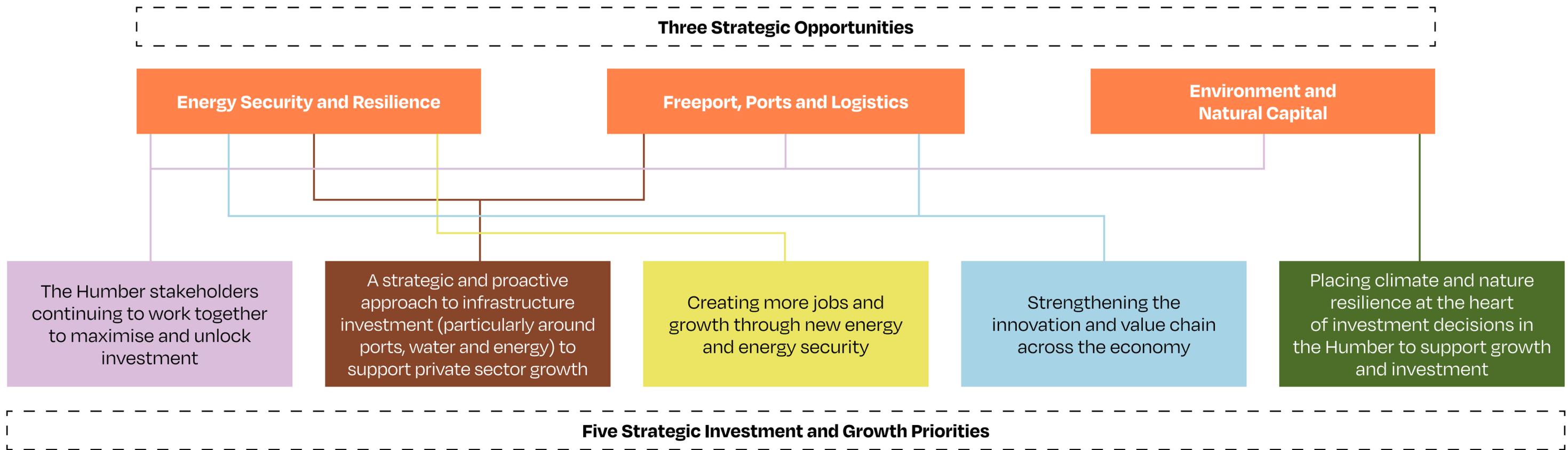
Five Humber-wide investment and growth priorities have been identified and set out the goals and principles for investment for the Humber which will be vital to the region achieving success. These are complemented by the Humber Investment Plan which will set out how and where developments could be implemented in support of these goals.

Both Combined Authorities and the Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport are developing their plans on how they will support the Humber strategy directly or through complementary activity. Local priorities for investment will be delivered locally by the relevant authority and partner organisations.

Achieving the Vision

FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR THE HUMBER

The five investment and growth priorities for the Humber are intended to enable and guide the allocation of resources and investment towards achieving the long-term vision across the strategic opportunities for the Humber. This includes enhanced ways of continued joint working among the Humber stakeholders.



5 Investment and Growth Priorities

TO UNLOCK GROWTH AND INVESTMENT...

- 1** The Humber stakeholders continuing to work together to maximise and unlock investment.
- 2** A strategic and proactive approach to infrastructure investment (particularly around ports, water and energy) to support private sector growth.
- 3** Creating more jobs and growth through new energy and energy security.
- 4** Strengthening the innovation and value chain across the economy.
- 5** Placing climate and nature resilience at the heart of investment decisions in the Humber to support growth and investment.

Investment and Growth Priority 1

The Humber stakeholders continuing to work together to maximise and unlock investment.

Where are we now?

1

The two Combined Authorities will establish **structures and partnerships to deliver plans** and spatial priorities for growth.

2

Co-operation across the region is increasing with partnerships created to deliver sectoral opportunities. The region is generating new ideas and proactive approaches towards coordinating inward investment.

3

The Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport are **bringing together the public and private sector** in the region to maximise and drive forward investment.

4

There is agreement **stronger Humber-level governance** is needed to drive the implementation of this Humber Economic Strategy and Investment Plan.

Investment and Growth Priority 1

THE HUMBER STAKEHOLDERS CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAXIMISE AND UNLOCK INVESTMENT

Where would we like to be?

The two elected Mayoral Combined Authorities in the Humber have a remit to deliver on the devolution deals in the region. These deals recognise that there needs to be a strengthening of pan-Humber leadership. There has been an increase in pan-Humber strategic economic partnership working over the last decade which can be built on to strengthen the region's voice further. This includes through the pan-Humber design of the Humber Freeport and the Humber Energy Board.

Mobilising and building on positive economic leadership in place, a resourced and dedicated Humber-wide coordination function that acts as a clear spokesperson for the Humber with collective oversight of strategic social, economic and environmental considerations will be key to maximising future opportunities. The Humber stakeholders are working together on this to ensure the preferred outcome complements and builds on existing structures to bridge and bring partners together.

This will enable the Humber to articulate a clear, consistent, outward-facing and investable proposition around what the region can offer UK PLC, and for businesses to focus investment.

What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. Humber level leadership and collaboration** - there needs to be a strengthening of pan-Humber working to drive strategic economic priorities.
- 2. A concerted and coordinated approach to attracting inward investment** - the Humber needs dedicated, government-backed support to coordinate, promote, and manage inward investment opportunities with the two Combined Authorities, Local Authorities, Humber Freeport / Industrial Strategy Zone, Humber Energy Board, and public and private sectors working together.
- 3. Clarity of messaging to government** - all stakeholders across the Humber need to continue to articulate a clear and consistent proposition of what the Humber offers and what is needed.
- 4. Security of support from Government** - a statement of intent for the region is needed so the Humber stakeholders can plan with confidence.



Investment and Growth Priority 2

A strategic and proactive approach to infrastructure investment (particularly around ports, water and energy) to support private sector growth.

Where are we now?

1

The Humber is home to major **industrial assets of national significance**.

2

The Humber has excellent **rail, road and inland links** and proximity to several regional airports. Enhanced rail freight is crucial to facilitating further growth and each Combined Authority will set out the investment required in their Local Transport Plan.

3

Improvements to grid capacity are in the pipeline to ensure the Humber can meet the planned industry growth in particular energy generation.

4

Security of **future water availability and quality** is needed to ensure investors can plan with confidence.

5

The established **Humber Freeport** is a **catalyst** for inward investment and provides development ready sites and infrastructure.

6

The Humber is centred around the **UK's busiest port complex**. The four major ports of Hull, Goole, Immingham and Grimsby play a vital strategic role for the UK as a global trade gateway.

Investment and Growth Priority 2

A STRATEGIC AND PROACTIVE APPROACH TO INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (PARTICULARLY AROUND PORTS, WATER AND ENERGY) TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

Where would we like to be?

As the UK's busiest trading estuary and home to major power assets, the Humber is a critical logistics and energy hub. The region has strong road and port connectivity however to enhance the region's competitiveness further and really drive inward investment, there is a need for investment which enhances rail and road connectivity east-west and crucially, to the Humber ports and Freeport and that unlocks key development sites in economically important locations in major town and city centres. There is also a need to improve strategic connectivity to other major city regions across the North of England and the Midlands. The two Combined Authorities will play a role in influencing this investment to improve access to economic opportunities and will set out the transport infrastructure investment required in their respective Local Transport Plans.

For the Humber to meet the level of anticipated growth, a more coordinated and longer-term approach to infrastructure investment (ports, transport and utilities including water and energy) between the Humber stakeholders is required. The ambition is for there to be a common understanding of the infrastructure enhancements required to facilitate cross-border impact and deliver on regional ambitions, and for this to underpin coordination of inward investment between the Humber stakeholders. This will ensure the Humber has the foundations to facilitate planned growth and create places where people want to live, work and invest in.

What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. A Humber wide infrastructure strategy** - a single plan which considers a pipeline of infrastructure plans that investors, delivery partners and government can partner in based on strategic understanding of what infrastructure is required to deliver growth.
- 2. A Humber Investor Charter** - which is central to investment coordination between Humber stakeholders and sets out the expectations and requirements for development to potential investors, linked to statutory guidance and good practice.
- 3. Influence the regulatory framework and a coordinated response to advancing transport and utilities capacity and connectivity** - to unlock investment needed to enable growth and ensure the region can meet anticipated growth demand.
- 4. Government investment aligned to support the Humber Industrial Strategy Zone** - including capital funding and a programme of investment to unlock strategic sites such as the Freeport as a catalyst for future investment in growth-driving sectors and public and private sector collaboration.



©Humber Nature Partnership

Investment and Growth Priority 3

Creating more jobs and growth through new energy and energy security.

Where are we now?

1

Due to the size and scale of existing industry, the Humber is the **largest energy security opportunity in the UK** and central to the success of the Government's missions around energy industries.

2

The Humber has the foundational infrastructure, industrial base, wealth of skills and expertise and **existing energy capabilities** to allow the UK to meet future demand for energy and energy security. **Both banks of the Humber are partners in the relevant hubs.**

3

Potential for the **industrial cluster** to attract fledging industries.

4

There is already work ongoing to develop an aligned **skills curriculum in the Humber** and deliver the workforce capabilities and skilled population required by future industry, evident in the DfE backed Careers Hub, Humber Energy Skills Campus and the expansion of the CATCH facility.

5

Established private sector involvement and engagement in the mission to transform industry in the Humber through the Humber Energy Board.

Investment and Growth Priority 3

CREATING MORE JOBS AND GROWTH THROUGH NEW ENERGY AND ENERGY SECURITY

Where would we like to be?

The scale of potential jobs, skills and investment growth in energy industries in Humber is a once in a generation opportunity. The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan has outlined that over 22,800 direct jobs could be created in the region from plans for industrial transformational.

The Government's Modern Industrial Strategy recognises the importance of energy industries across the UK such as in the Humber are critical for future competitiveness, resilience and energy security. The Government has announced its support for the Viking Carbon Capture Usage and Storage project in the Humber by providing development funding to advance infrastructure delivery. Further investment in infrastructure to support offshore wind generation and deployment including blade and cable manufacturing, hydrogen production and distribution, nuclear fission and fusion energy and greenhouse gas removals will create significant growth and job opportunities in the Humber.

There is the potential for the Humber to attract fledging industries and transform the region into a leading energy cluster at a globally significant scale.

The Humber can support the UK to adapt and thrive in a changing world due to the size and scale of existing industry and skills asset base and has a role in allowing the UK to meet future demand for new energy and energy security. If the Humber is going to support nationally significant infrastructure projects, contribute to energy ambitions and be at the forefront of energy industries in the UK, there needs to be a different approach to infrastructure delivery and creating the workforce required to support this investment.



What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. Education providers and the private sector need to continue to work together on workforce** – given the scale of economic change, the Humber needs to be equipped with the capabilities demanded to attract and retain investment and deliver the vision.
- 2. Stakeholders in the Humber need to continue to align their investment plans** – this includes building on partnership work to date to develop skills and infrastructure strategies to match future industry needs around energy to ensure investors can access the skills they require.
- 3. Advance new energy technologies to market and support continued industrial activity** – build the use case and deployment plan for investment in new energy to drive employment growth across the Humber and maintain a competitive advantage in high growth energy industries.
- 4. Develop enabling pipeline networks and fit for purpose power distribution to cement building blocks for the future** – major energy storage and distribution infrastructure is needed to support and unlock growth in energy generation and facilitate greenhouse gas removal, transport and storage.

Investment and Growth Priority 4

Strengthening the innovation and value chain across the economy.

Where are we now?

1

The Humber is **experiencing some of the fastest productivity growth** outside of London and has the potential to drive further productivity growth in the north of England.

2

Visible examples of innovation in the region, underpinned by **partnership working between academia and the private sector**. The Freeport and Energy Board are key catalysts in this space.

3

The Humber is a **global gateway**. Opportunities to support added value activities in the Humber need to be developed, to use the port as an asset not just a throughout of goods.

4

The combined manufacturing base and strong educational institutions of the Greater Lincolnshire and Hull and East Yorkshire geographies are perfectly **placed to shape transformation of a new energy and manufacturing cluster**.

Investment and Growth Priority 4

STRENGTHENING THE INNOVATION AND VALUE CHAIN ACROSS THE ECONOMY

Where would we like to be?

The Humber is resourceful, and its strategic location allows the region to embrace and catalyse on trade opportunities presented by being a global port gateway with access to international markets and supply chains. The ports cluster is nationally significant and presents an opportunity to learn from international best practice to create a high-tech hub in the Humber. There are opportunities to embrace new technology, automation and artificial intelligence to generate productivity and efficiency gains that not only safeguard jobs but also serve as a catalyst for new jobs, skills and investment.

The Humber Freeport is already driving growth and investment in this space and stimulates innovation related to energy and advanced manufacturing, a strategic opportunity that is cross-cutting across the Humber. This includes opportunities for innovation in Medi-tech, Agri-tech, rail and artificial intelligence at a local level. Local leaders will play a role in co-creating research and development programmes and partnerships and targeting innovation investment to support local economies.

However, for the Humber to maximise this, there is a need to strengthen the ecosystem for innovation-led growth and move the Humber up the value chain, and to grow supply chain capacity to match desired scale. This includes scaling up innovation and automation and embracing growth in digital technology such as artificial intelligence.

This will drive greater productivity up the industrial base and enable the Humber to be a testbed for new industries and hub for innovation in energy security and advanced manufacturing.

What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. Increasing collaboration and research and development** - education providers, universities, businesses, investors, the Freeport, Energy Board and government at all levels should work together to strengthen the ecosystem for innovation-led growth aligned to the growth ambitions of respective Universities.
- 2. Facilitating an environment that encourages entrepreneurship** – to accelerate innovation by offering incentives that attract and fosters a vibrant business ecosystem and enhances research capacity.
- 3. Endorsement and support from Government for growth in innovation within high growth priority sectors** across the Humber (energy and advanced manufacturing).



Investment and Growth Priority 5

Placing climate and nature resilience at the heart of investment decisions in the Humber to support growth and investment.



Where are we now?

- 1 The South Humber Gateway Mitigation Scheme is pioneering a **strategic approach to Biodiversity Net Gain**. There are also strategic mitigation sites available for developers to contribute towards across the Humber.
- 2 The Humber is part of a **unique ecological system** and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA), a Wetland of International Importance (under the Ramsar Convention), and includes four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 3 The amazing array of nature and wildlife is part of the USP – **a remarkable place to live**.
- 4 Flood risk – partnership working on **Humber 2100+ strategy**, which will set out a strategic approach for adapting to sea level rise.

Investment and Growth Priority 5

PLACING CLIMATE AND NATURE RESILIENCE AT THE HEART OF INVESTMENT DECISIONS IN THE HUMBER TO SUPPORT GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

Where would we like to be?

The environment of the Humber presents economic opportunities to restore and transform the natural and biodiverse environment and enhance quality of place and living standards in the Humber. The unique environment continues to be protected by National and European designations and the case for the East Atlantic Flyway UNESCO world heritage site has been developed and moved forward.

Investors need to proactively enhance the natural environment and understand mitigation requirements and view these as investment opportunities rather than constraints. This will give confidence and stability and enable the environment of the Humber to be considered as an opportunity not a barrier and to protect the unique environment for future generations.

To enable successful delivery of priorities, partners are implementing a clear response to growing environmental risks, especially rising sea levels. This includes action by investors, and complementary strategic action that needs estuary collaboration. This is building on the work of existing partnerships that operate around the Humber.

This would enable an approach to environmental adaptation, mitigation and enhancement to be considered in advance of any development and ideally at a more strategic level, using existing mechanisms rather than adding further complexity to this sector.

What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. Commitments to place shaping and balancing economic development with the need for biodiversity** - to enhance quality of place to create the Humber as a destination.
- 2. Nurture existing partnerships** - supporting the established partnership working of Humber 2100+, living with water and other strategic groups enabling adaptation to develop a joint response to climate resilience.
- 3. Sharing good practice on Biodiversity Net Gain** - joint working on Nature Recovery Strategies and work by Natural England to develop a strategic mitigation strategy for functionally linked land through the Protected Sites Strategy pilot and for other impacts e.g. recreational disturbance, to understand best approaches for Biodiversity Net Gain across the Humber.
- 4. Strategic approach to mitigation sites** - build on the South Humber Gateway mitigation strategy and enhance this on a larger scale, working across the whole estuary to secure mitigation areas.
- 5. Climate resilient investment decisions** - identifying and responding to environmental risks affecting delivery of strategic priorities to increase resilience and the attractiveness of the Humber for investment.



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Conclusion

Recommendations

HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY

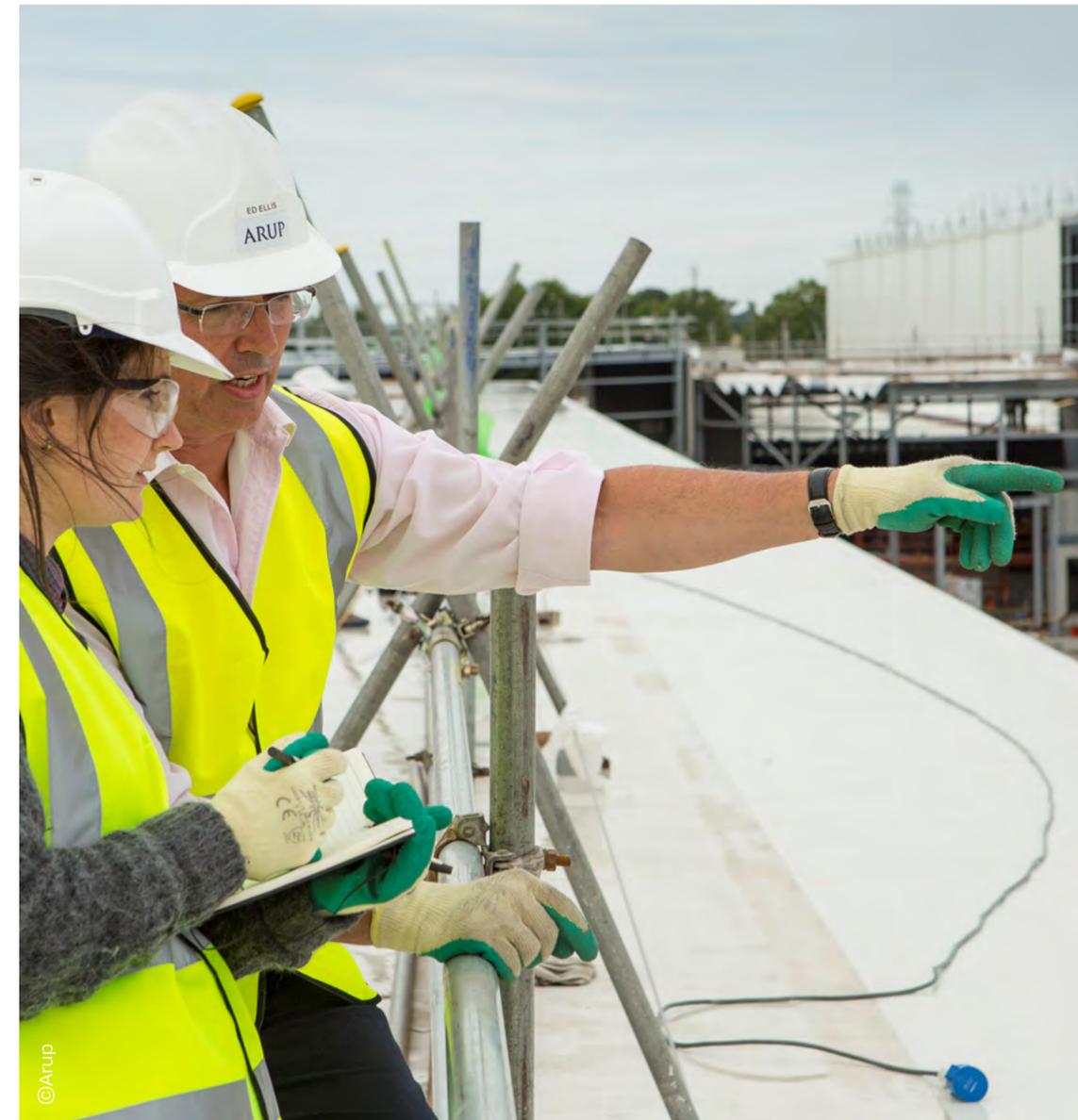
The time for the Humber is now – with huge potential for targeted public and private sector investment to unlock substantial private sector-led growth.

A resourced, collective and collaborative leadership function for the Humber with oversight of strategic social, economic and environmental considerations will be a key driver in capitalising on future opportunities. It will be critical to plan proactively to integrate infrastructure, land use and environmental resilience proposals from the outset to make investment possible and maximise growth. This would provide the necessary stability and certainty for investors.

A series of clear commitments and catalytic investments is needed to realise the opportunities. There is already strong momentum built on historical partnership working and investment and a healthy future pipeline of private sector investment in the Humber which can be unlocked with:

- Increased strategic Humber level leadership.
- Coordination of investment and infrastructure planning between Humber stakeholders.
- A commitment to investment and creating jobs in high growth industries.
- Certainty on an integrated programme of long-term investment from across governmental departments.
- Strategic consideration of environmental mitigation and management.

Measured by scale and impact, game changing investments and policy are required to deliver cross border benefits in the Humber. It will be crucial to implement bold, step change and set the building blocks needed to deliver growth. The Humber Investment Plan will set out the game changing strategic interventions required to realise the Humber vision.



Next Steps and Delivery

PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Humber Economic Strategy sets out the Humber proposition for investment and an indicative longer-term route map to deliver the economic opportunity in the Humber. The investment and growth priorities set out the principles for investment and set the strategic direction and scope for future investment in the Humber to unlock growth. These will be agreed with the two Mayors in the region to ensure they align, collaborate and codevelop joint priorities.

An accompanying Humber Investment Plan will set out the investment prospectus and live pipeline of game changing strategic interventions for the Humber and the specific action required from local, regional and national stakeholders, delivery organisations, government and agencies working in partnership to realise strategic growth opportunities and the vision for the Humber over the next 10 years and beyond. This includes the policy, funding and arrangements in place to deliver each proposition.

Developing strategic investment propositions for inclusion in the Humber Investment Plan will require continued cross-sector and cross-partner codevelopment between the Humber stakeholders. Humber wide capability is required to develop strategic investment propositions to market and a working group is being set up to deliver this.

This Humber Economic Strategy sets the strategic direction for growth in the geography however how the Humber stakeholders are going to deliver on this is crucial to maximising opportunities. Central to realising the Humber opportunity is ensuring clarity of purpose between the multiple organisations and leaders in the Humber exists alongside confirmation of the delivery mechanism to achieve this. There is agreement among leaders in the Humber that Humber-level executive arrangements would drive the implementation of this Humber Economic Strategy and Investment Plan.

Emerging Humber Delivery Arrangements

A strategic Humber level coordination mechanism is needed to own and drive the implementation of this strategy, in particular to deliver on priority 1.

There is a need to create an entity who owns the delivery of investment and growth priorities for the Humber and can manage the common priorities and barriers to growth in a way that benefits the whole of the geography. The Combined Authorities Local Growth Plans and Investment Plans will include the pan-Humber priorities as shared priorities and set out the actions and investments they will undertake to help deliver them. The Humber partners will come together with the Mayors to deliver this.

There is a need for delivery arrangements to be put in place to ensure this Humber Economic Strategy is implemented, managed and appropriately resourced.

The form and function of the arrangement is also to be agreed, and further work is required to define and implement the preferred outcome. The Humber partners are working together on this and once these arrangements are agreed and finalised, the role of stakeholders, policy changes and actions required to deliver the Humber investment and growth priorities will be defined.





Report to the Combined Authority Board

4 March 2026

Joint Mayoral Committee – Terms of Reference

Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer

Report Status:

This item is not exempt

Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

- 1.1 The devolution deals for both the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) and the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA) recognise the Humber as one of the UK's most significant industrial areas. Both devolution deals reflect a shared commitment by each Combined Authority and their respective constituent councils to work collaboratively across the Humber to enhance its economic potential.
- 1.2 This report sets out the proposed governance arrangements to support and facilitate this commitment.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That HEYCA's constitution be amended to establish a joint committee to be known as the Mayoral Humber Growth Board and to include the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A (subject to amendments of a minor and/or technical nature approved by the Chief Executive) in the constitution under Joint Arrangements & Partnership Working;
- 2.2 That HEYCA supports an open recruitment process to establish the Humber Business Forum.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Mayoral Humber Growth Board delivers against the expectations set out within the devolution deals for Hull and East Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire. It is designed to facilitate the long-term economic growth of the Humber through a strong public-private partnership.
- 3.2 The Mayoral Humber Growth Board is underpinned by the Humber Business Forum, and representation from the Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport, to ensure a strong private sector voice in all decisions made by the Mayoral Humber Growth Board.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Humber is a vital part of the UK economy, leading in global trade, energy security, advanced manufacturing, and foundational industry. Realising the full potential of the Humber is essential for strengthening its competitiveness nationally and internationally.
- 4.2 The devolution deals for HEYCA and GLCCA require both Mayoral Strategic Authorities and their constituent members to develop governance arrangements that increase clarity and alignment across the Humber. These arrangements must support strong public-private partnership working, simplify the promotion of investment opportunities, align priorities, and unlock long-term sustainable growth
- 4.3 To achieve this, it is proposed that the constitutions of HEYCA and GLCCA, and the four Humber local authorities are amended to establish a Mayoral led joint committee, to be known as the Mayoral Humber Growth Board. The functions of the Board may be but are not limited to, approval of joint strategies, oversight of joint programmes, coordination of cross-boundary infrastructure priorities, and endorsement of joint representations to Government.

This Mayoral Humber Growth Board will provide a formal mechanism for collaboration across the Humber. It will oversee delivery of the Humber Economic Strategy and wider growth ambitions aligned to the functions of the mayoral strategic authorities.

- The Mayoral Humber Growth Board will promote economic growth, employment and prosperity. Its work will include aligning strategic transport, infrastructure and connectivity priorities, and coordinating skills,

employment, energy and key sector initiatives. By collaborating closely, partners it will develop joint investment propositions and funding bids, presenting the Humber with a single aligned voice and clear vision. The Board will also represent shared regional interests to Government and national bodies, ensuring transparent and accountable decision making.

➤ The Mayoral Humber Growth Board will comprise of the following voting public sector members:

- Mayor of Hull and East Yorkshire
- Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire
- One elected member, which shall be the Leader or the Deputy Leader of each of the following four local authorities:
 - Hull City Council
 - East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 - North Lincolnshire Council
 - North East Lincolnshire Council

5. Issues for Consideration

Business Engagement

- 5.1 A strong private-sector voice is essential, ensuring balanced representation across both the north and south Humber banks and supporting a close public–private partnership. HEYCA and GLCCA will jointly establish a Humber Business Forum to bring together business leaders focused on delivering the Humber Economic Strategy and wider economic ambitions. The Forum will ensure that the economic needs and strengths of the Humber are clearly articulated regionally and nationally. It is therefore recommended that an open recruitment process is undertaken by the Mayoral Strategic Authorities to appoint Forum members. The Chair of the forum will sit on the Mayoral Humber Growth Board, along with the Chairs of the Humber Freeport and the Humber Energy Board as non-voting members.

Operation of the Mayoral Humber Growth Board

- 5.2 The Mayoral Humber Growth Board will be Mayoral led and will **always be chaired by a Mayor or their substitute** and the quorum will require the attendance of the Mayors or their substitutes unless local authority functions are being decided in which case the relevant local authorities' representatives must also be present.

The Mayoral Humber Growth Board will be subject to the **usual executive requirements in relation to the Forward Plan** and will be **subject to Scrutiny within each of the relevant authorities**. The terms of reference will also seek to include a senior government representative as an observer of the Mayoral Humber Growth Board.

- **Task and finish groups** will be established where appropriate, enabling wider stakeholder engagement on key issues important to long-term growth.
- The Mayoral Humber Growth Board will **meet every three months**.
- The Humber Business Forum will meet **at the six-week mid-point** to consider outcomes from the previous Board meeting and discuss future agenda items.
- The Board will be chaired by a Mayor, with chairing rotating annually between the two Mayors. **The first Chair will be the Mayor of Hull and East Yorkshire**.
- The full Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 1.

6. Equalities Impact Information

- 6.1 No specific implications were identified in the preparation of this report.

7. Options and Risk Assessment

- 7.1 To not introduce a Mayoral Humber Growth Board. This would not achieve the outcomes set out within the devolution deal and would fail to effectively support long-term economic growth across the Humber.

8. Legal Implications and Statutory Officer Comments

- 8.1 The Committee is established pursuant to sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as applied), Part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016, the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2025 (UK SI 113/2025), and the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Regulations 2025 (UK SI 117/2025).

- 8.2 The proposed Mayoral Humber Growth Board is a joint committee which means that it can make decisions, once powers are delegated, on behalf of the Combined Authority. It

is not a separate legal entity, but it will have scope to make decisions, other than decisions which are Mayoral. The Mayoral Humber Growth Board is an executive committee of HEYCA and therefore it will be subject to the usual provisions in relation to access to information and scrutiny as set out within HEYCA's constitution. The full terms of reference are attached and will be inserted into the constitution, subject to amendments of a minor and technical amendment delegated to the Chief Executive.

9. **Financial Implications and Statutory Officer comments**

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report. Existing resources will be used to support the operation of the Mayoral Humber Growth Board and the Humber Business Forum.

Tony Maione, Interim Monitoring Officer

Contact Officers:

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Officer Interests:

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

Background Documents: None

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
MAYORAL-LED JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
AND THE GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COMBINED
AUTHORITY**

1. Establishment and Legal Basis

1.1 A Joint Committee ("the Committee") is established jointly by the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) and the Greater Lincolnshire County Combined Authority (GLCCA).

1.2 The Committee is established pursuant to sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as applied), Part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016, the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2025 (UK SI 113/2025), and the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Regulations 2025 (UK SI 117/2025).

1.3 The Committee is a joint committee of combined authorities [and local authorities] and is not a separate legal entity.

1.4 The Committee shall operate in accordance with all relevant legislation, the constitutions and standing orders of the participating authorities, and these Terms of Reference.

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of the Committee is to provide a formal, statutory mechanism for mayoral-led collaboration on all matters covered by and relating to the development and delivery of the Humber Economic Strategy across the Hull and East Riding and Greater Lincolnshire geography.

2.2 The Committee shall enable coordinated leadership on matters of shared strategic importance that fall within 2.1 above which extend beyond the boundary of a single authority.

2.3 The core functions of the Committee are to facilitate cooperation and collaboration, in so far as it relates to executive functions of voting members on all relevant themes, including but not limited to, development and application of strategy across the Hull and East Riding and Greater Lincolnshire geographies, develop opportunities to gain greater alignment thereto and the strategic alignment

of investment across the Hull and East Riding and Greater Lincolnshire geographies.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Committee are, always within its Purpose as defined above to:

- promote economic growth, employment and prosperity.
- align strategic transport, infrastructure and connectivity priorities.
- coordinate skills, employment, energy, and key sector specific initiatives.
- oversee the development of joint investment propositions and funding bids.
- represent shared regional interests to Government and national bodies.
- ensure transparent, accountable and lawful joint decision-making.

Specifically, the Committee shall:

- develop and recommend for consideration proposals relating to the core functions of the Committee and maintain oversight for delivery arrangements relating to such functions ensuring strategic ambitions are met; and
- act as an advocate for investment in the Hull, East Riding and Greater Lincolnshire geography; and
- align where possible recommendations relating to capital expenditure programmes where the benefits accrue across the Hull, East Riding and Greater Lincolnshire geography; and
- consider reports from national or sub-regional or sector representation bodies relevant to the Committee's Purpose and Objectives.

4. Functions and Scope

4.1 The Committee may exercise such functions as are lawfully delegated to it by the Combined Authorities [and participating local authorities].

4.2 Functions may, but are not limited to, approval of joint strategies, oversight of joint programmes, coordination of cross-boundary infrastructure priorities, and endorsement of joint representations to Government.

4.3 The Committee shall not exercise any function reserved by statute or order to an individual Mayor, nor any function not expressly delegated.

4.4 All delegations shall be recorded formally, specifying scope, financial limits and duration.

5. Membership

5.1 Voting Members shall comprise:

- the Mayor of Hull and East Yorkshire
- the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire
- one elected member, which shall be the Leader or the Deputy Leader of each of the following [four] local authorities:
 - Hull City Council
 - East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 - North Lincolnshire Council
 - North East Lincolnshire Council
 - [INSERT]

5.2 Each authority may appoint one named substitute member.

5.3 The Committee may invite non-voting advisers or observers to attend which includes, but is not limited to, Humber Freeport Limited and Humber Energy Board [INSERT IF OTHERS TO BE SPECIFICALLY CALLED OUT].

6. Chairing and Leadership

6.1 The Committee shall be always mayoral-led.

6.2 The Chair shall be a Mayor and shall rotate annually between the two Mayors. The first Chair shall be the Mayor of Hull and East Yorkshire.

6.3 The Vice-Chair shall be the other Mayor.

7. Decision-Making

7.1 Decisions shall be taken by consensus of Mayors present.

7.2 Local authority members shall participate fully in deliberations and vote where local authority functions are engaged.

7.3 Where consensus cannot be reached, no decision shall be taken.

7.4 All decisions shall be recorded and published in accordance with access to information legislation.

8. Quorum

8.1 The quorum for meetings shall be both Mayors (or substitutes). Where local authority functions are engaged, the quorum for meetings shall be both Mayors (or substitutes) plus at least one local authority member (or substitute) from either Hull City Council or East Riding of Yorkshire Council plus at least one local authority

member (or substitute) from either North Lincolnshire Council or North East Lincolnshire Council.

9. Meetings

9.1 The Committee shall meet at least [four times] per municipal year.

9.2 Meetings [must/may] be held in person, [virtually or as hybrid meetings].

9.3 Notice, agendas and minutes shall be published in accordance with statutory requirements.

10. Officers and Secretariat

10.1 Each authority shall provide appropriate officer support.

10.2 The Secretariat shall be delivered by the combined authority whose Mayor acts as Chair or otherwise be established by agreement between Mayors.

10.3 Costs shall be shared on a basis agreed by the authorities.

11. Finance and Resources

11.1 The Committee shall not incur expenditure unless authorised by all relevant authorities.

11.2 Any joint funding arrangements shall be documented in a separate agreement where required.

12. Scrutiny and Accountability

12.1 Decisions shall be subject to the overview and scrutiny arrangements of the Combined Authorities and relevant local authorities.

12.2 The Committee shall cooperate fully with scrutiny bodies.

13. Standards and Interests

13.1 Members shall comply with the Nolan Principles of Public Life and their respective Codes of Conduct.

13.2 Interests shall be declared in accordance with applicable requirements.

14. Review and Dissolution

14.1 These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed at least once every two years.

14.3 The Committee may be dissolved by mutual agreement of Mayors.

Report to the HEYCA Board

4 March 2025

The Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan

Report of the Strategic Advisor - Investment

Report Status:

This item is not exempt

Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

This is a key decision. The matter is in the Forward Plan

1. **Purpose of the Report and Summary**

- 1.1 This paper accompanies the Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan (LGP), which is presented to the Board for approval.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i. approves the Hull and East Yorkshire Growth Plan set out at **Appendix 1**;
 - ii. delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor to:
 - make any necessary minor amendments to the Plan to address errors, improve accessibility and ensure it remains current prior to formal launch

- accommodate further minor amendments to the shared priorities established in the Plan where these are necessary to secure final ministerial sign-off (as set out in para. 6.3)
 - prepare a final and fully designed version of the Plan, together with any summary or investment focused presentations of the Plan that might be helpful to promote its objectives and priorities, and
 - to put in place appropriate resourcing arrangements to deliver the Plan and provide suitable future updates;
- iii. notes the financial implications of the planned activity set out in the Plan, as summarised in **Appendix 2**;
- iv. approves the allocation of Local Growth Fund monies as set out in **Appendix 3**, which includes funding for local organisations and programmes providing business and employment support to respond to the priorities of the LGP over, initially, a six-month transition period; and
- v. in making the above decisions, consider the updated equalities impact assessment set out in **Appendix 4**;

3. **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Local Growth Plan provides the core economic policy framework for the Combined Authority, ensuring that activity across all portfolios is strategically aligned.
- 3.2 Section 39 (via Schedule 20) of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, once enacted, is expected to confer on Mayoral Combined Authorities a duty to prepare and publish a Local Growth Plan for their area.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Local Growth Plan (LGP) for Hull & East Yorkshire is a ten-year strategy designed to drive sustainable economic growth by integrating national priorities set out in the National Industrial Strategy with local ambitions identified through the Gameplan, Humber Economic Strategy and other regional approaches to supporting investment and business growth and development.
- 4.2 Developing an ambitious local growth plan has been an early priority for the new Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority. The work has received consistent support from the Mayor and

Executive Board, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council, the University of Hull and wider regional partners.

4.3 Work to date has included extensive background research and related analysis; wide-ranging engagement via industry and stakeholder groups; three full days of intensive 'policy sprint' workshops; broad consideration from, and consultation with, all sectors via an open survey shared widely by HEYCA, constituent councils and regional business and VCSE networks; and investment from the Mayoral Capacity Fund to prepare a fully updated Regional Economic Assessment (REA).

4.4 The Business Board considered the development of the Local Growth Plan at its meetings in November 2025 and February 2026. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also considered the development of the Local Growth Plan at their meetings in November 2025 and January 2026, and members of the Committee received the final draft Plan and an accompanying briefing in February. Supportive comments and helpful drafting improvements have been received by the University of Hull, Humber Freeport and others.

4.5 Background reports, including the full phase one REA, are available on the HEYCA website at www.hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk/lgp.

5. **The Local Growth Plan policy and delivery framework**

5.1 The Local Growth Plan policy and delivery framework responds to feedback from businesses and partners about the need for a balanced, whole-economy approach to growth in Hull and East Yorkshire. The Plan recognises that economic performance is shaped not only by major investment projects, but by the strength of the wider business base, the availability of skills, and the quality of infrastructure and places.

The Plan is organised in three parts:

- 5.2
- **Part A** sets out the strategic direction through four Big Plays:
 - **Powering the industrial future**, which focuses on Growth Driving sectors
 - **Backing local business**, which focuses on Growth Potential and Growth Enabling sectors across the business base
 - **Building skills and good work**, with a focus on progression and access to good work, and

- **Connecting and enabling growth**, through key infrastructure and related improvements.
 - Together, these Big Plays provide a clear and coherent framework for growth that spans large-scale industrial activity, the SME economy, workforce participation, and the enabling conditions required to unlock opportunity across the area.
- 5.3
- **Part B** provides the evidence and rationale for these choices. It explains how the economy works, where value is created, and what is holding growth back. This includes analysis of sectors, skills, infrastructure, housing and connectivity, and sets out the key constraints and opportunities that the Plan must address. This evidence ensures that the Big Plays reflect the realities faced by businesses and workers across the whole economy.
 - **Part C** translates the strategy into action. It sets out delivery and investment plans for each of the four Big Plays, including priority programmes, investment propositions and policy commitments. Key commitments include:
 - Support for **Western Docklands regeneration**, including the potential for a Mayoral Development Corporation
 - Securing investment into a pipeline of **5,400 new homes**
 - **A £7m package of support for business and employment support programmes**, including an additional £1m in mayoral support funding for both **SMEs** and **young people not in education, employment or training**.
 - Sustained backing for **core industrial sites** including
 - Yorkshire Energy Park – a fully consented low-carbon business campus with potential for up to 4,480 jobs.
 - Goole Freeport tax site – 200-hectare advanced manufacturing opportunity with outline consent for 520,000m² of industrial development.
 - Humber International Enterprise Park – 183-hectare Freeport manufacturing and logistics hub with major power capacity and rail/road access.
 - Early consideration of **growth opportunities for Bridlington** and enhanced **Further Education provision in Goole**
- 5.4
- The Plan commits to **ongoing joint working with partners** through the Business and Skills advisory board, Investment Committee and other working groups. This collaborative approach will help ensure

that investment is well targeted, support is practical, and the Plan delivers growth that is both ambitious and locally rooted.

6. **Specific considerations**

6.1 The financial implications of commitments made in the Local Growth Plan are set out in Appendix 3. In approving the Local Growth Plan, the Board are prioritising these issues for development and delivery, with specific funding and procurement decisions still required through the Combined Authority's existing assurance and constitutional frameworks and processes.

6.2 The LGP guides significant support for business and employment support services in the region, including the introduction of new mayoral funding for SMEs and young people not in education. To support smooth continuation of key services, the Board are recommended to approve the allocation of Local Growth Fund monies as set out in **Appendix 3**, which will support local organisations and partners to respond to the priorities of the LGP over an initial six-month transitional period.

6.3 The LGP includes a series of four Shared Priorities with government, focused on tackling growth constraints linked to energy, transport, skills and health, and the environment. In approving the LGP, the Board are aware that the finalisation of these shared priorities remains subject to approval by MHCLG Ministers. Accordingly, the Board is recommended to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, authority to accommodate any further minor amendments that may be required to the shared priorities. In doing so, the Board will recognise that, should ministers require changes of fundamental substance, the Chief Executive will want to seek wider consultation and approval from Board Members before finalising these aspects of the Plan.

7. **Equalities Impact Information**

7.1 An updated equalities analysis has been prepared in line with the LGP. This is enclosed at Appendix 4 and should be considered by Board Members in approving the Plan.

8. **Options and Risk Assessment**

8.1 All Mayoral Combined Authorities are required to produce a Local Growth Plan.

9. **Legal Implications and Statutory Officer Comments**

- 9.1 The recommendations in this report have no direct nor immediate legal implications at this stage.
- 9.2 New powers and/or duties on the Mayor and the Combined Authority will be introduced under the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill (the Bill) which is currently at the committee stage in the House of Lords. Further details will be provided as the Bill progresses through towards final stages and Royal Assent.

10. **Financial Implications and Statutory Officer comments**

- 10.1 The plan makes policy commitments, some of which have funding implications as set out in Appendix 2. Specific decisions to fund these activities will be taken at a later date in line with the adopted budget.
- 10.2 Recommendation iv asks the Board to approve allocation of Local Growth Fund monies as set out in Appendix 3. The financial implications are in line with the adopted budget.

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Officer Interests:

None

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – The Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan
- Appendix 2 – Financial implications of LGP commitments
- Appendix 3 – Local Growth Fund 2026/27 – including transitional support for business and employment support
- Appendix 4 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan

*Powering our industrial
future*

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Mayor's introduction

Hull and East Yorkshire is a place with a powerful story to tell - and this Local Growth Plan is about making that story clear, confident and heard far beyond our boundaries.

For too long, the scale of our contribution to the UK and global economy has been underplayed. Yet this is a region defined by world-class ports, global trade, advanced manufacturing, energy sector leadership and innovation rooted in real industry. Through this Growth Plan, we are bringing those strengths together under a single, coherent economic identity - one that investors, Government and international partners can recognize and get onboard with.

This plan establishes Hull and East Yorkshire as a globally connected region: outward-looking, productive and future-focused. It aligns our key industries in the energy sector, manufacturing, ports and logistics and agriculture food and technology to build a bold industrial future, back our local businesses and create a high-value economy.

Central to this identity is partnership. The Combined Authority will work in lockstep with the major firms, supply chains and SMEs that underpin our economy, alongside our ports, universities, innovators, entrepreneurs and skills and support providers in the community and education sectors. Our partnership across the Humber Estuary, which is so vital to our prosperity, will remain at the heart of our approach.

Together, we will speak with a stronger, more unified voice, promoting Hull and East Yorkshire nationally and internationally as a place that is open for business, serious about growth and capable of delivery.

By strengthening how Hull and East Yorkshire is seen and how we see ourselves, this plan supports better jobs, higher skills, stronger communities and an improved quality of life. Growth must be visible in people's everyday lives, from good work and affordable homes to healthier places and better connections.

This Local Growth Plan is our route to a stronger economy and more opportunity for local people - an energy powerhouse for the UK and beyond; a centre of digital and mechanical engineering excellence; a global maritime and logistics gateway; and the place where businesses come to secure quality of life, the space to expand and a seat at the table.

Luke Campbell MBE
Mayor of Hull and East Yorkshire

Executive Board introduction

The HEYCA Executive Board is proud to present this Local Growth Plan for Hull and East Yorkshire. It sets out a clear and ambitious framework to unlock growth, raise productivity and create prosperity for a place defined by resilience, pride and potential.

Our Place: welcome to Hull and East Yorkshire

Hull and East Yorkshire are home to more than 630,000 people and a diverse, evolving economy. Our location on the UK's east coast, with global-facing ports and strong transport links, provides a strategic gateway to Europe and beyond.

Hull is our regional city on the Humber, surrounded by the towns, villages and outstanding natural landscapes and coastline of the East Riding. Together, they form a tightly connected economic area, with strong links between employment, trade and culture, yet with significant contrasts that shape how we will seek to grow.

Our Mayoral Combined Authority

Devolution represents a step-change, securing £400 million of additional funding and enabling greater local decision-making, stronger partnerships with Government and increased confidence for private sector investment.

Our Combined Authority gives us more of the levers we need to growth our local economy, delivering prosperity and opportunity for all.

Our Gameplan

Our gameplan focuses on four priorities that matter most to our economy and our communities and that provide the organising framework for this Local Growth Plan.

- **Good jobs** that match the skills and ambitions of our people, supporting productivity, progression and security.
- **Better connections**, through transport, digital infrastructure and stronger networks, linking people to opportunity and businesses to markets.
- **Fit and healthy communities**, enabling people to participate fully in work, family life and their local communities.
- **Affordable homes** in safe, attractive neighbourhoods where people are proud to live.

Together, these priorities reflect our belief that economic growth and quality of life are inseparable. They are underpinned by a commitment to securing a fair share of investment,

working with residents, businesses, institutions, and community and voluntary organisations across Hull and east Yorkshire to shape solutions, and ensuring children and young people help build the future of the region.

Our commitment to collaboration

Prosperity can only be delivered through partnership. The Combined Authority will lead where required and convene where needed, engaging productively across Hull and East Yorkshire and beyond – from neighbourhood level to an international stage,

Central to this is our commitment to collaborate across the Humber Estuary. Mayors and Leaders on the north and south banks of the Humber have confirmed a shared commitment to coordinate growth in line with the Humber Economic Strategy, and a Mayoral Joint Committee, bringing together Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority, Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority, local authorities, the Humber Freeport, the Humber Energy Board, industry and government, will guide strategy, strengthen collaboration and enable investment at Humber scale.

Ready to deliver

Our work on this Plan leads us to one clear message: **Hull and East Yorkshire is ready to deliver**. We have the leadership, powers and partnerships to turn ambition into action. Our Mayor and Combined Authority will work closely with local authorities, businesses, investors, education providers, community organisations and Government to unlock growth, raise productivity and spread opportunity.

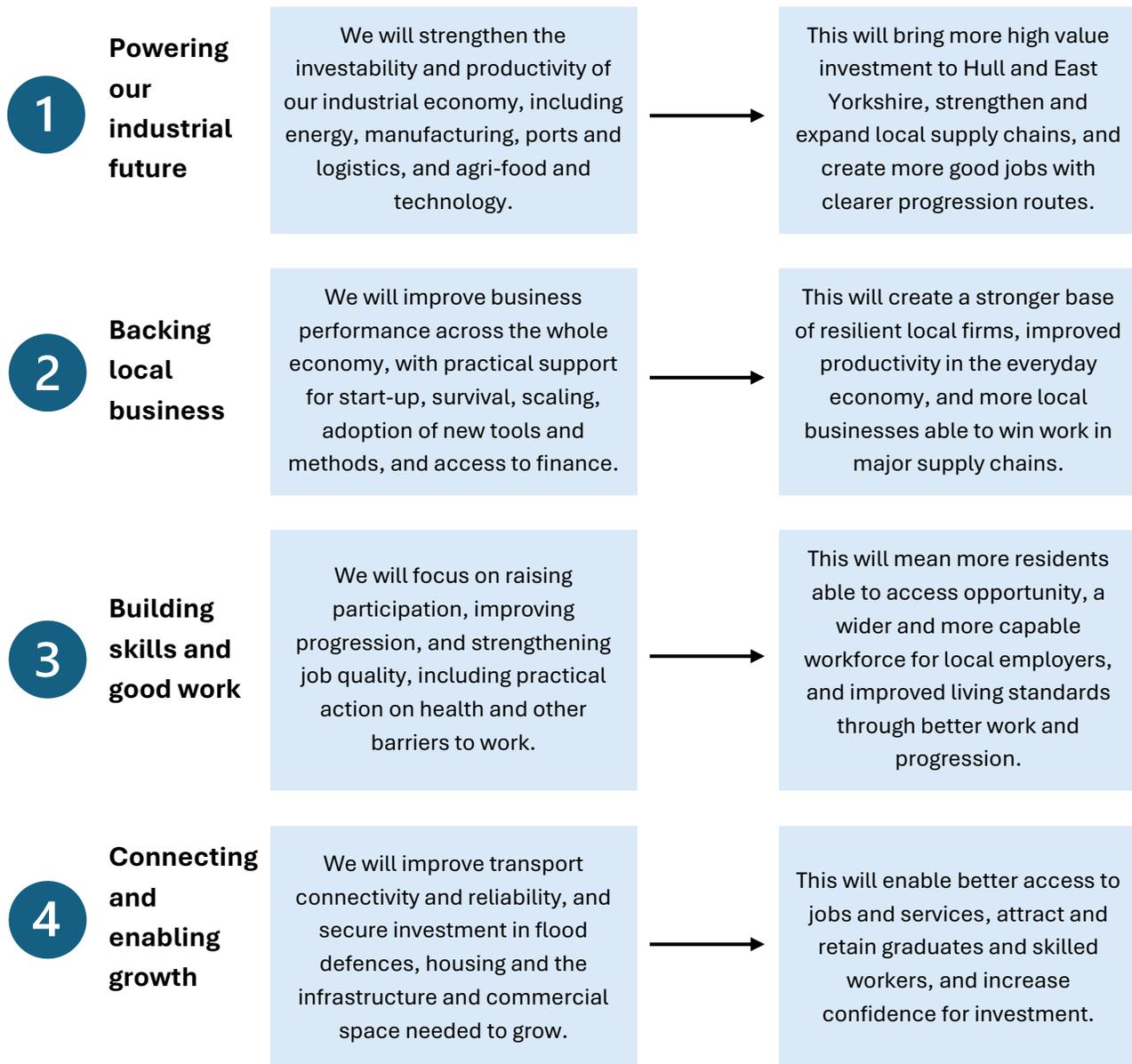
What follows is a clear and focused plan for delivery grounded in partnership, driven by ambition, and shaped by belief in the potential of this place and its people.

- Luke Campbell, Mayor of Hull and East Yorkshire
- Cllr Anne Handley, Investment Portfolio Lead and Leader of East Riding Council
- Cllr David Tucker, Transport Portfolio Lead and Deputy Leader of East Riding Council
- Cllr Mike Ross, Skills Portfolio Lead and Leader of Hull City Council
- Cllr Jackie Dad, Housing Portfolio Lead and Deputy Leader of Hull City Council
- Jonathan Evison, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner
- Jason Speedy, Chair of the HEY Business Board
- Jayne Adamson, Chair of the HEY Skills Board

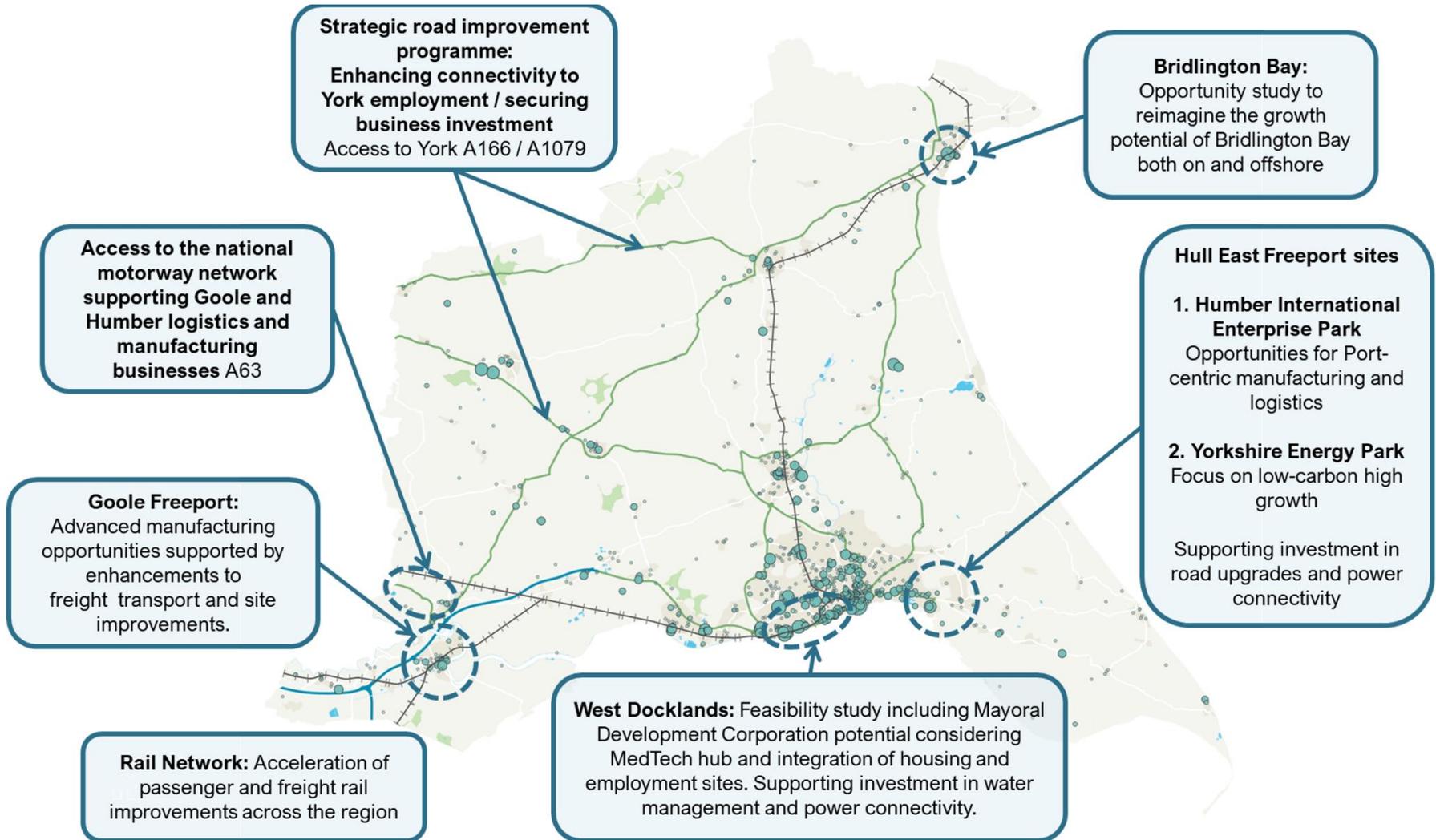
Part A: The Big Plays that will drive growth

Four Big Plays to drive up economic prosperity

We have set a clear direction for Hull and East Yorkshire through our Gameplan, with Mayoral priorities focused on long-term prosperity. This Local Growth Plan builds upon that direction by making four Big Plays for growth over the next decade. These Big Plays provide a shared frame for partners, investors and local people and businesses to deliver real impact across Hull and East Yorkshire.



Key growth driving investments identified in the Local Growth Plan



Our key areas of focus and investment opportunity

Big Play 1: Powering our industrial future



What this Big Play means

We will turn Hull and East Yorkshire's industrial strengths into faster delivery of new investments, stronger growth, and better jobs over the next decade.

This Big Play is focused on the parts of our economy that already carry national weight, including energy, ports and logistics, manufacturing, and agri-food and agri-tech. These sectors are more likely to respond quickly to targeted intervention and can deliver early, visible outcomes in productivity, employment, and value creation.

We will use our convening role and devolved levers to:

- strengthen the investment propositions for priority sites and corridors
- improve the conditions that enable industrial delivery at pace, including power access, site readiness, and resilience
- increase the local benefit of nationally significant infrastructure and supply chains, so growth translates into higher productivity and good work across Hull and East Yorkshire.

Why it matters for Hull and East Yorkshire

The evidence shows that our economic structure is distinctive and nationally relevant. Manufacturing is a major contributor to local output and the area has strong concentrations in production industries and logistics that underpin trade, export competitiveness, and supply chains.

This Big Play responds to clear delivery constraints that are already limiting growth:

- Grid capacity and power availability issues are constraining investment into key sites.
- Enabling infrastructure requirements and resilience issues, including flood risk, are affecting project viability and delivery pace.
- Some key industrial opportunities depend on national policy and funding decisions, including for technologies such as CCUS and hydrogen; delays and uncertainty here are creating delivery risk that we will need to manage through partnerships locally and with Government.

What it will change

By making this Big Play, we will change the way industrial growth happens in Hull and East Yorkshire in three ways.

1) We will move faster from interest to delivery

We will prioritise a small number of industrial investment propositions and support them to progress, using a consistent approach to enabling requirements, delivery sequencing, and partner coordination.

2) We will increase the local value captured from national strengths

We will focus on local benefit, including supply chain growth, workforce opportunities, and productivity gains across the wider business base. This will align with our sector framework and with our approach to backing local business and building skills and good work.

3) We will tackle the constraints that most directly slow investment

We will be clear where we can act directly, and where we will need national levers for action. For example, we will improve local coordination and prioritisation, and we will work with Government and regulators to address system-level constraints such as energy network planning and connection processes.

Humber Innovation Accelerator for Clean Energy

Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) is leading a bid for **£60 million** to accelerate research and development across the region, making us a leader in clean energy innovation.

If successful, the programme will bring together **£20 million of Government funding** through the **Local Innovation Partnership Fund**, delivered by UK Research and Innovation, alongside **£40 million of private sector investment**.

HEYCA is the lead organisation in the **Humber Innovation Accelerator for Clean Energy (HIACE)** partnership, which includes Humber Local Authorities, the University of Hull, Humber Energy Board, Humber Freeport and CATCH, forming a powerful triple helix of public sector leadership, academic expertise and industry capability.

Investment will focus on driving industrial innovation that builds on existing assets and capabilities, help de-risk innovative projects, and attract further private investment into the region.

Through this programme, Hull and East Yorkshire will support the creation of **high-value jobs**, upskill the local workforce, improve productivity and strengthen the region's industrial base.

Where this Big Play will focus

Our priority focus within this Big Play will be the growth-driving sectors identified through the regional economic assessment and further sector deep dive studies:

- Ports and logistics
- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Agri-food and agri-tech

The evidence shows that growth in these sectors is constrained less by demand and more by delivery conditions. This Big Play will therefore also focus on tackling key constraints, including:

- **Removing skills bottlenecks in technical and specialist roles**
Addressing shortages in engineering, digital and advanced production skills that limit project delivery, technology adoption and productivity growth.
- **Ensuring site and infrastructure readiness for investment**
Prioritising modern industrial space, utilities capacity, connectivity and strategic employment sites so that growth is not delayed, displaced or scaled back.
- **Embedding applied innovation and technology adoption**
Strengthening commercialisation, industry–research collaboration and uptake of advanced technologies to move sectors up the value chain and increase local value capture.

The Humber Economic Strategy

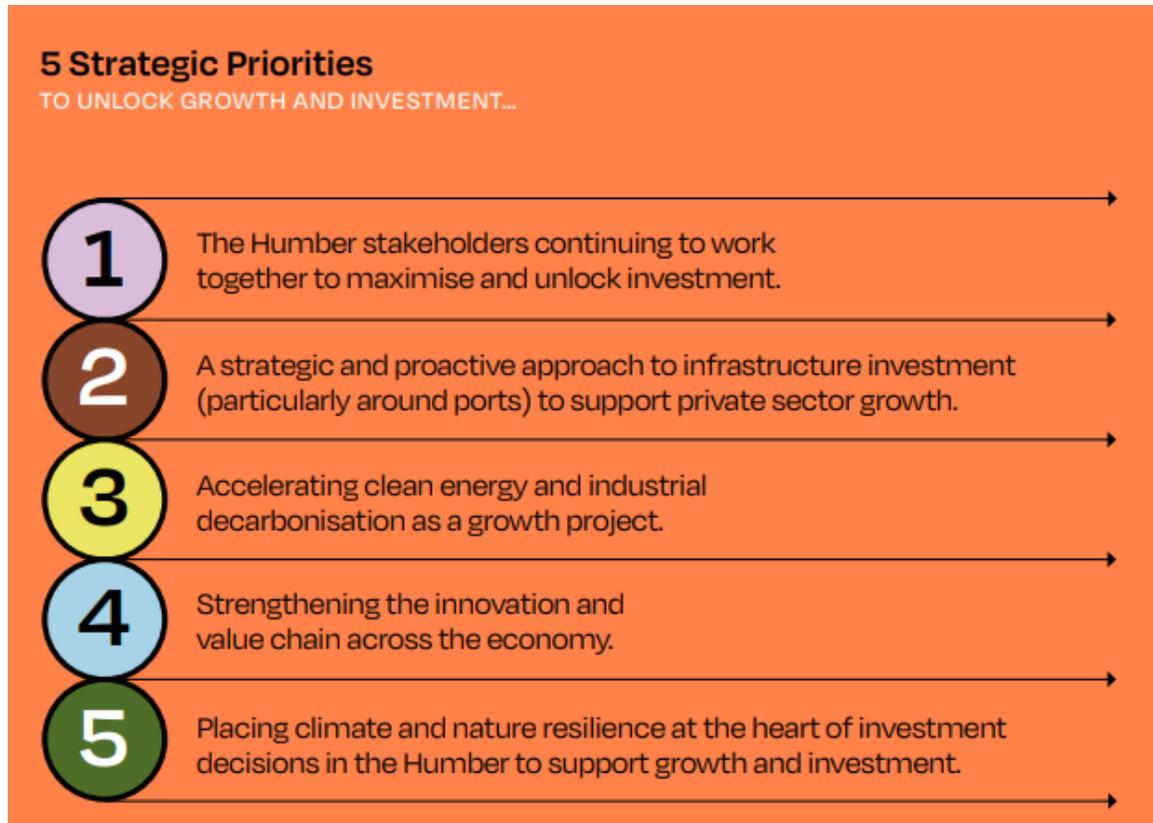
Central to this Big Play is the role of the Humber Economic Strategy for 2025 to 2035, which sets out a shared vision to secure large scale private investment, transform the estuary into a world leading energy and industrial economy, strengthen its role as a global trade gateway, and ensure that growth benefits communities while protecting the natural environment.

To achieve this, the strategy identifies three estuary wide growth opportunities of national significance.

- Clean energy and industrial decarbonisation, positioning the Humber as the UK's leading decarbonised industrial cluster and a cornerstone of future energy security.
- Freeport, ports and logistics, building on the Humber's role as the UK's busiest trading estuary and a major international gateway for goods, investment and supply chains.

- Environment and natural capital, integrating climate resilience, biodiversity and flood adaptation with long term economic growth.

These opportunities are supported by five Humber wide strategic priorities focused on coordinated investment, infrastructure delivery, accelerating decarbonisation, strengthening innovation and value chains, and embedding climate and nature resilience in investment decisions.



Strategic priorities for unlocking growth and investment in the Humber region (source: Humber Economic Strategy 2025-35)

Working together to unlock the Humber opportunity

Mayors and Leaders on the north and south banks of the Humber have confirmed a shared commitment to coordinate growth across the estuary in line with the Humber Economic Strategy.

A Mayoral Joint Committee, bringing together Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority, Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority, local authorities, the Humber Freeport, the Humber Energy Board, industry and government, will guide strategy, strengthen collaboration and enable investment at Humber scale.

This Local Growth Plan aligns with Humber-wide priorities to strengthen collective leadership and delivery in order to translate the Humber vision into higher productivity, better jobs and long-term prosperity for communities across the estuary.

Key Investments

Growth driving investments

- **Humber International Enterprise Park** is a transformational 183-hectare Freeport site at the core of the Port of Hull, delivering one of the UK's most compelling opportunities for port-centric manufacturing and logistics. With outline planning in place, Freeport tax advantages, 100+ MVA power capacity, direct rail and road access, and immediate proximity to Saltend Chemicals Park, the site is ready to scale energy-intensive industry, a major port-based food hub and next-generation logistics at pace.
- **Yorkshire Energy Park**, a next-generation, fully consented 86-hectare Freeport business campus designed for low-carbon, high-growth industries. Located within the Hull East Freeport Tax Site, it offers ready-to-build plots, on-site renewable and private-wire energy, and enterprise-grade digital connectivity. Backed by an experienced energy partner and attracting strong national and international interest, the park is positioned to deliver up to 4,480 jobs and become one of the UK's first zero-carbon business parks.
- **Goole Freeport Tax Site** offers a major advanced manufacturing opportunity across two strategic parcels totalling 200 hectares at Junction 36 of the M62, one of the UK's least congested motorway corridors. Anchored by established manufacturers and

significant recent investment, the fully Freeport-enabled site benefits from outline consent for up to 520,000m² of industrial development, excellent national market access, and existing clean energy infrastructure, making it primed for large-scale, high-value manufacturing growth

- We will explore the feasibility of creating a **Health Tech Innovation Campus** forming the foundation of a future HEY Health Innovation Zone. Building on internationally recognised wound innovation and clinical trials capability, the project will connect University expertise, facilities and talent with industry, accelerating innovation, inward investment and patient benefit across the region.

Enabling investments

- **Transport works at Hull East**, investing in roundabout infrastructure to unlock key economic sites and maximise benefits of freeport status.
- We will develop and manage a pipeline of targeted investment in **land remediation and mitigation for key strategic employment sites**
- Promoting and prioritising vital **improvements to freight connectivity** across the region
- Use our energy access shared priority with government to **transform access to power** as part of a sequenced plan that supports growth
- Lobby hard to create a new **Business Rates Retention Zone** in the region and make growth driving investment with the additional retained funds.

Impacts

This Big Play is focused on strengthening and upgrading the region's industrial base, making a key contribution to Gameplan **Good Jobs** outcomes through higher-value employment, improved productivity and stronger wage growth.

By unlocking industrial investment, strengthening supply chains and improving the conditions for delivery, this Big Play also supports **Skills** outcomes through demand-led workforce development, and contributes indirectly to **Fit and healthy** outcomes by supporting more secure employment and progression opportunities.

Ministerial Approval Required - Proposed shared priority: local benefit from nationally significant energy infrastructure

Increase the amount of locally and community generated energy that is available, connectable and usable by Hull and East Yorkshire households, businesses and priority growth locations, enabling faster investment decisions, stronger productivity and higher-value growth.

To achieve this, HEYCA and HMG will explore how to:

- work with local partners across the Humber to identify, explore and secure investment in growth sectors including in energy generation and transmission.
- deliver projects that ensure energy security, as set out in the Local Growth Plan and Humber Economic Strategy, are prioritised for future connections
- align network planning, connection processes and delivery sequencing with priority growth locations and investment pipelines
- better understand and, where feasible, address regulatory, commercial and system factors that limit local access to power
- support timely delivery of enabling infrastructure where this unlocks significant private investment and jobs
- strengthen planning and governance so local growth ambitions and national system plans reinforce one another.

This would support a reliable energy platform that maximises the local economic benefit of nationally significant infrastructure while contributing to wider national objectives.

Big Play 2: Backing local business



What this Big Play means

We will strengthen the performance of local firms across Hull and East Yorkshire, so more businesses can start, survive, grow, innovate, recruit, and win work.

This Big Play is about the everyday drivers of prosperity: the productivity of local businesses, the resilience of supply chains, and the ability of firms to invest and improve. It is not limited to any one sector. It will support micro (ME) and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in all sectors, because improving business performance across the whole economy is essential to raising wages and living standards.

Why it matters for Hull and East Yorkshire

Hull and East Yorkshire has a large business base, with 20,360 businesses, with MEs and SMEs forming the overwhelming majority of private sector enterprises.

The evidence base also shows structural weaknesses that hold back productivity and prosperity:

- **Access to growth finance is weaker than it should be.** There were 135 equity funding rounds, or 4.25 rounds per 1,000 businesses, compared with 7.29 per 1,000 for the UK.
- **Innovation adoption is not yet widespread.** Only 26.8% of businesses are classed as innovation active, below the regional and national averages, and fewer businesses undertake in-house R&D, compared with 35% in Yorkshire and Humber and 36% nationally.
- **Export values:** the evidence shows that despite above average levels of participation, there is limited scale in high value export activity.

These issues influence whether investment in major sectors translates into local benefit. Ensuring stronger MEs, SMEs and supply chains are one of the main ways we will capture more value locally from industrial growth, freight and logistics, and major investment, but they are also important for a strong and resilient local business base trading across the north and beyond.

What it will change

By making this Big Play, we will change the conditions for business growth in Hull and East Yorkshire.

1) We will make our business offer clearer and more focused

Alongside the national Business Growth Service, we will be explicit about what support exists, who it is for, and how businesses and partners can engage. We will prioritise support that strengthens productivity, resilience, and growth capability, rather than spreading effort thinly across disconnected activity.

2) We will improve routes to finance, investment and innovation support

We will make it easier for firms with growth potential to access the advice, networks, and finance they need, including for adoption of new tools and methods, innovation activity, exporting and investment readiness. This will respond directly to the evidence on weak equity access, low innovation diffusion and limited export values.

3) We will strengthen the links between SMEs and large firms and business support programmes

We will focus on supply chains and procurement as practical routes to growth for local firms, so that major investment and anchor institutions translate into sustained local business opportunities.

Where this Big Play will focus

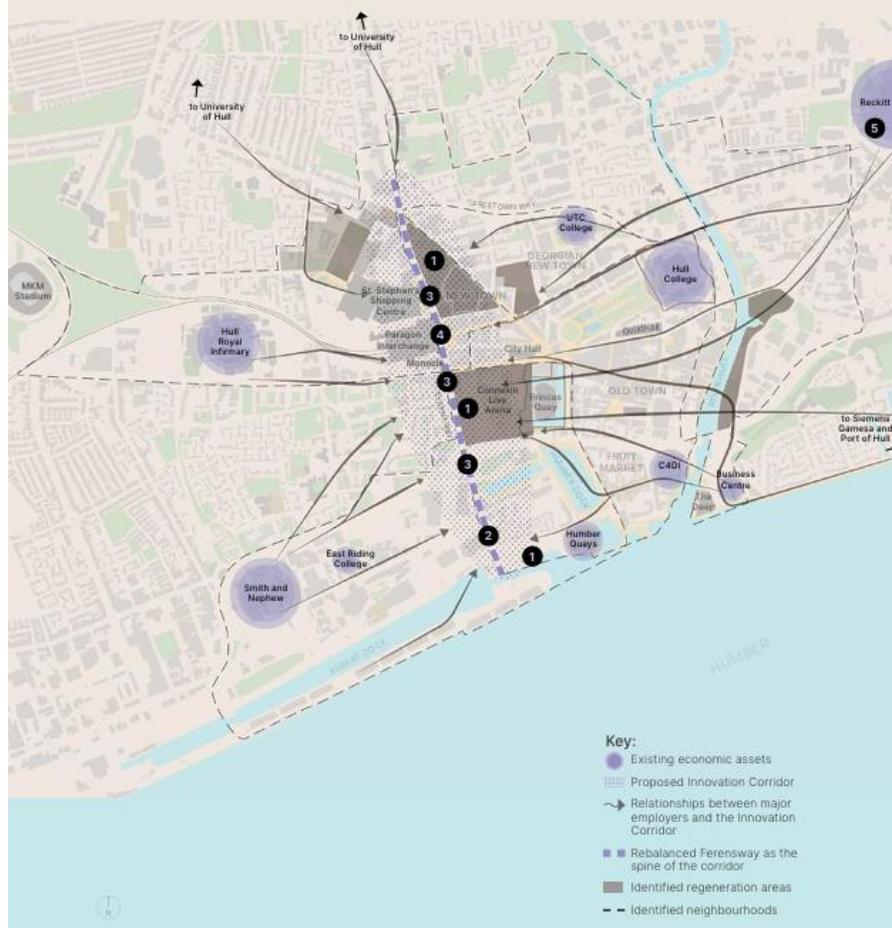
Our priority focus within this Big Play will be strengthening the wider business base, including growth potential and growth-enabling sectors that underpin the performance of the whole economy.

The evidence shows that constraints in this part of the economy relate less to large-scale assets and more to business capability, productivity and investment readiness. This Big Play will therefore also focus on tackling key constraints, including:

- **Raising baseline productivity across the business base**
Addressing low productivity models through digital adoption, process improvement and management capability so that more firms are able to reinvest, grow and create higher value jobs.
- **Strengthening pathways to scale and investment**
Improving access to finance, export readiness and structured scale-up support to address thin pipelines of growth-stage firms and limited participation in wider markets.
- **Accelerating innovation diffusion and capability building**
Supporting the adoption of proven tools, technologies and modern business practices across supply chains and service sectors to lift overall performance and resilience.

Innovative

A City Centre, providing space for the exchange of knowledge, skills, trade, culture and energy.



By 2045, Hull City Centre will support an **innovation corridor** centred along a transformed Ferensway, providing City Centre space to grow Hull's economic offer.

Bringing together the city's major growth hubs, the innovation corridor will drive the future Hull and East Yorkshire regional economy.

Approach

- 1 A supply of high-skilled jobs centred around Ferensway and the identified regeneration areas will provide a strong foundation for the sustained growth of Hull City Centre, supporting residential and leisure development. The major players in Hull's economy (key employers and education providers) and agile start-ups will have space to educate, collaborate and innovate to bring forward a new greener future for the regional economy centred on the innovation corridor.
- 2 The Ferensway corridor will also help to boost the City Centre's connection with its waterfront as strong north-south connection from City to the Humber.
- 3 Key east-west routes linking in with Hull's unique historic and cultural destinations will be strengthened through public realm enhancements and new development along Ferensway.
- 4 An improved transport gateway to the Hull and East Yorkshire Region and the wider UK through an improved arrival square outside Paragon Station will make this an ideal place to do business, and provide an enhanced first impression of City Centre.

Extract from City Centre Vision 2024 – 2045 (Hull City Council)

Investments

We will launch an assessment of the regeneration opportunities for the Western Docklands Development Zone, including the opportunity to establish a **Western Docklands Mayoral Development Corporation**, to provide a single, coordinated vehicle to unlock growth across seven strategically located sites spanning 40 hectares on Hull's western waterfront.

Supported by enhanced A63 connectivity and investment in Humber flood defences, the zone benefits from infrastructure and power largely in place. The assessment will consider the integration of employment and housing sites, the development of a MedTech hub linked to established health and manufacturing strengths, and the potential to deliver other economic opportunities.

Key sites will drive **City Centre growth** and regeneration, focusing on where land acquisition and assembly is most advanced. Investment in the Myton Street district will deliver a vibrant mixed-use quarter around the arena, opening onto Princes Dock with new workspace, hotel, residential, leisure and retail uses, strengthening a more connected and walkable city centre; and a range of built and programme interventions will focus on developing a Ferensway Innovation Corridor as spine of mixed-use and high-skilled employment sites and high-quality public realm providing an enhanced arrival in the City with connections through to knowledge intensive quarters on the waterfront and at the University.

A **Bridlington Bay Opportunity Study** will review and reimagine the area's long-term growth potential, taking a fresh, integrated look at opportunities both onshore and offshore. Building on existing evidence and local strengths, the study will assess the scope for growth across marine and offshore industry, tourism and leisure, agrifood, housing and skills, to inform future investment and regeneration priorities.

Enabling investments

- We will bring together the **Hull and East Yorkshire SME Alliance** which will be backed by a £1m cross-sector strategy, providing additional targeted investment in direct SME support, guided by a co-created, multi-year SME strategy aligned to regional growth priorities.
- In conjunction with our plans for a small business alliance, we will launch a grants programme aimed at supporting our local businesses to build on strengths and innovation

Impacts

This Big Play is focused on business growth, scaling and value capture across the economy. It will contribute to Gameplan outcomes linked to **Good Jobs** by supporting stronger locally rooted firms, improved productivity and better-quality employment.

Backing local business also supports **Skills** outcomes by increasing demand for higher-level skills and progression, and contributes to **Better connected** outcomes where business growth strengthens town centres, local services and economic participation.

Co-creating a future for the small businesses we rely on

Small, micro and medium-sized businesses are the lifeblood of Hull and East Yorkshire's economy, sustaining local jobs, powering supply chains, animating town centres and driving everyday productivity. Strengthening their ability to start up, survive, grow, scale and compete is essential to raising wages, improving resilience and ensuring that major investment delivers real opportunity for local people and places.

The Combined Authority will establish a Hull and East Yorkshire SME Alliance to give SMEs and micro enterprises a direct and enduring voice in shaping priorities, delivery and investment.

Working in genuine partnership, the Alliance will co-create a shared SME Growth Plan for the region, setting clear action to support new business starts, survival, scaling, productivity, innovation, employer – led workforce development, recruitment and access to investment and new markets.

Backed by £1 million of dedicated funding and brought together through an annual SME Alliance Summit, this approach will turn collaboration into delivery—removing barriers to growth, unlocking ambition across the business base and ensuring that micro, small and medium businesses remain central to a stronger, more confident and



Big Play 3: Building skills and good work

What this Big Play means

We will build a stronger talent pipeline for Hull and East Yorkshire, aligned to the real jobs our economy will create and the progression people want, and supporting people furthest away from the labour market to identify and build on their skills and strengths.

This Big Play will focus on three practical outcomes:

- more people able to enter work and stay in work, including skills support for people at pre - entry stage
- more residents able to progress into higher skilled and better paid roles
- a clearer match between employer demand and resident skills, including in our priority sectors and across the wider economy.
- reduced inactivity linked to long term sickness

We will treat skills and good work as core growth levers, reflecting the evidence that labour supply, skills levels and health-related inactivity are binding constraints on growth in Hull and East Yorkshire. This work will include a key role for Hull and East Yorkshires vibrant and diverse community and voluntary sector, who are locally rooted and can help amplify the voices of those less often engaged in economic planning and interventions.

Why it matters for Hull and East Yorkshire

The evidence base shows that Hull and East Yorkshire has a high economic activity rate overall, but it also has high levels of economic inactivity, with a particularly high share due to long-term sickness.

In total, 26,300 people in the subregion are economically inactive due to long-term sickness. This is 37% of the inactive population, compared with 28% nationally, and it has increased by 26% since 2018. This represents a major constraint on labour supply and on the capacity of employers to grow.

Skills levels are also uneven across the geography. Patterns of qualifications show marked differences between Hull and the East Riding, with Hull having a lower share of residents holding higher level qualifications and a higher share with no or low qualifications.

The evidence base also indicates demographic pressure on future labour supply, including a decline in the 16 to 24 population over the last decade.

Stakeholders reinforced these points in the Stage 1 consultation. Respondents consistently emphasised:

- visible commitment to progression from pre-entry and Level 1 upwards, not only graduate retention
- stronger recognition of long-term sickness and poor health as central economic constraints
- transport connectivity, service reliability and rural access as essential to widening access to opportunity.

What it will change

By making this Big Play, we will change how we connect people to opportunity and how we support progression into good work.

1) We will align skills investment to the economy we are building

We will align our devolved Adult Skills Fund commissioning and wider skills programmes to the needs of our growth-driving sectors and to the wider economy, including enabling sectors that employ large numbers of residents.

We will prioritise higher technical pathways and apprenticeships alongside basic and digital skills, so that more residents can progress rather than cycling through short-term provision.

We will also focus on higher level skills provision, utilising our strengths in the region to develop a long term skills development pipeline that fuels growth. The Local Growth Plan and the Combined Authority can help unlock this potential by convening businesses to set the agenda with sufficient timelines so that public and private sector providers can respond and develop programmes to ensure that our future skills needs can be met by local people first.

2) We will treat health and work as a single system issue

We will strengthen the link between health and work so residents get timely support that keeps them in work or helps them return sooner. Integration between health services, employment support and skills provision will be strengthened. We will work with employers, JobCentre Plus, the NHS, community and voluntary sector, local authorities and skills providers to develop joined up pathways to work that:

- Support people with long term conditions to succeed in gaining employment, to stay in work or return to work.
- Provide earlier access to occupational health and workplace adjustments – connecting with the WorkWell programme, Employer Vanguards and Good Work Charter.

- Improve Mental Health and MSK support linked to employment.

Reducing health related inactivity will directly increase labour supply and support productivity growth in all sectors.

This will also focus on practical barriers to attendance, retention and productivity, including pre-entry level skills, mental health, early access to occupational health, and workplace adjustments.

3) We will strengthen progression and job quality across the whole economy

We will support in-work progression, not only entry into work. We will also explore the role a Good Work Charter could play in supporting improved employment and training opportunities, in ways that are practical for employers and visible for residents.

4) We will strengthen health and care as an economic opportunity

We will strengthen med-tech and health innovation links between health providers, local suppliers and SME's; align technical education and skills pathways to health workforce needs; support development of higher level clinical, digital health and advanced practitioner roles; and develop the role of sport and physical activity as a key driver of health improvement and reducing long term health related absence.

Getting Hull and East Yorkshire Working

Hull and East Yorkshire continues to face a structural employment challenge. Our employment rate of 74.4% sits below the national ambition of 80% and masks stark spatial and gender inequalities, alongside the impacts of long-term ill health, skills gaps and barriers that exclude people from work. Closing this gap is essential to improving productivity, raising household incomes and **ensuring that economic growth benefits communities across the region.**

The Combined Authority's *Get Hull and East Yorkshire Working* plan is built around three pillars:

The **first pillar** grounds our work in a clear shared understanding of the labour market. Evidence on employment patterns, demographic change, health conditions and sectoral opportunity is brought together to shape action. The focus is on tackling the social drivers of worklessness, raising skill levels, and better matching people to opportunities in key sectors, including advanced manufacturing, logistics, renewables, and health and care.

The **second pillar** strengthens the existing system. Employment, skills and health-related provision across Department for Work and Pensions services, local authority employment hubs, skills programmes, health-linked support and voluntary and community organisations. This approach builds on effective employer-led training routes and supports the introduction of the Connect to Work supported employment programme, while addressing long-standing challenges around integration, youth pathways and consistent performance reporting.

The **third pillar** focuses on delivery. Work and health are brought together through joint governance, aligned commissioning and shared data, simplifying access to support for people affected by long-term health conditions:

- **Connect to Work** will provide structured, personalised support to help people enter or return to employment
- **Bootcamps, Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs)** and clearer progression routes will help increase participation and earnings.
- A **Youth Guarantee-style approach** will tackle NEET levels and strengthen transitions into work, and
- A '**Good Work Charter**' and healthier workplace standards will support improved employment and training opportunities, in ways that are practical for employers and visible for residents.

Where this Big Play will focus

Our focus will be whole-place and whole-system, with targeted action where the evidence shows the greatest barriers and opportunities.

- **Progression pathways from pre-entry to Level 3 and above**, aligned to employer demand in priority sectors and in enabling sectors.
- **Reducing inactivity linked to long-term sickness**, through integrated health, employment and skills pathways and employer support.
- **Young people and early career opportunity**, including reducing the risk of young people becoming NEET and strengthening routes into training and work across the whole geography.
- **Employer-led alignment**, including through a business-led Local Skills Improvement Plan and structured engagement with growth-driving sectors as the sector deep dives progress.
- **Reducing inactivity linked to long term sickness** through integrated neighbourhood level approaches – including a focus on neighbourhood hubs
- Redesign and development of an **all-age careers pathway**

Investments

Enabling investments

- **Regeneration of Goole College** will restore post-16 education provision and support a skilled local workforce, with a focus on energy-related specialisms aligned to regional growth sectors. The project will bring a largely dormant site back into use, supported by a business case demonstrating demand, sustainability and long-term economic benefit.
- We will explore the potential to enhance the **sufficiency of the current technical education** offer in the region, building on the successful work of Ron Dearing University Technical College, to enable more of our young people to access the technical skills that can support them to well-paid work and careers in growth driving and growth potential sectors.
- We will position Hull and East Yorkshire as **a centre for social investment**, securing investment in our local communities through an accelerator programme to build

partnerships and create growth aligned investable opportunities.

- Alignment of the **Adult Skills Fund Programme** providing £16m of annual funding to support free or co-funded courses including basic English, Maths, digital skills, community learning, and Level 3 "Free Courses for Jobs" to boost employment.

Impacts

This Big Play is focused on labour market participation, progression and retention, making a key contribution to Gameplan outcomes to **Skills** outcomes and the **Fit and healthy** priority by addressing barriers to work, improving progression pathways and supporting workforce sustainability.

By strengthening the effective labour supply and improving progression into better-paid work, this Big Play also supports the **Good jobs** outcome, ensuring that economic growth translates into opportunity for residents.

Local Skills Improvement Plan

The alignment of the Local Skills Improvement Plan with this Local Growth Plan provides a crucial opportunity to ensure that the range of support for building skills for work and for in work skills are aligned to the needs of the economy, employers and learners. This in turn will provide industry with the skilled people it needs and pathways to good jobs, more earnings and prosperity for the people of Hull and East Yorkshire.

HEYCA is working closely with the Chamber of Commerce (Employers Representative Body) to ensure that the LSIP reflects the regional economic assessment and that the skills system is supported in a managed way to respond to the sector framework and economic opportunities and constraints it has identified in relation to labour market and skills.

In practice this will mean an ongoing close working relationship with employers and their representatives to build on the many strengths of the existing skills provision to curate and codesign a system which can provide differentiated support for:

- Growth-driving sectors - rapid workforce pipeline development and technology adoption skills
- Growth-potential sectors - capacity building and higher-level knowledge skills.
- Enabling sectors - modernisation, quality improvement and progression routes.

This segmentation approach will shape commissioning, curriculum design, employer engagement and learner pathways over time, creating a vital, value adding pivot that can play a key part in Hull and East Yorkshire's growth journey.

Ministerial Approval Required - Proposed shared priority: Skills and employment

Strengthen skills, participation and progression into good work, so residents can access and benefit from growth in Hull and East Yorkshire's priority sectors.

Addressing this will require government and Hull and East Yorkshire to work together to connect people to opportunity and ensure growth reaches the places and communities that need it most.

To achieve this, HEYCA and HMG will explore how to:

- Utilise local Get Britain Working plans, Local Skills Improvement Plans, and NHS plans to join up employment support, skills provision, health and place-based renewal at neighbourhood level, starting in priority communities
- test and scale integrated neighbourhood approaches that reduce barriers to work, improve progression and increase participation utilising existing funding streams
- strengthen pathways into priority sectors highlighted in the Local Growth Plan and Humber Economic Strategy by aligning skills provision with employer demand and sector needs, with progression built in
- support delivery models that better connect skills, employment and wider growth activity to inclusive outcomes with the region's Strategic Skills Plan

This would help ensure that economic growth and investment translate into higher participation, better progression and improved outcomes for people and places across Hull and East Yorkshire.

Big Play 4: Connecting and enabling growth



What this Big Play means

This Big Play sets out how the Combined Authority will use its convening role, devolved funding, and partnership working to remove the practical barriers that hold back investment, limit access to opportunity, and weaken the resilience of places and networks.

This means improving transport connectivity and reliability and working to secure greater investment in and coordination of flood defences, housing and the enabling infrastructure that underpins development, including utilities, digital connectivity and the right sites and premises.

Why it matters for Hull and East Yorkshire

Evidence from the Economic Evidence Base and the Stage 1 consultation shows that transport and connectivity constraints are consistently cited as a binding condition on growth with a strong emphasis on reliability, affordability and intra-regional access to jobs, learning and services. This is particularly the case for rural and coastal communities but also within some urban locations.

The evidence also shows that flood risk and climate resilience affect confidence and investment decisions, and that growth will require a stronger approach to infrastructure readiness, including housing delivery, sites and premises, and utility capacity.

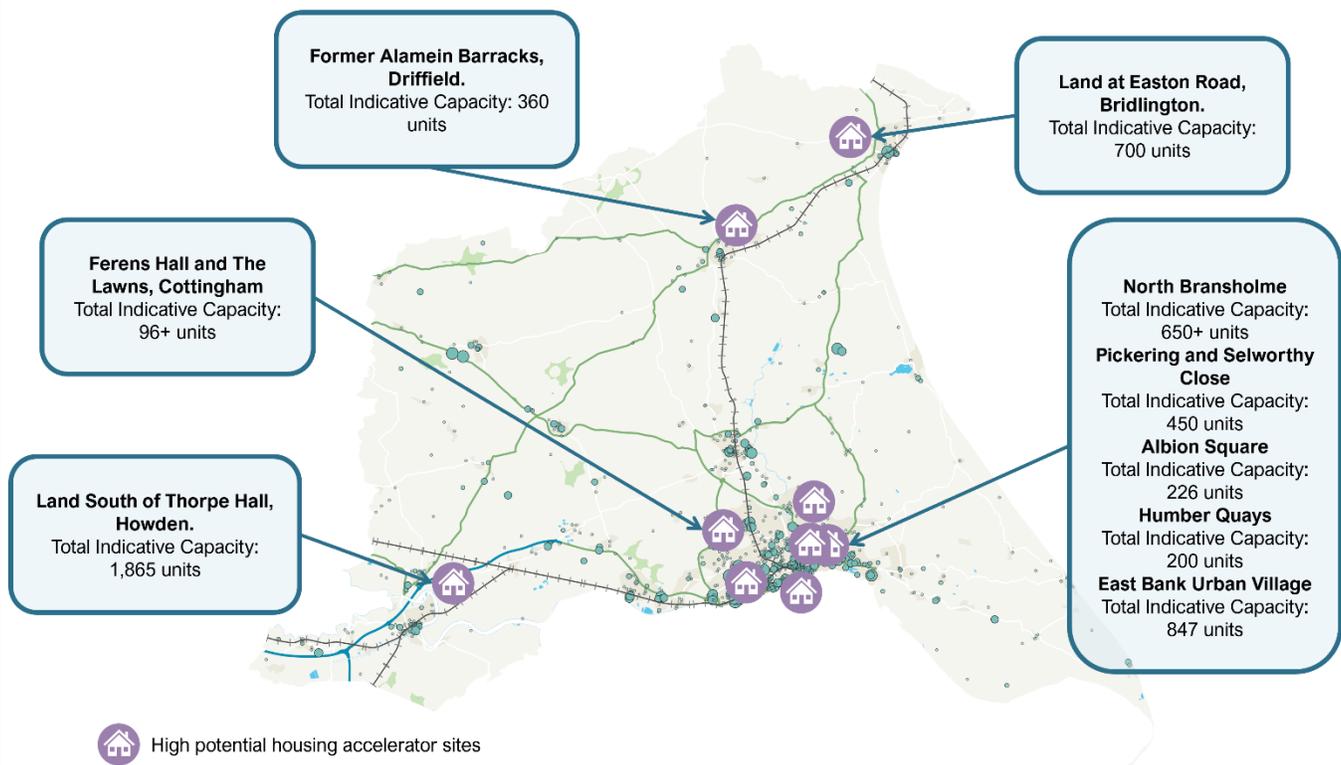
The natural environment is a key asset for Hull and East Yorkshire, providing eco-system services that attract talent, investment and visitors, and underpin key aspects of our land-based economy. Local nature recovery presents opportunities for a collaborative approach, with partners, communities and land managers working together, particularly at Humber scale to seek strategic solutions to growth related nature mitigation.

What will change

Over the next 10 years, this Big Play will support four practical shifts:

1. **Better everyday connectivity within Hull and East Yorkshire** so people can reach work, training, healthcare and town centres within reasonable time and cost, including from rural and coastal communities.
2. **Greater network reliability and resilience**, with a clear focus on corridors and assets that matter most to the economy and to communities.

3. **A more investable development environment**, where priority places have clearer routes through constraints such as access, utilities, flood risk, and deliverable sites and premises.
4. **More homes that support growth and inclusion**, with housing supply, quality and affordability treated as part of the enabling system for labour market participation, retention and healthier lives.



Where this Big Play will focus

This Big Play will focus on the infrastructure and enabling actions that unlock growth across the whole geography, with particular attention to:

- **Connections between neighbourhoods, towns and key employment and learning locations**, including market towns and coastal communities.
- **Strategic corridors and economic gateways**, including routes that support freight, logistics, and access to national markets, and the reliability of the network that residents and employers depend on day-to-day.

- **Places facing higher climate and flood vulnerability**, where resilience measures affect both economic confidence and long-term public value.
- **Housing markets and sub-markets where delivery and affordability pressures are shaping growth**, including areas of lower delivery and differing market dynamics across Hull, coastal communities, and parts of East Riding.

Investments

Growth Driving Investments

- Across the region, we will bring forward opportunities for over **5,400 new homes** through an accelerated housing pipeline, delivered via the Strategic Place Partnership. Priority sites include the East Bank Urban Village and Albion Square in Hull, alongside sites in Howden and Bridlington, with a wider range of locations assessed for high-potential growth impact and alignment with regional priorities.

Enabling Investments

- Through the launch of a feasibility study we will explore practical rail upgrades and new funding models for the **acceleration of rail improvements** across the region
- **Unlocking our road network** through delivery of a strategic programme of road improvements which serves to underpin key growth priorities
- We will seek to strengthen **deliverability of our housing pipeline** by securing funding for New Homes, Brownfield, Infrastructure and Land and other funding to accelerate and support the building of new homes for our communities
- Provide targeted investment for our **coastal communities**

Impacts

This Big Play focuses on the enabling conditions that underpin delivery across the economy, contributing to Gameplan priorities for a **Better Connected** region and more **Affordable homes**, by improving access to opportunity, unlocking housing delivery and strengthening the investability of places.

By addressing constraints related to transport, housing, utilities capacity, flood risk and site readiness, this Big Play also supports **Good jobs** outcomes indirectly, by enabling investment and improving access to employment across the area.

Ministerial Approval Required - Proposed shared priority: Transport

Improve the region's transport connectivity, with a particular focus on East-West travel and rail connectivity.

Addressing this will require government and Hull and East Yorkshire to explore a range of options to improve rail connectivity, reliability and quality of service.

To achieve this, HEYCA and HMG will explore how to:

- define and bring forward targeted upgrades that improve capacity, reliability and journey times on priority freight and passenger rail routes
- consider the role of emerging rail technologies such as battery power to enable improvements
- Consider improving service quality through timetable, capacity and operational changes on priority routes
- align national investment decisions with a clear, deliverable package of schemes and a joint evidence base
- integrate rail upgrades with local measures that improve access to stations, ports and employment areas
- explore phased rail and network interventions, including electrification where appropriate, that deliver early benefits and build toward longer-term upgrades

This would expand labour markets, strengthen links with major northern city regions and improve business connectivity and investor confidence.

Ministerial Approval Required - Proposed shared priority: Natural Environment

Improve the environmental and economic resilience of the region, ensuring that key growth sites, infrastructure and communities are resilient to flooding and that environmental constraints are managed strategically.

Addressing this will require government and Hull and East Yorkshire and partners across the Humber to work together to reduce delivery risk, improve certainty and enable timely investment.

To achieve this, HEYCA, HMG and partners across the Humber will explore how to:

- align flood and coastal resilience planning and investment with growth zones, infrastructure priorities and long-term climate adaptation needs
- provide clearer and more coordinated environmental requirements, including mitigation and nature recovery, to reduce uncertainty and delay
- improve evidence, data-sharing and governance for strategic decisions on land, infrastructure and resilience
- engage in the implementation of regional water system planning, to ensure a more coordinated and strategic approach
- coordinate national and local partners so environmental constraints are managed proactively, particularly on priority growth sites

This would enable faster delivery of key sites and infrastructure, strengthen investor confidence and improve long-term resilience for communities, businesses and nationally significant assets

Innovation as a driver of growth

Innovation is central to this Plan for growth. It is how Hull and East Yorkshire will secure higher value activity in the industrial sectors, and how the wider business base will raise productivity and resilience.

The evidence shows that innovation is a practical constraint. For our Growth Driving Sectors, uneven innovation activity and slow technology uptake limits competitiveness, value capture and the ability to scale. Across the wider economy the constraint is often the spread of proven tools and modern business practices across the wider economy, not a lack of ideas.

A strong focus on developing a place-based innovation eco-system, spanning frontier research and development through to commercialisation and the diffusion and adoption of proven technologies, is a way to connect and unite our business community in pursuit of growth and improvement.

Triple helix leadership and delivery

HEYCA will provide clear, place-based leadership on innovation through a triple helix approach, bringing together the Combined Authority, business, the University of Hull and other partners.

We will back innovation with additional investment and stronger coordination, aligning programmes and partners around our broader growth pipeline. We will deepen our strategic partnerships with academia, with a focus on the University of Hull and key regional innovation assets. We will also provide targeted business-facing support that is designed with employers, draws on what works in proven adoption-led programmes, and works closely with HEY companies and the SME Alliance.

Innovation that fits different sectors

Different parts of the economy need different types of innovation support. Some of the strongest growth opportunities rely on frontier R&D, demonstration and commercialisation, particularly where new technologies and new markets are emerging. Other opportunities depend on faster diffusion and adoption, helping more firms to raise productivity through digital tools, automation, data, and modern operating practices.

This Plan recognizes three connected forms of innovation activity:

- **R&D and demonstration**, building investable projects linked to clean energy, industrial decarbonisation and technology-enabled production.
- **Commercialisation and scale-up**, strengthening the pipeline from research to products, services and new ventures, and improving access to the support and finance that allows firms to grow.

- **Diffusion and adoption**, accelerating the take-up of proven technologies and practices across firms and supply chains, including in sectors where productivity is constrained by capability and technology uptake.

This ensures innovation is not treated as a narrow agenda for a small number of R&D-intensive businesses. It is positioned as a practical route to higher productivity across the economy.

Connecting local firms to growth-driving sectors

A key opportunity for Hull and East Yorkshire is to use innovation to deepen local supply chains and increase spillovers from the growth-driving industrial sectors into the wider economy. This means creating clearer routes for local SMEs to connect into energy, manufacturing, ports and logistics, and agri-food value chains through challenge-led programmes, brokerage and targeted adoption support.

By improving technology capability in smaller firms, we will help more local businesses meet the standards required in high-value supply chains and compete for new work. Over time, this will grow the base of local firms able to innovate, adopt and scale, supporting stronger local value capture and resilience.

Innovation therefore strengthens Big Play 1 by accelerating higher value industrial growth, and strengthens Big Play 2 by raising productivity and adoption across the wider business base. It also supports the enabling work set out in Big Plays 3 and 4 by ensuring people and infrastructure interventions are designed to support innovation-led delivery.

Supporting national growth, securing national investment

This Local Growth Plan is firmly aligned with the UK Government's national economic priorities and industrial strategies. Our four Big Plays directly support the ambitions of the UK Industrial Strategy to drive productivity, strengthen advanced manufacturing, accelerate the clean energy transition and increase regional investment. Hull and East Yorkshire's strengths in energy, ports and logistics, manufacturing and agri-food position the region as a nationally significant contributor to industrial decarbonisation, energy security and export growth.

Through Big Play 1: Powering our Industrial Future, we support national priorities around clean power, offshore wind, hydrogen, carbon capture and advanced manufacturing. Our role within the Humber industrial cluster and Freeport programme aligns with Government ambitions to unlock private investment and strengthen globally competitive industrial regions.

Big Play 2: Backing Local Business reflects the Government's Plan for SMEs, with a focus on improving access to finance, strengthening supply chains, supporting innovation adoption and increasing export capability. The establishment of the Hull and East Yorkshire SME

Alliance and improved routes to investment readiness are designed to complement national Business Growth Service reforms and UK Export Finance support.

Our approach to skills and labour market participation supports national ambitions to reduce economic inactivity and align technical education with priority sectors, while our infrastructure and housing plans reinforce national commitments to connectivity, resilience and place-based growth.

Hull and East Yorkshire offers a compelling proposition for investors aligned with national missions. Key strategic partners and investment platforms include:

- National Wealth Fund (NWF) – supporting clean energy and industrial transformation
- The Crown Estate – offshore wind leasing and marine development
- Great British Energy (GB Energy) – accelerating renewable energy deployment
- Humber Freeport – tax and customs incentives for trade and manufacturing
- UK Infrastructure Bank and wider national infrastructure investment programmes

Through alignment with national strategy and strong local delivery capacity, Hull and East Yorkshire is ready to mobilise public and private investment at scale.

Part B:

Evidence and choices

How the economy is changing and where value is created

A clear evidence base for long-term growth

This Local Growth Plan is grounded in a detailed assessment of Hull and East Yorkshire’s economy, how it functions today, and how it is expected to change over the next decade. The evidence has been used to understand where economic activity takes place, how value is created, and what conditions will need to shift if productivity, pay and living standards are to improve.

Hull and East Yorkshire is a medium-sized economy with a population of **631,285 people** and annual economic output of **£15.4 billion**. While this represents a substantial economic base, overall performance indicators show a persistent gap with national and leading regional benchmarks. Output per head is **£25,495**, compared with a UK average of **£33,646**, and productivity, measured as gross value added per hour worked, is **£30.70**, compared with **£37.90** nationally. Median weekly earnings are **£579 in Hull** and **£607 in the East Riding**, compared with a UK median of **£640**.

These figures point to a clear conclusion. The central economic challenge for Hull and East Yorkshire is not participation alone, but the value created per job and per hour worked. Future prosperity will depend on raising productivity and supporting access to better-paid work across the area.

	Hull and East Yorkshire	Greater Lincolnshire	York and North Yorkshire	Tees Valley	Yorkshire and the Humber
Total GVA	£15,446	£26,937	£26,104	£15,486	£150,896
Population	631,285	1,120,749	844,571	712,858	5,672,962
GVA per Capita	£24,468	£24,035	£30,908	£21,724	£26,599
GVA per hour worked	£35.7	£35.5	£35.6	£34.8	£35.9
Median Earnings (workplace)	£580.5	£579.1	£575.0	£584.5	£588.1
Economic Activity rate	80.2%	75.2%	80.0%	75.1%	76.0%
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	3.4%	1.7%	4.3%	3.3%

Source: Metro Dynamics analysis of Regional GVA and productivity estimates, Population Estimates, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Annual Population Survey, ONS

The evidence identifies a set of core conditions that underpin economic performance and resilience. These include the supply of commercial space, labour market participation and skills, access to export markets, business investment and finance, transport connectivity, digital infrastructure, and the ability of firms to adopt new technologies and practices.

Taken together, these conditions explain why some parts of the economy perform strongly while others struggle to grow or to generate higher wages. They also provide a disciplined framework for making choices about where public action can have the greatest impact.

An industrial economy with distinctive strengths

The structure of the economy is one of Hull and East Yorkshire's defining assets. Manufacturing plays a far larger role here than in the national economy, accounting for **20.1 percent of total gross value added**, compared with **9.2 percent nationally**. Around **39,880 people** are employed in manufacturing, representing **15.2 percent of all jobs** in the area. Manufacturing activity generates approximately **£3.1 billion of gross value added** each year.

Within this broad base sit a number of high-value activities, including chemicals, pharmaceuticals and advanced manufacturing, which generate significantly higher output per worker than many service sectors. Alongside this, the area benefits from nationally significant logistics and port assets that connect local firms into domestic and international supply chains and support a large volume of tradeable activity.

This industrial profile means Hull and East Yorkshire already competes in national and global markets. However, the evidence also shows that the area does not consistently capture the full value associated with these activities. Export participation is relatively strong, but overall export value remains modest. Exports account for **13.0 percent of total output**, and **around 4.0 percent of businesses** are exporters. Levels of economic complexity are lower than in higher-performing regions, indicating scope to diversify activity and move into higher-value products and services.

In practice, this points to a need to support firms not only to grow in scale, but to upgrade capability, invest in productivity-enhancing technologies, and strengthen their position within supply chains.

A place economy with uneven access to opportunity

Economic performance in Hull and East Yorkshire is shaped by a complex internal geography. Hull functions as the core labour market and economic centre, with a concentration of employment, infrastructure and higher-value activity. Surrounding this are a network of towns, industrial locations, rural areas and coastal communities, each with different economic roles and challenges.

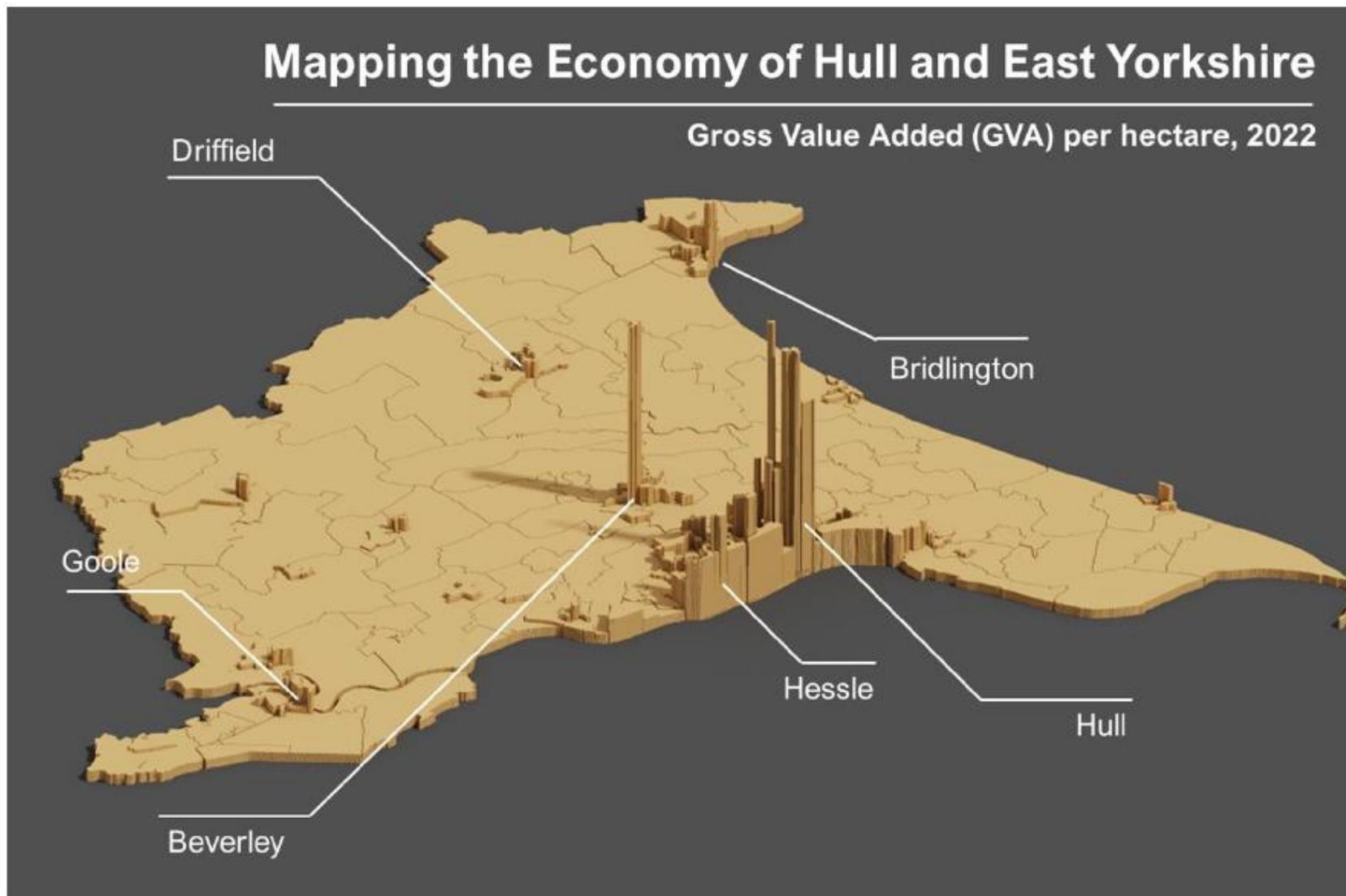
The evidence highlights sharp contrasts within this geography. Hull remains one of the most deprived local authorities in England according to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025. Based on overall IMD average scores, Hull is ranked 6th most deprived out of 153 upper-tier local authorities nationally, with a substantial proportion of its neighbourhoods falling into the highest deprivation categories. Around half of Hull's small neighbourhood areas (LSOAs) - approximately 52 % are among the 20 % most deprived areas in England, including many in the top 10 % most deprived, reflecting persistent socio-economic challenges relative to the rest of the country.

In contrast, the East Riding of Yorkshire features lower deprivation levels relative to the national picture, with many areas ranking better (less deprived) than the England average. However, some pockets within the East Riding experience socio-economic challenges – particularly in parts of coastal and rural communities where access to services and employment can be limited.

These differences matter for growth and delivery. Opportunities exist across the area, but the constraints that limit growth vary by place. In some locations, skills shortages and poor connectivity restrict access to higher-value employment. In others, flood risk, land availability or infrastructure capacity affect the viability and timing of development. The Local Growth Plan therefore needs to respond to an interconnected but uneven place economy, with tailored approaches rather than uniform solutions.

Mapping the Economy of Hull and East Yorkshire

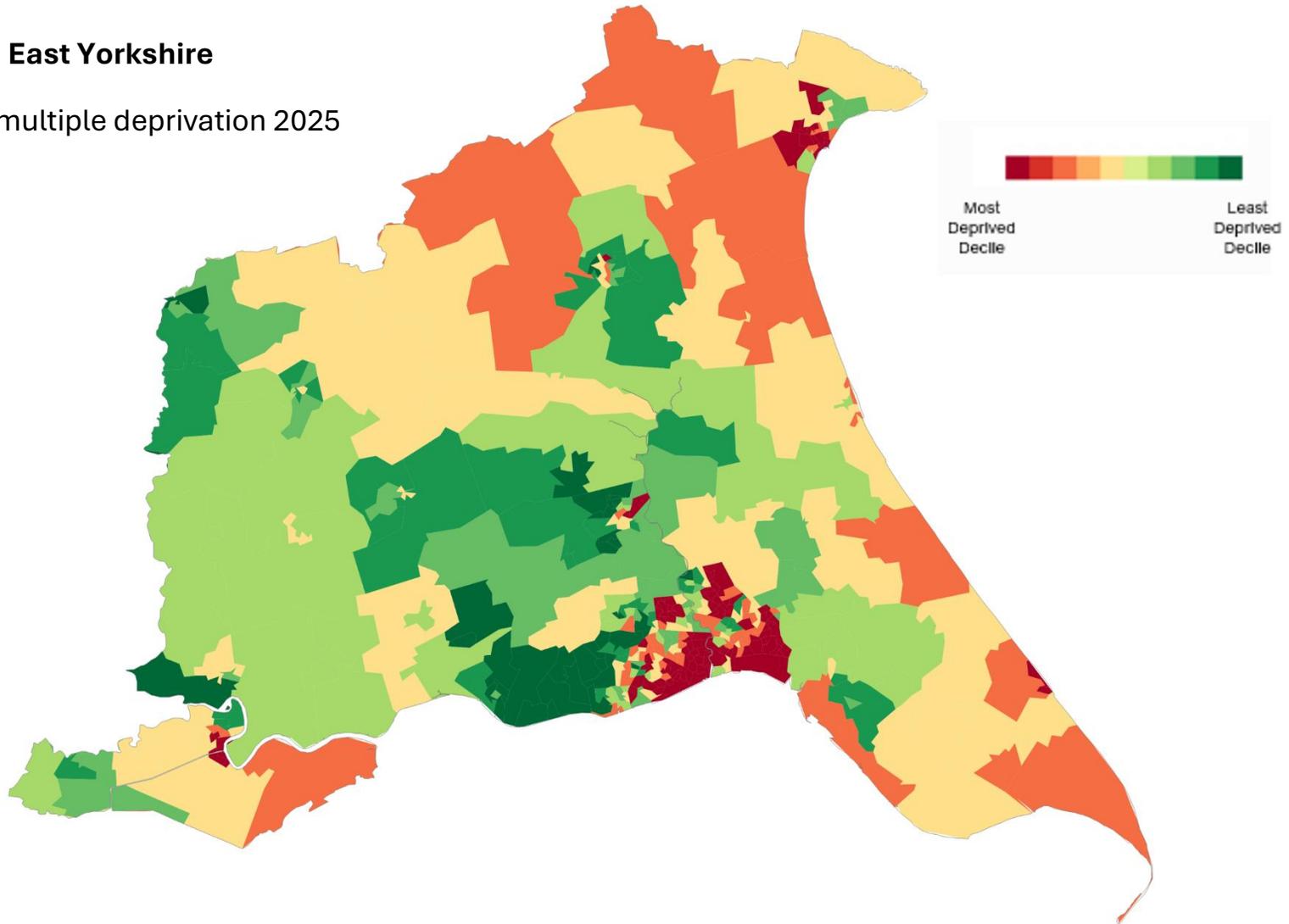
Gross Value Added (GVA) per hectare, 2022



Source: Metro Dynamics analysis of ONS Small area gross value added estimates

Hull and East Yorkshire

Index of multiple deprivation 2025



How the economy is changing

The evidence points to several structural shifts that will shape economic performance over the next decade.

First, Hull and East Yorkshire is entering a new phase of industrial change. The area has assets and capabilities that position it to play a national role in emerging energy systems, advanced manufacturing and large-scale industrial processes. The opportunity is not simply to host activity, but to anchor supply chains, deepen manufacturing capability and increase the share of high-value work that takes place locally. Achieving this will depend on sustained investment, workforce capability and a focus on productivity and resilience within existing industries.

Second, wider changes in trade, technology and production methods will place new demands on businesses. Automation, digitalisation and shifting supply chains will reward firms that are able to adapt quickly and invest in better processes. The evidence highlights persistent gaps in management capability, technology adoption and access to finance, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises. Improving these fundamentals is central to raising productivity across the economy, not just within a small number of high-growth firms.

Third, labour market dynamics will become increasingly important. While overall employment levels are relatively high, there are clear challenges around skills attainment, progression and job quality. The proportion of residents qualified to higher levels remains below the national average, and there are significant differences between Hull and the East Riding. Demographic projections show that the working-age population is expected to fall by around 4% by 2043, while the number of older residents increases. This will place greater emphasis on retaining talent, supporting progression from lower-paid work, and enabling more people to participate fully in the labour market.

Finally, growth will depend on the strength of enabling infrastructure. Transport connectivity shapes access to jobs, education and markets, particularly for rural and coastal communities. The supply and quality of commercial space affects business expansion and inward investment. Utilities capacity, digital connectivity and flood resilience influence long-term deliverability and confidence. These factors do not create growth on their own, but without them, growth in priority sectors will be constrained or uneven.

What this means for our choices

Taken together, the evidence does not point to a single intervention or short-term fix. It does, however, provide a clear direction of travel. Raising productivity and living standards in Hull and East Yorkshire will require a focused approach that builds on industrial strengths,

supports business upgrading, improves access to skills and good work, and addresses the conditions that enable investment and opportunity across different places.

These conclusions underpin the four Big Plays set out in Part A. They reflect deliberate choices about where public action can unlock the greatest economic benefit and provide a clear, evidence-led foundation for the delivery approach set out later in this Plan.

Geography of the economy

Hull and East Yorkshire as a functional place economy

Hull and East Yorkshire operate as a single, interconnected place economy shaped by shared labour markets, infrastructure networks, land use patterns and industrial systems. Economic activity, commuting flows and supply chains cut across administrative boundaries, with Hull functioning as the primary urban and employment centre and the East Riding providing a wider geography of towns, industrial locations, rural areas and coastal communities that are economically interdependent but face different constraints.

The evidence shows strong functional relationships between Hull and surrounding areas. These include commuting into the city for employment, the use of shared strategic transport corridors, and integrated industrial and logistics activity linked to the Humber estuary and port complex. Energy generation and distribution systems, utilities infrastructure and strategic sites are distributed across the region. This means that economic performance and growth capacity cannot be understood, or addressed, solely at a local level; decisions taken in one part of the area have direct implications on others.

At the same time, the geography of the economy is highly differentiated. Levels of productivity, earnings, skills, deprivation and access to opportunity vary significantly across Hull and East Yorkshire. These spatial differences shape where value is created, where growth can be unlocked, and where targeted intervention is needed to ensure that more people and places benefit from economic change.

Hull as the economic core and labour market anchor

Hull plays a central role in the functioning of the wider economy. It contains the largest concentration of jobs, economic output and public infrastructure, and acts as the main labour market hub for the Combined Authority area. Many higher-value activities, key public services, education and training provision, and strategic transport and energy assets are located in or adjacent to the city. Hull therefore provides access to employment and services for residents across the East Riding as well as for those living within the city itself.

The evidence also highlights the scale of challenge within Hull. The city experiences very high levels of deprivation and economic inactivity relative to national benchmarks, alongside lower average earnings and skills attainment. This combination creates a dual dynamic. Hull

is essential to regional productivity and growth, but it is also the place where barriers to participation, progression and good work are most acute. Without addressing these barriers, growth risks being constrained by labour supply and risks reinforcing existing inequalities.

Infrastructure capacity within and around Hull is also a critical factor. Energy evidence shows that electricity demand and generation constraints are particularly acute in parts of the Hull area. At a grid level, the Hull East service area is identified as constrained at Bulk Supply Point and Grid Supply Point level, limiting capacity for significant additional demand associated with industrial growth. This is especially relevant given the concentration of energy-intensive and industrial activity in and around the city. Planned upgrades at Saltend North and Creyke Beck Grid Supply Points are therefore of system-wide importance for future growth capacity.

Towns as centres of connection

Beyond Hull, the economy is structured around a network of towns, industrial locations and strategic corridors host a significant proportion of the area's industrial and tradeable activity and play a critical role in connecting production to markets and labour.

Across Hull and East Yorkshire, towns play a vital and distinctive economic role, complementing the scale and intensity of activity in the city while sustaining employment, services and community life across a wider geography. They function as important retail and service centres, with high streets acting as visible economic and social anchors within their communities, supporting accessible jobs, local supply chains and everyday participation in the economy. Many towns also host significant employment in manufacturing, logistics, health, education and public services, contributing to the resilience and diversity of the regional economy.

Beyond their current role, towns are central to the region's future growth, inclusion and sustainability. As historic market locations and long-standing centres of transport, social and business connectivity, they provide natural focal points for regeneration, sustainable housing development and investment in local infrastructure. Strengthening high streets and town centres as community economic hubs, improving connections to employment and services, and enabling high-quality, sustainable housing growth will expand labour market reach and help ensure that prosperity is shared more evenly across urban, rural and coastal communities.

In this way, towns act not only as places of heritage and identity, but as practical economic connectors that translate strategic investment into vibrant, resilient places across Hull and East Yorkshire.

Rural and coastal economies

A substantial proportion of Hull and East Yorkshire is rural, with a dispersed settlement pattern and a mix of agricultural, energy, tourism and small-scale industrial activity. Rural

areas make an important contribution to the economy through food production, retail and visitor economy services, energy generation and supply chains linked to urban and industrial centres. They also provide land and locations for infrastructure that serves the wider region.

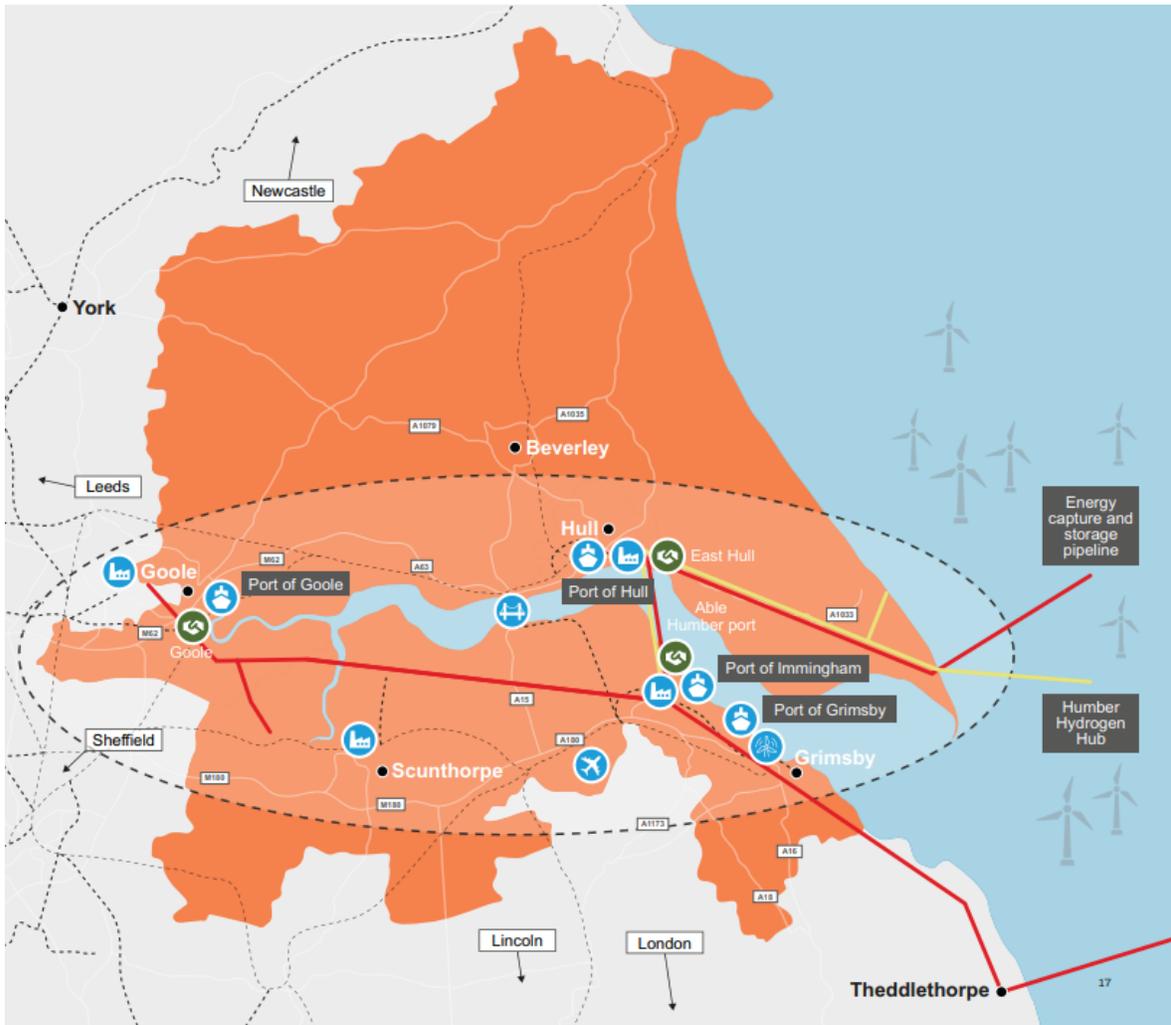
The evidence shows that rural and coastal communities face distinctive challenges. Transport connectivity is more variable, access to services and skills provision can be limited, and distances to employment centres are greater. Energy evidence highlights that many rural areas in the East Riding have a very high proportion of properties not connected to the gas network. This has implications for household costs, resilience and future infrastructure investment needs.

Coastal areas face additional pressures linked to environmental risk and the long-term resilience of settlements and infrastructure. These factors shape not only economic potential, but also the feasibility, timing and cost of development. As with urban areas, these challenges do not imply a lack of opportunity, but they do require a place-sensitive approach that reflects different starting points and constraints.

The Humber context and shared opportunity

Hull and East Yorkshire sits on the north bank of the Humber estuary, one of the UK's most nationally significant industrial, energy and trading geographies. The Humber is evolving from a traditional maritime and manufacturing base into a globally important centre for clean energy, industrial decarbonisation, advanced manufacturing and international trade, with the potential to make a major contribution to national productivity, energy security and net zero delivery.

This transformation is already underway. The Humber hosts the UK's busiest port complex, substantial manufacturing employment and major energy generation and conversion assets, alongside the capacity to meet a significant share of future national energy demand and unlock billions of pounds of private investment linked to the energy transition. These characteristics mean growth in Hull and East Yorkshire cannot be understood in isolation. It is intrinsically linked to the wider Humber industrial cluster, its supply chains and its environmental system.



Map showing the Humber Industrial Growth Corridor (source: Humber Economic Strategy 2025-35)

Sector Framework

This Local Growth Plan uses a clear and exhaustive sector framework to organise the economic evidence and guide strategic choices. The framework has been developed through a detailed assessment of the current structure of the economy, including sector size and specialisation, productivity and earnings, business composition, investment and export activity, and the geography of employment and assets. It draws most heavily on the regional economic assessment and sector deep dives, and is informed by wider evidence on skills, infrastructure, land use, energy systems and consultation feedback.

The purpose of the framework is not to label every sector as a priority or to suggest that growth will occur in only a narrow part of the economy. Instead, it is used to distinguish

between sectors that are expected to drive growth most directly in the period ahead, sectors that have credible potential to expand and upgrade over time, and sectors that enable participation, resilience and place outcomes across the economy. This distinction reflects how different parts of the economy contribute to productivity, pay and inclusive growth, and how public action can most effectively support them.

The framework also provides a consistent structure for linking economic evidence to place and delivery. It enables the Plan to connect sector opportunity with the geography of the economy, to identify the binding constraints that limit growth in different sectors and locations, and to make clear and defensible choices about focus and sequencing. Used in this way, the sector framework underpins the Big Plays in Part A and provides a disciplined foundation for the delivery approach set out later in the Plan.

Local Growth Plan Sector framework

Growth Driving sectors are the parts of the economy where the evidence shows the strongest and most immediate potential to raise productivity, support higher-value employment and strengthen Hull and East Yorkshire's role in national and international markets. These sectors form the core focus of the Plan and will anchor investment and delivery. For Hull and East Yorkshire, the Growth Driving sectors are:

- Ports and logistics
- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Agri-food and agri-tech

For the purposes of this Plan, **life sciences activity and defence-related activity are treated as integral components of the manufacturing sector**, reflecting how these activities operate locally and how they connect into wider industrial supply chains.

Growth Potential sectors are those where the evidence points to realistic opportunities for expansion, diversification and upgrading, but where they are not being positioned as the primary engines of growth in the same way as the Growth Driving sectors. These sectors are important to the longer-term evolution of the economy and to increasing the share of higher-value activity over time and are considered both in their own right and for the way they contribute to productivity, innovation adoption and business formation across the wider economy. Growth Potential sectors include:

- Digital and technologies
- Professional and business services
- Financial services
- Creative industries
- Construction
- Culture and the Visitor Economy

Growth Enabling sectors are the foundational parts of the economy that support employment, participation and day-to-day economic functioning, and that set the conditions for growth in other sectors. They employ large numbers of residents, shape place-based outcomes, and are critical to inclusive growth and resilience. Growth Enabling sectors in this Plan include:

- Health and social care
- Education and skills provision
- Retail and wholesale
- Public administration and public services
- Utilities and other local services
- Transport activities outside ports and maritime logistics
- Real estate

Sector analysis and opportunity

How to read the sector analysis

This section applies the agreed sector framework to explain where growth in Hull and East Yorkshire is most likely to come from, how value is created across different parts of the economy, and what the evidence suggests is holding that growth back. It is not a prioritisation of projects or a statement of policy commitments. Instead, it provides a structured interpretation of the evidence, intended to support clear and defensible choices later in the Plan.

The analysis draws on quantitative evidence on employment, productivity, investment and spatial concentration, alongside qualitative insight from engagement with businesses, workers and institutions. This reflects the reality that sectors are shaped not only by economic indicators, but also by confidence, expectations and lived experience. The intention is to describe sectors as they are today, and as those within them see them evolving, rather than to present an abstract or idealised picture.

Growth Driving sectors

The evidence identifies four Growth Driving sectors that already form the backbone of Hull and East Yorkshire's economy and are most likely to generate near- to medium-term gains in productivity, pay and resilience. These sectors are strongly rooted in the area's geography, infrastructure and skills base, and connect the local economy to national and international markets.

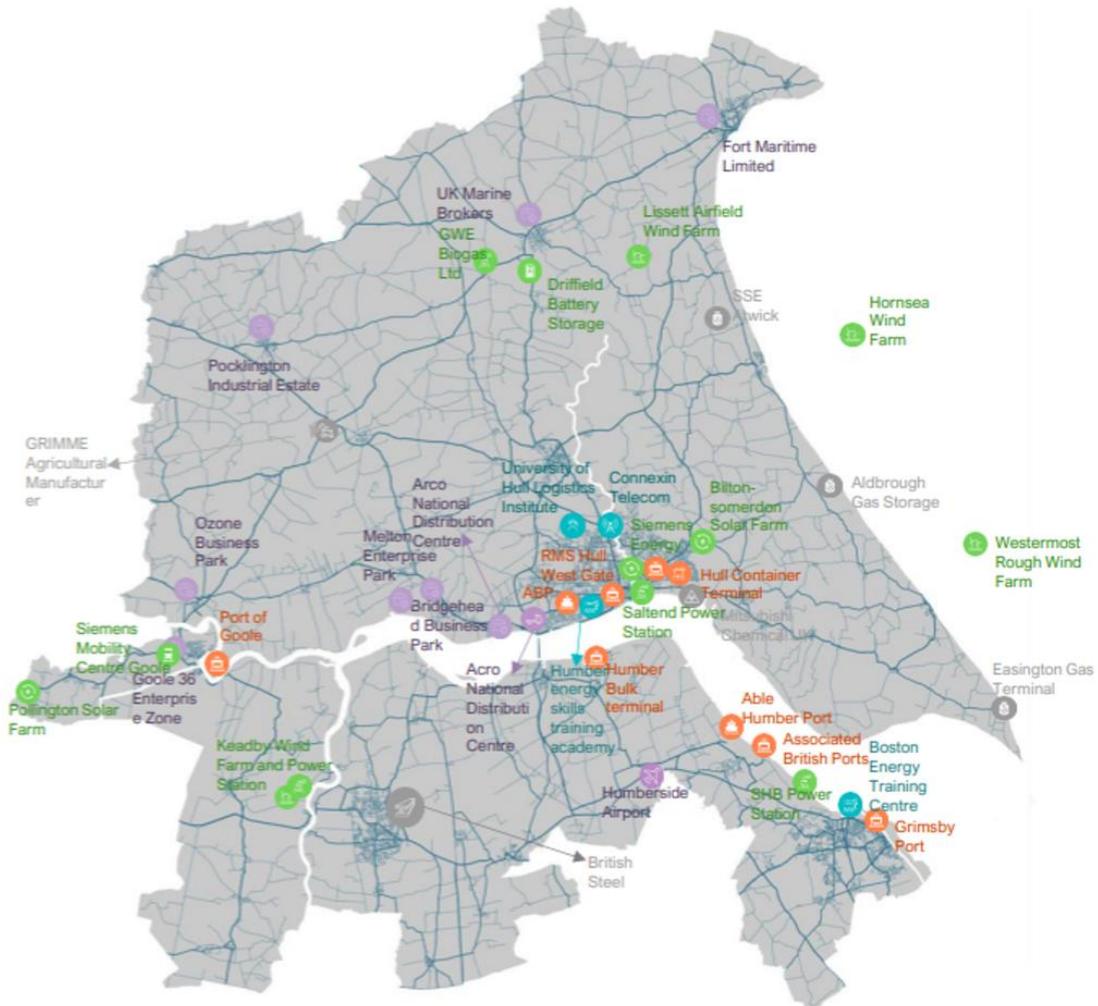
Ports and logistics

Ports and logistics are one of the most distinctive and strategically important sectors in Hull and East Yorkshire. As part of the wider Humber ports complex, the area plays a critical role in the movement of goods into and out of the UK, supporting trade, industrial supply chains and energy systems. The sector provides a large number of direct jobs and underpins activity across manufacturing, energy and agri-food through freight handling, storage and distribution.

The evidence shows that activity is concentrated around Hull and along key transport corridors, with strong spatial links to industrial land, energy infrastructure and strategic road and rail routes. Productivity in parts of the sector is relatively high, reflecting its capital-intensive nature, although performance varies across different activities within the logistics value chain.

People working in ports and logistics consistently point to both opportunity and constraint. There is confidence in the long-term role of the Humber as a national gateway, but also

concern about congestion, land availability, skills supply and the capacity of connecting infrastructure. The evidence suggests that ports and logistics will remain a growth driver, but one whose performance depends heavily on coordinated action across infrastructure, skills and planning systems.

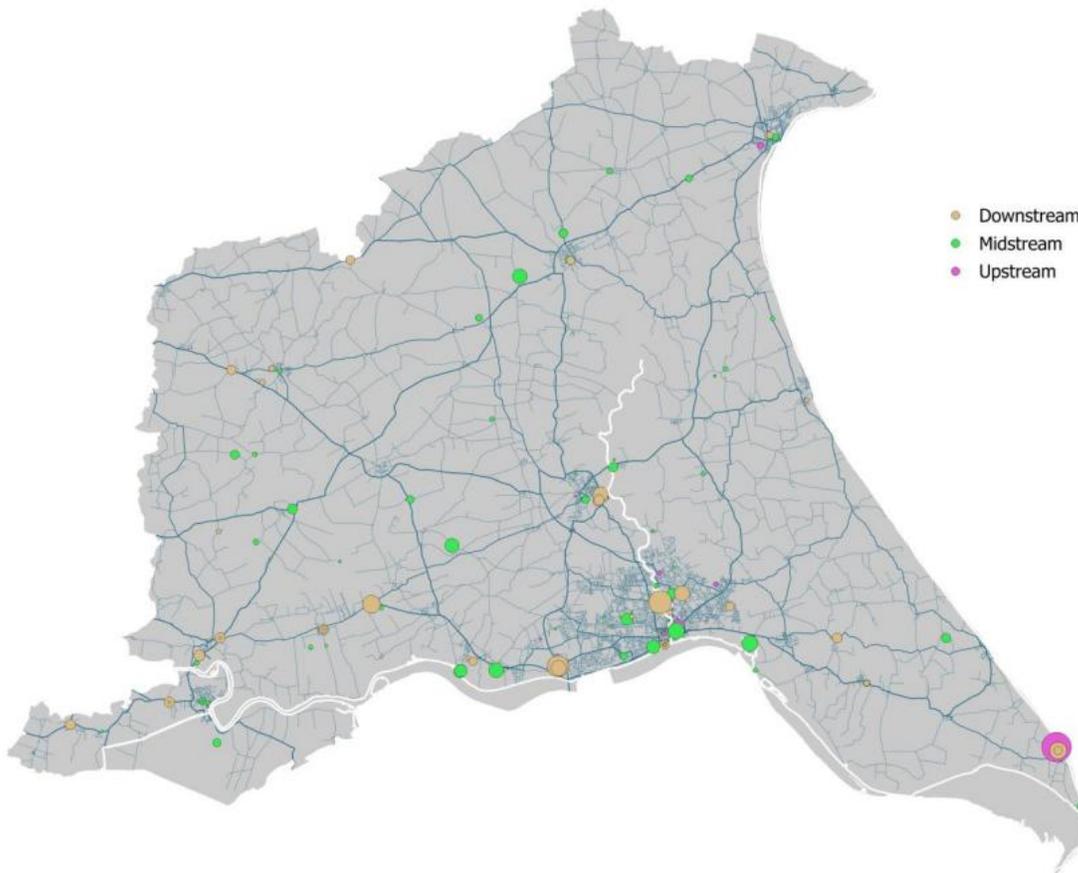


Energy

The **energy** sector is central to the current and future economic role of Hull and East Yorkshire. The area already hosts a substantial concentration of energy generation and conversion activity, including onshore and offshore wind, biomass, solar and advanced conversion technologies, alongside emerging activity linked to storage and system balancing. These assets are geographically distributed, often in locations that directly serve industrial users and national networks.

The evidence highlights strong interdependencies between energy, manufacturing, construction and professional services. Energy systems shape the feasibility, cost and timing of industrial growth, and there is clear potential for expansion where generation, networks and flexibility can support new demand.

At the same time, constraints are acute. Network capacity is already under pressure in parts of the area, with limited headroom at key substations and grid supply points. Without timely reinforcement and coordination, these constraints risk limiting both new energy projects and wider economic growth. Sector stakeholders recognise the scale of opportunity but emphasise the need for long-term system planning, skills development and coordination across institutions.



Manufacturing

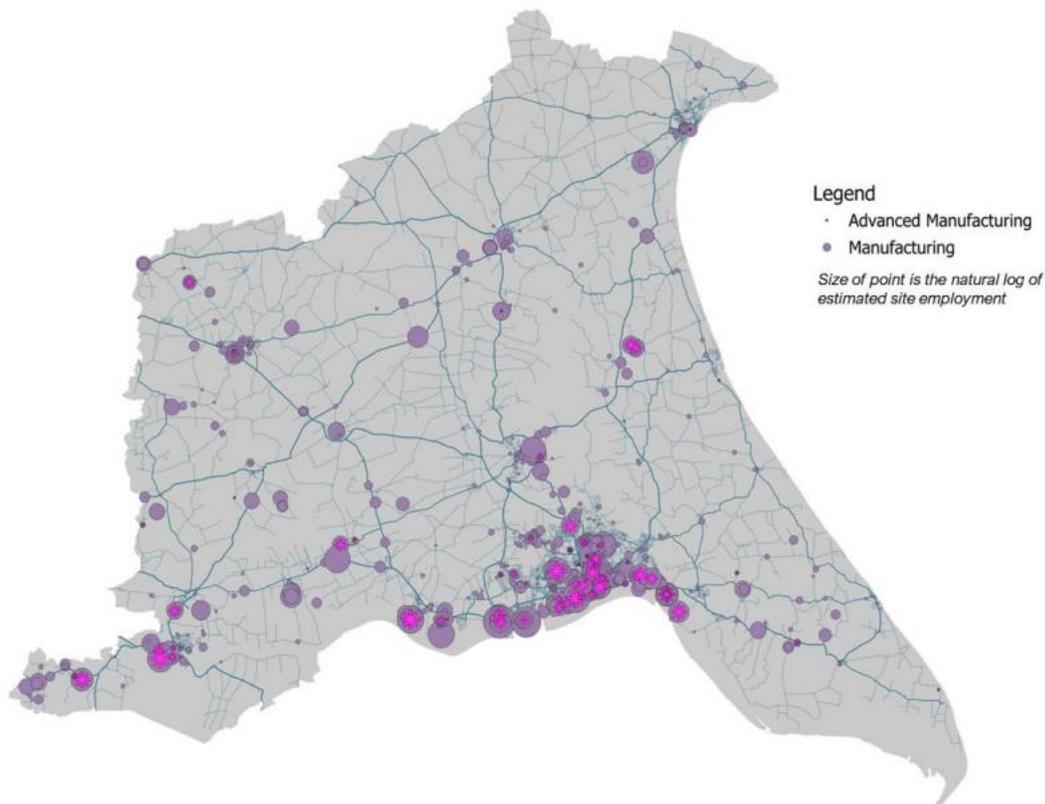
Manufacturing remains a cornerstone of the Hull and East Yorkshire economy and one of its most distinctive features. The sector accounts for a significantly higher share of employment and output locally than nationally and includes a diverse mix of activities spanning advanced

and digital manufacturing, food processing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, defence-related manufacturing and life sciences manufacturing.

Productivity varies widely across manufacturing sub-sectors, with some activities generating very high levels of value per job. The evidence highlights the importance of supply chains that connect local firms to national and international markets, and the role of anchor employers in shaping investment and skills demand.

For the purposes of this Plan, **life sciences manufacturing** and **defence-related manufacturing** are treated as integral components of the manufacturing sector. This reflects how these activities operate locally, drawing on shared skills, infrastructure and facilities, and how they connect into wider industrial systems.

The evidence suggests that future growth in manufacturing will depend less on expanding capacity alone and more on upgrading processes, products and skills. Businesses point to challenges around skilled labour, technology adoption and the availability of suitable industrial space. At the same time, there is a strong sense of ambition, with firms seeking to move into higher-value activity, strengthen supply chains and invest for the long term where conditions allow.

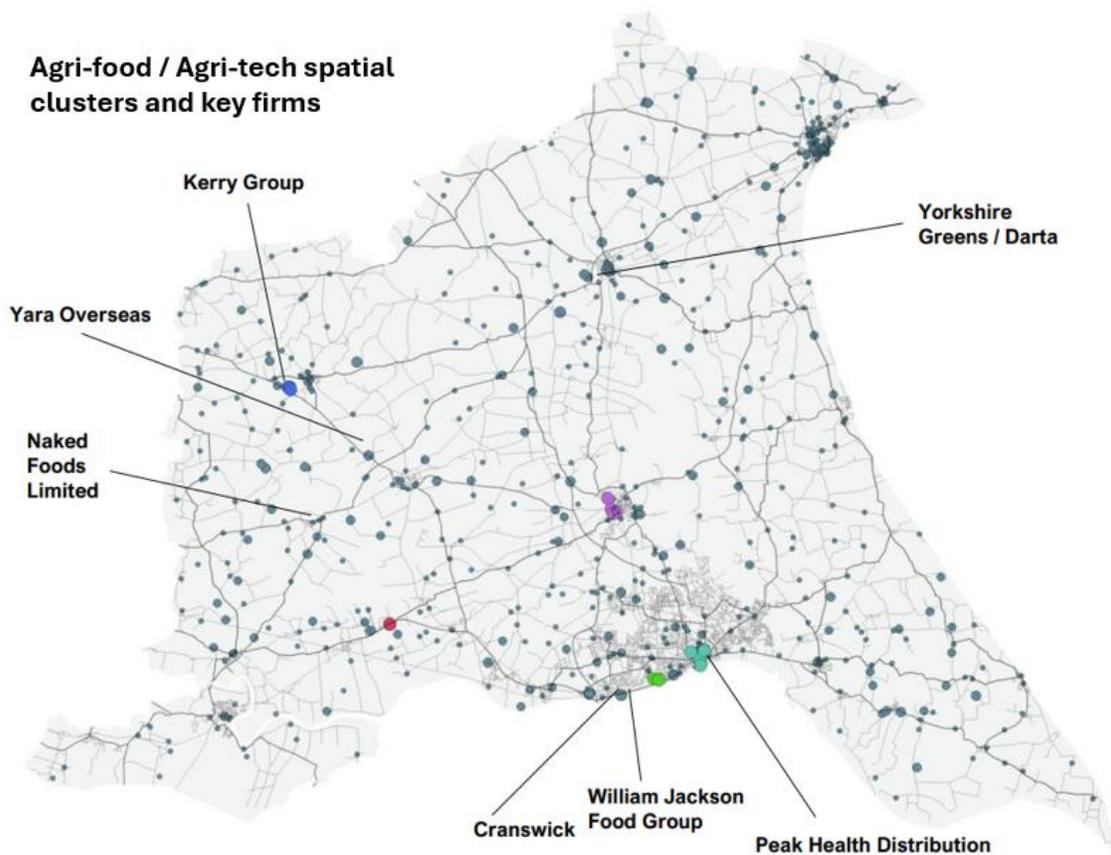


Agri-food and agri-tech

Agri-food and agri-tech plays a critical role in Hull and East Yorkshire, reflecting the area's rural geography, strong agricultural base and established processing activity. The sector spans primary production, processing, logistics and emerging technology-led activity, connecting rural areas directly into national supply chains.

The evidence shows that agri-food is a significant source of employment and economic resilience, particularly in rural and coastal communities. Productivity varies across the sector, with clear opportunities for improvement through technology adoption, skills development and better integration across the value chain.

Stakeholders highlight both opportunity and pressure. There is growing interest in agri-tech, data-driven production and more efficient processing, alongside concern about labour availability, infrastructure capacity and exposure to external shocks. The evidence suggests that agri-food and agri-tech will continue to act as a growth driver where innovation, skills and infrastructure investment are aligned with the realities of the sector and its geography.



Growth Potential sectors

In addition to the Growth Driving sectors, the evidence identifies a group of **Growth Potential sectors** that are important to the longer-term evolution of the economy. These sectors are not positioned as the main engines of growth in this iteration of the Plan, but they play a crucial role in diversification, upgrading and increasing the share of higher-value activity over time. These sectors are:

- Digital & technologies
- Construction
- Culture and the Visitor Economy
- Professional & business services
- Financial services
- Creative Industries

Digital and technologies sectors underpin productivity growth across the economy. While the sector is smaller locally than in some comparator areas, the evidence shows growing activity and strong cross-sector demand.

Each of the growth driving sectors require new technologies and digitisation to deliver productivity improvements and to retain competitiveness and market position. For example:

- Across agriculture and food manufacturing, there is scope to accelerate the adoption of automation, robotics, data, and digital tools to improve productivity, resilience, and environmental performance. This includes modernising production processes, precision farming, and new approaches to crop and livestock management.
- In manufacturing, accelerated technology adoption within existing firms. This will enable productivity improvements, safeguard competitiveness, and help businesses maintain or expand their market position.
- In ports and logistics there is strong potential to accelerate productivity growth through digitalisation and automation, driven by increasing demand for data-rich, tech-enabled supply chains.
- In energy, Siemens Gamesa's presence provides a strong and there is growing demand for blade recycling, next-generation materials, robotics and AI-enabled maintenance.

Digital and technology capability is also a critical driver of productivity growth across the whole Hull and East Yorkshire economy.

Supporting businesses in every sector to adopt digital tools, data-driven processes, automation and artificial intelligence will improve efficiency, enable innovation and strengthen competitiveness in national and global markets. This includes accelerating digital adoption in foundational sectors and creating stronger local demand for digital innovation and services.

Building a stronger innovation ecosystem with the University of Hull

Innovation is central to raising productivity, attracting investment and enabling long-term economic resilience in Hull and East Yorkshire. Yet current innovation activity lags regional and national performance, with fewer innovation-active firms, lower levels of internal research and development, limited spin-out activity and relatively low success in securing national innovation funding.

Strengthening the region's innovation ecosystem is therefore essential to unlocking growth across priority sectors and improving access to higher-value opportunities for local businesses and communities.

The Combined Authority will work in partnership with the University of Hull and industry to deliver a coordinated, triple-helix innovation programme that connects research excellence, business capability and public investment. This builds on the region's emerging clean-energy innovation cluster and collaborative governance model, bringing together universities, industry partners and public institutions to accelerate technology development, commercialisation and skills creation.

Through this joint programme, partners will:

- strengthen the regional innovation ecosystem and investment infrastructure, making it easier for businesses and investors to navigate support and scale new ideas
- support local firms to access and win national research and development and innovation funding, increasing the region's share of competitive investment i.e. this is just as much about investment readiness/bid development support as it is about innovation support)
- expand translational research, testbeds and demonstrators across energy, manufacturing, life sciences, agritech and smart logistics
- improve opportunities for local digital and technology firms to secure research, development and deployment activity within regional programmes and supply chains
- connect skills, workforce development, business investment and enterprise support to emerging innovation-led sectors

Together, these investments will accelerate collaboration between research, industry and place, enabling Hull and East Yorkshire to convert innovation strength into productivity growth, high-quality

Construction

Construction plays a fundamental role in shaping the economic and physical landscape of Hull and East Yorkshire, supporting housing delivery, infrastructure renewal, commercial development and regeneration.

The sector provides substantial employment across a wide variety of occupations and skill levels, offering accessible entry routes into work alongside opportunities for technical and professional progression. Its activity is closely linked to the availability of skilled labour, the suitability of development sites and premises, and the strength of local supply chains, all of which influence productivity, resilience and the retention of economic value is retained within the regional economy.

The quality, stability and progression of employment within the construction sector have a direct bearing on participation, household income and long-term resilience, reinforcing its importance in sustaining prosperity. Strengthening workforce capability, improving pathways for advancement and supporting innovation in working practices all contribute to the sector's ability to sustain economic momentum.

Recognising construction in this way highlights its central contribution to place development, opportunity creation and the long-term competitiveness of the regional economy.

Culture and the visitor economy

Culture and the visitor economy are central to sustaining and reinforcing Hull and East Yorkshire's identity.

The sector supports a significant volume of employment across a diverse range of businesses and organisations, from independent venues, such as The Adelphi Club, and social and cultural institutions, such as the Ferens Art Gallery, to major attractions including our coastal towns, Bridlington and Hornsea and Withernsea, and events such as Beverley races.

The contribution from our cultural and visitor economy assets extends beyond direct economic output. These sectors contribute to place attractiveness, talent retention and wider investment confidence across Hull and East Yorkshire. They provide employment at scale and across a breadth of locations, which means that even modest improvements in performance can generate meaningful economic and social impact across our region. A strong cultural and visitor economy also reinforces civic pride and the amplifies the distinctiveness of urban, rural and coastal communities. The role of sport is a key Mayoral priority which can make an economic contribution. For example, occasions such as the planned Lloyds British Cycling Event can generate a growth in volunteering and labour market participation, increased footfall and spending within the region.

Recognising the importance of these factors underscores the role of leisure, hospitality, tourism and culture in supporting prosperity, year-round economic activity and the continued confidence of communities across the region.

Professional and business services

Professional and business services support upgrading across the economy, providing expertise in management, engineering, design, legal and commercial services. Strengthening this sector locally can help retain value, support firm-level decision-making and reduce reliance on external providers.

Financial services play a similar enabling role, supporting entrepreneurship, working capital and business growth. While the sector is relatively small, access to appropriate finance remains a recurring constraint for firms across the economy, particularly smaller and scaling businesses. Financial services sector in Hull and East Yorkshire is relatively small and under-represented compared with national benchmarks, with modest employment (around 2,500 jobs), this sector is critical to sustaining other sectors' growth such as growth enabling and growth driving sectors.

Creative Industries

The Creative Industries are a growing and relatively new part of the economy, with Hull and East Yorkshire having particular specialisms in creative software (creative digital technology, apps, website development, video games), creative services (advertising, marketing & PR, architecture, cultural education), and creative content (the media, publishing and translation). This sector, whilst nascent at the moment, is expected to increase its percentage share of the regional economy, particularly in urban locations such as Hull, Beverley, Howden and Bridlington.

The relatively underdeveloped nature of the sector presents opportunities for targeted growth, particularly in relation to creative digital technology; videography and sound production; advertising, marketing and PR; and publishing and translation services. Hull's growing status as a location for Film & TV production also offers potential to develop the localised supply chain to ensure that more spend and value from these productions is retained locally. There are also identified areas of alignment with the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy (with the Creative Industries being an 'IS-8' Sector) as well as The Great North Creative initiative led the Northern Mayoral regions.

The sector in Hull & East Yorkshire is dominated by micro businesses undertaking project work and with a widespread use of freelancers. The most prevalent barriers to sector are therefore related to business development, leadership development, new market and supply

chain access, access to investment, and the somewhat siloed nature of sector networks and forums for peer development and collaboration.

There is also a notable opportunity to better connect the Creative and Digital sectors to grow the region's capabilities in Creative Tech (CreaTech), which would lead to increased opportunities for innovation, intellectual property development, investment and new job creation, particularly within Hull.

What the evidence implies for supporting Growth Potential sectors

For Growth Potential sectors, both the evidence and established economic development practice point to interventions that are horizontal, capability-focused and demand-led. These sectors tend to grow through business formation, scaling and upgrading rather than through a small number of large anchor investments.

Effective support therefore focuses on leadership and management capability, access to specialist advice, digital adoption and innovation diffusion. Improving investment readiness and access to appropriate finance is also critical, particularly for smaller firms and those seeking to scale. Skills and talent matter, not only in terms of formal provision but also in retaining graduates and experienced professionals and supporting progression within the local economy.

The impact of these sectors is greatest where they are embedded within wider value chains, supporting innovation and upgrading in Growth Driving sectors. Interventions that encourage collaboration, knowledge exchange and demand-side adoption are therefore more effective than treating these sectors in isolation.

Growth Enabling sectors

The evidence also underlines the importance of a set of **Growth Enabling sectors** that underpin participation, resilience and everyday economic functioning across Hull and East Yorkshire. These sectors employ large numbers of people and are central to inclusive growth outcomes.

Health and social care is one of the largest employing sectors in Hull and East Yorkshire and plays a central role in labour market participation, productivity and overall wellbeing. Workforce pressures and rising demand affect not only the delivery of services but also the wider capacity of the economy to grow.

By 2043, the number of residents aged over 65 is projected to rise by around 40%, driving further regional and national investment. Service transformation and increased investment in life sciences, such as the Wound Innovation Institute at Hull University is expected to strengthen the sector's ability to meet the needs of this ageing population, support innovation

and create additional employment and spin-out opportunities. The sector – including community and voluntary sector providers providing support through caring and other roles – remains fundamental to enabling inclusive economic growth, particularly through reducing long-term sickness and addressing health-related barriers that currently constrain workforce participation and productivity.

Education and skills provision underpin long-term productivity and progression. Aligning provision with sector demand and supporting lifelong learning is particularly important as the working-age population changes. Increased investment in tackling NEETs in the region will increase the contribution of the sector to the region. Further investment in upskilling and increased alignment between skills and jobs can improve education’s key contribution to the region’s economic growth and productivity. Education and skills provision, delivered across a range of public and community and voluntary sectors is a key tool in enabling economic growth, innovating industry, entrenching academic and private sector collaboration and attracting investment, with the sector providing the lynchpin in innovation within the region as well supporting businesses grow.

Retail and wholesale remain a major source of employment and a central component of town and city centre economies in Hull and East Yorkshire, shaping access to services, consumer activity and the vitality of places. Sectoral analysis shows that wholesale and retail account for a significant share of total employment locally, above national averages, underlining their importance to job creation and everyday economic activity. However, the sector is also undergoing restructuring, with employment pressures alongside rising GVA indicating productivity change rather than expansion in jobs.

Public administration and wider public services play a substantial economic role as both major employers and commissioners of goods and services, contributing to stability, demand and resilience across local economies. Employment data indicates that the public sector represents one of the largest shares of total jobs in Hull and East Yorkshire, exceeding the national proportion and reflecting the sector’s foundational role in supporting communities and sustaining economic participation, even where private-sector growth is uneven. This also includes a key role for the Community and Voluntary Sector across Hull and East Yorkshire who are increasingly important in delivering public services that can connect and reach people and places that are isolated and/or furthest from opportunity.

Utilities and other local services, alongside transport activity beyond ports and maritime **logistics** and the **real estate** sector, provide the essential systems and infrastructure that enable wider economic function and growth. Evidence highlights uneven transport connectivity, particularly for rural and coastal communities, alongside constraints in commercial space quality and availability, which together can restrict business expansion, labour market access and investment despite underlying demand. Strength in digital

connectivity offers a partial counterbalance, supporting productivity and inclusion, but structural infrastructure limitations remain a key factor shaping overall economic performance.

What the evidence implies for supporting Growth Enabling sectors

For Growth Enabling sectors, the evidence and practice point to interventions focused on participation, workforce sustainability and system capacity. These sectors are labour-intensive and often experience persistent recruitment and retention pressures.

Effective support centres on entry routes into work, in-work progression, workforce health and wellbeing, and the alignment of skills provision with real demand. Improvements in housing affordability, transport accessibility and childcare provision can have significant economic impacts by supporting labour supply and retention.

These sectors are also sensitive to system-wide constraints, including estates, digital systems and infrastructure capacity. Addressing these issues typically requires coordination across organisations and public bodies rather than firm-level intervention, reinforcing the importance of strategic planning and alignment.

What the sector evidence tells us about focus and sequencing

Taken together, the sector evidence reinforces the need for a focused but inclusive approach to growth. The Growth Driving sectors provide the clearest routes to raising productivity and strengthening Hull and East Yorkshire's economic position in the near term. Growth Potential sectors support diversification, upgrading and resilience over time. Growth Enabling sectors ensure that growth translates into participation, wellbeing and functioning places.

This analysis underpins the Big Plays set out in Part A and provides a clear rationale for the delivery approach that follows. It also highlights the importance of sequencing and coordination. Growth will not come from isolated interventions, but from aligning investment, skills, infrastructure and business support with the realities of how sectors operate across Hull and East Yorkshire.

Enablers and constraints to growth

Hull and East Yorkshire has clear economic strengths, established sectors and strong participation in traded activity. However, the evidence shows that these strengths do not consistently translate into higher productivity, pay or resilience at scale. The issue is not a lack of economic activity, ambition or assets, but a set of interrelated conditions that shape how effectively the economy can grow, adapt and capture value.

This section brings together evidence from across the economic, spatial, sectoral and infrastructure analysis to identify the conditions that most strongly constrain growth across the economy as a whole. These are not sector-specific issues. They recur across places and sectors, and they shape the feasibility, pace and distribution of growth. Understanding these binding constraints is essential to making credible choices about focus, sequencing and delivery in the remainder of the Plan.

Summary of evidence of constraints to growth in Hull and East Yorkshire



Commercial space	Labour market	Export	Investment	Transport	Digital Connectivity	Innovation
HEY faces increasing vacancy rates - driven by limited growth in commercial floorspace, low availability of good quality space and consistent negative absorption since 2024. Flood risk adds pressure on the existing stock, highlighting vulnerabilities in resilience.	Hull and East Yorkshire has a smaller working-age population, but relatively high employment utilisation and growth. Skills gaps and low levels of high-value job creation limit productivity and lead to lower average earnings compared nationally.	Export participation is slightly above the national average, but overall export value remains modest. This indicates strength in engagement, but limited scale in high-value export activity.	Gross Fixed Capital Formation is above national benchmarks, yet firms secure fewer equity rounds and lower average funding values with a business base dominated by established businesses.	Hull has strong public transport links to key employment centres, but much of East Riding faces poor connectivity. This restricts access to opportunities, particularly for rural coastal communities.	HEY outperforms national and regional averages for gigabit broadband, with coverage above 90% and close to universal in Hull. However, Bridlington shows risks of digital exclusion.	Innovation activity lags regional and national levels, with fewer businesses identified as innovation active. Internal R&D and product innovation are also notably lower, with fewer Innovate UK grants and limited spinout activity compared to peers.

A. Commercial space, sites and the viability

The evidence indicates that the commercial property market is not supplying sufficient volumes of high-quality, investable space to support business upgrading and expansion. Market signals point to a persistent viability gap. Average asking rents are £11.68 per square foot, well below the Yorkshire and Humber average of £15.65 and the national average of £30.23. Sale prices show a similar pattern, at £90 per square foot locally compared with £127 regionally and £342 nationally.

The quality of stock reinforces this picture. Only **1.9%** of commercial floorspace is rated 4–5 star, compared with **2.3%** across the region and **2.4%** nationally. At the same time, vacancy rates have risen sharply since 2022, reaching over **6% in Hull** and over **5% in the East Riding** by mid-2025. A combination of low rents, limited high-quality stock and rising vacancy suggests the market struggles to support new development and upgrading without intervention.

Development viability is further affected by high abnormal costs. Flood risk mitigation, environmental requirements, site remediation and access constraints all add to upfront costs, particularly on brownfield and coastal sites. Where sites have been serviced and de-risked, take-up has followed, indicating that demand exists but is being held back by the cost and complexity of bringing sites forward.

B. Labour market participation, skills and matching

Across the economy, labour supply is constrained less by headline participation rates and more by health-related inactivity, skills mismatch and progression barriers. The evidence identifies **26,300 people** who are economically inactive due to long-term sickness, accounting for **37%** of all inactive residents, compared with **28%** nationally. This group has grown by **26% since 2018**, making it one of the most material constraints on workforce availability.

Skills mismatch compounds this challenge. In East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire, only **45%** of jobs align with resident skills. These weak matching limits the ability of firms to recruit locally and reduces the likelihood that residents can access better-paid work without leaving the area. It also constrains the adoption of new technologies and working practices that depend on higher-level and transferable skills.

The evidence points to participation, progression and retention as critical economic conditions. Without improvements in health outcomes, access to skills and in-work progression, the effective labour supply available to growth-driving and growth-potential sectors will remain constrained.

C. Trade, exporting and value capture

The evidence shows that Hull and East Yorkshire participates in exporting at rates similar to regional and national benchmarks, with around **4% of firms** exporting. However, exports account for only **13% of total GVA**, compared with **34% in Tees Valley** and **29% in Greater Lincolnshire**. This indicates that the constraint is not participation alone, but the scale and value of exports relative to the size of the economy.

Export activity is concentrated in traded goods linked to manufacturing and agri-food, with a narrower range of high-value export activity than in comparator areas. This suggests that growth will depend on moving further up value chains, strengthening supply chain roles, and capturing more value per unit of output, rather than simply increasing volumes.

D. Investment, business finance and scaling capacity

Levels of fixed capital investment are broadly comparable to national norms at the combined authority level, averaging around **5% of GVA** between 2018 and 2022. However, this masks internal variation. The East Riding performs more strongly at just over **6% of GVA**, while Hull is weaker at around **4%**, reflecting different market conditions and investment capacity across the area.

Business finance presents a clearer constraint. There have been **135 recorded equity funding rounds**, equivalent to **4.25 rounds per 1,000 businesses**, compared with **7.29 per 1,000** nationally. Although average and median deal sizes are broadly comparable, the lower volume of deals reduces the pipeline of firms able to scale, innovate and invest. This helps explain why pockets of high-value activity do not consistently translate into wider productivity gains.

E. Transport connectivity and access to opportunity

Transport connectivity shapes access to jobs, skills and services across Hull and East Yorkshire. Hull functions as a strong core labour market, with good accessibility to employment within 45–60 minutes. In contrast, much of the East Riding relies on corridor-based access, particularly along rail lines, with more limited connectivity for rural and coastal communities.

The evidence shows that weaker accessibility overlaps with areas of higher deprivation, reinforcing barriers to participation and progression. Congestion on key routes also affects business efficiency and logistics performance, with implications for multiple sectors simultaneously. Transport therefore acts as both an economic enabler and a constraint, shaping who can participate in growth and where it can occur.

F. Digital connectivity and inclusion

Digital infrastructure is a relative strength. Gigabit broadband coverage exceeds **90% of premises** across the combined authority area, compared with just over **80% nationally**, with Hull close to universal availability. This provides a strong platform for digital adoption, modern service delivery and business upgrading.

However, the evidence also highlights pockets of digital exclusion and uneven take-up, particularly among smaller firms and some communities. These gaps risk limiting the productivity benefits of otherwise strong infrastructure and point to the importance of adoption and capability alongside coverage.

G. Environmental risk and long-term investability

Environmental risk is a defining condition for growth in Hull and East Yorkshire. Hull faces severe flood risk, with only **2% of land outside flood zones** and around **90% of the city below sea level at high tide**. Coastal erosion is also material, with up to **12 metres of land loss** recorded between Holmpton and Easington in 2023–24, compared with a long-term average of **1.4 metres per year**, and projections indicating **102 homes at risk by 2105** before accounting for future acceleration.

These risks affect development viability, infrastructure costs, insurance, and long-term investor confidence. Resilience is therefore not a separate environmental concern, but a core economic condition that shapes where and how growth can take place.

This challenge exists side by side with the reality that our unique natural environment is a major asset for our region. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hull and East Yorkshire sets out a shared, long-term vision for restoring and enhancing nature across our area, identifying priority habitats, species and locations where action can make the greatest difference. It provides a practical framework to guide decision-making, investment and collaboration, helping partners, communities and land managers work together to support nature recovery while delivering benefits for people and place.

H. Energy capacity as a system constraint

Energy infrastructure emerges as a binding constraint on industrial growth. Hull and East Riding currently have around **460 MWe** of operational electrical generation capacity, with more than **70% from onshore wind**, alongside **140 MW of battery storage**. A further **550 MWe** of generation assets are awaiting construction, predominantly solar.

Despite this generation capacity, network constraints are severe. There are **62 primary substations**, with multiple demand areas classified as constrained, and a wider constraint at Bulk Supply Point and Grid Supply Point level in the Hull East service area. On the generation

side, there is effectively no available headroom for new connections above 1 MW without reinforcement. Planned upgrades at Saltend North and Creyke Beck are therefore critical to enabling both industrial demand and new generation.

Local Area Energy Plan modelling indicates that electricity demand could rise from around **2,500 GWh in 2022** to approximately **5,800 GWh by 2050** under a balanced scenario. Without coordinated investment in networks and flexibility, energy capacity will increasingly limit growth rather than enable it.

Why our Combined Authority is central to addressing constraints to growth

Taken together, the evidence points to a consistent conclusion. Growth in Hull and East Yorkshire is constrained not by a lack of opportunity, but by a small number of system-level conditions that affect multiple sectors and places at once. These include labour market participation and skills matching, the viability of sites and premises, access to finance and scaling support, connectivity to jobs and markets, infrastructure capacity, and long-term resilience.

Acting effectively on these dynamics requires coordination across local authority boundaries and across policy portfolios, informed by shared evidence and a clear set of priorities.

The Combined Authority provides that coordinating layer. It brings together powers and responsibilities that are otherwise fragmented, enabling alignment between transport, skills, housing, investment and infrastructure planning. This matters because many of the constraints identified in this evidence base arise not from the absence of activity, but from misalignment in timing, sequencing and decision-making across systems.

The evidence also highlights the importance of acting at the right spatial scale. Some challenges, such as access to employment, skills matching and public transport connectivity, play out at neighbourhood and corridor level. Others, including energy networks, freight movement, housing markets and labour supply, operate across the full Hull and East Yorkshire footprint and beyond. A combined authority provides the capacity to respond at multiple scales, linking local priorities to regional and national systems.

A further strength of the Combined Authority is its role as a single strategic interface with government, investors and national agencies. Many of the constraints identified, particularly around infrastructure capacity, energy networks, transport corridors and investment viability, depend on decisions taken outside the area. The Combined Authority provides a clear front

door, a coherent pipeline and a credible partner for securing and aligning external investment with local priorities.

Finally, the Combined Authority is uniquely placed to convene and sustain partnership working over time. The evidence shows that progress on participation, skills, health, housing and resilience depends on collaboration between councils, employers, colleges, universities, public services, utilities, the voluntary sector and communities themselves. The Combined Authority's role is to these actors together around shared outcomes, informed by evidence and supported by aligned investment and governance.

Part C: Action and implementation

Overview

Part C sets out how the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority will translate the Local Growth Plan into action over the coming years. It establishes our strategic objectives and the delivery framework for our four Big Plays that will guide investment, programmes and policy development. This provides clarity on where effort will be focused, how activity will be sequenced, and how delivery will be coordinated with partners.

The delivery framework is structured in four parts:

- **Our strategic objectives** that describe what success looks like for the delivery of this Local Growth Plan as a direct response to the economic assessment and our consultation and engagement with stakeholders.
- **An intervention framework** that will ensure we have a whole system, coherent approach to focus action on consistent barriers and opportunities that our evidence base has provided, rather than dispersing effort across a wide range of unconnected initiatives.
- **Big Play delivery plans**, that commit to investments, action, programmes and policy work the Combined Authority will put in place to drive growth in the next three years.
- **Our approach to implementation** – including prioritisation, tracking of outcomes and evaluation arrangements, accountability and delivery vehicle and partnership arrangements

Together, these elements provide a coherent framework for delivery that is focused, evidence-led and adaptable. They are designed to ensure that public investment is used strategically, that delivery is coordinated across partners and places, and that the Local Growth Plan remains live and responsive to changing economic conditions.

Our Strategic Objectives

Our **strategic objectives for growth** take our delivery focus a level deeper than our Gameplan focus on Good Jobs, Better Connected, Fit and Healthy and Affordable Homes. These objectives will:

- Sharpen our concentration on the specific opportunities and shifts that will drive growth and prosperity for Hull and East Yorkshire.
- Directly reflect and respond to both our economic assessment and the consultation we have undertaken with local businesses and a wide range of stakeholders.

- Signal a relentless focus on capitalising on our economic strengths, releasing our latent economic potential and gripping the key constraints and barriers to economic growth that we have identified.

The relationship between the evidence base, our consultation feedback and our strategic intentions is shown below.

Evidence and consultation findings	Strategic objectives
Four key growth driving sectors	Increase our productivity growth through comprehensive support for growth driving sectors and;
	Deliver more direct local economic benefits for people and places in HEY from these sectors.
A narrow economic base in which local businesses have untapped growth potential and key underpinning/enabling roles	Diversify and strengthen our economy by creating the conditions for increased productivity growth for sectors and firms with evidenced latent potential – including their role to support growth driving sectors.
Limited transport connectivity in/out and across HEY	Improved rail access and connectivity from Hull to wider North and nation Improved access to rail/road freight transfer within and to/from HEY
	Improved access to local services and employment opportunities by bus walking and cycling
Flood risk, land utilisation and natural environment challenges	Increase land availability and utilisation for growth purposes through flood risk mitigation and measures to realign natural environment alongside Environment Agency and through the Humber 2100 strategy
High levels of economic inactivity including health related	Reducing levels of economic inactivity across HEY including in HEY's most deprived neighbourhoods through a joined - up approach that tackles the wider determinants of poor health and unemployment
	Reducing levels of young people not in education employment or training
Significant skills and earnings gaps for HEY residents v workforce pay	Align resident skills with higher value and future jobs
	Increase average resident weekly earnings
Low Export Values compared to nearby economies (Tees Valley, Greater Lincs)	Increase value of our exports as a share of GVA - supporting export businesses to connect to high value international markets and broadening our export business base
Low levels of access to investment and equity finance	Increase in HEY firms securing investment and equity financing
Low levels of access to innovation support and finance	Increase in HEY firms engaged in innovation activity and receiving innovation - focused financing and support

These strategic objectives represent the key dials we aim to shift to deliver growth and prosperity for Hull and East Yorkshire. They will be the primary focus for our activity and we will ensure a whole system approach to doing all we can with our partners to capitalise on our significant economic strengths and mitigate our challenges.

We have developed a set of key performance indicators to enable us to constantly review the metrics that inform us about our progress against the objectives. These are set out in section Six – Managing Delivery.

Our intervention framework

The focus of each Big Play delivery plan is shaped by a clear intervention framework that reflects the evidence set out in Part B which shows that growth in Hull and East Yorkshire is constrained by a small number of system-level factors that affect multiple sectors and places at once.

The intervention framework ensures we understand the economic rationale for the activity we will prioritise, and that we focus action on consistent barriers and opportunities rather than dispersing effort across a wide range of unconnected initiatives.

The framework is built around the following priority choices.

1. The Plan prioritises **upgrading and value capture over - growth in activity volume**. Interventions will focus on supporting businesses to move up value chains, adopt higher-value processes and products, and capture more value from existing strengths.
2. The Plan treats **energy capacity and industrial enabling infrastructure as first-order growth conditions**. Interventions will prioritise coordination, planning and investment that unlock industrial growth at scale.
3. The Plan focuses on **participation, progression and retention**, not only skills supply. Interventions will address access to work, in-work progression and workforce sustainability alongside skills provision.
4. The Plan prioritises **viability and delivery capacity over land allocation volume**. Interventions will focus on making a smaller number of sites genuinely investable and deliverable.

5. The Plan uses **transport and connectivity as tools to expand access to opportunity**, rather than solely to address congestion. Interventions will focus on improving access to jobs, skills and services across the functional economic area.
6. The Plan prioritises **business capability, finance and scaling**, rather than start-up volume alone. Interventions will focus on management capability, investment readiness, access to finance and innovation adoption.
7. The Plan is explicit about **national dependencies and sequencing**. Interventions will be designed to influence, align and sequence action with government and national agencies.

Together, these choices form the intervention framework that underpins delivery. They explain how priorities will be set, how trade-offs will be managed, and how delivery will be sequenced over time.

This approach is reflected in each of the Big Play delivery plans set out below, and it will be central to the way the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority operates to support growth across the economy.

Big Play Delivery Plans

Our **Big Play delivery plans** commit to the investments, actions, programmes and policy development work the Combined Authority will put in place to drive growth over the period 2026-29.

For each Big Play we have considered our approach carefully in light of the economic assessment which has provided a deep and honest assessment of our current local economic position, our opportunities and our constraints. This also provides guidance on what a plausible, impactful strategy to deliver growth should look like and which factors need the attention and support from the Combined Authority most.

We have set our approach out in a delivery story for each Big Play which includes:

- **Our approach to driving growth through this big play** – the issues we need to focus on, the way we need to work, the partnerships that will drive us and how this will give us the shape and substance we need in our work to deliver growth;
- **Our Growth Investment priorities** – an investment pipeline of the major opportunities for growth in Hull and East Yorkshire that align with our priorities and can be unlocked through private sector investment and in some case central government (including public financial institutions).
- **Our Enabling Investment priorities** – the measures needed to remove the key constraints our economic assessment has identified and to underpin our work across the four Big Plays. These will improve connectivity to enable industrial growth and enable people to access opportunity, manage challenges related to flood risk and the natural environment and enable access to energy and water supply.
- **Wider interventions that are needed to support growth, including** business support, skills and workforce initiatives; innovation and technology adoption activity; place-based or sector-focused programmes; policy development required to support delivery over time, including more detailed sector plans, cross-cutting frameworks and spatial approaches that will be brought forward as the Plan evolves.

Delivery Plan - Big Play 1: Powering our industrial future

How this big play will drive growth

This play is about supporting those sectors and firms that have strong current growth momentum, clear alignment with national priorities, and demonstrable near-term ability to deliver high-value growth.

The role of this Local Growth Plan and the Combined Authority, working in partnership, will be to create a step change in the support available to enable these sectors to maximise their potential. This includes a comprehensive and coherent package of support including targeted investment, skills pipeline alignment, cluster development, and trade and innovation promotion.

Our Regional Economic Assessment provides an in depth understanding of the position and support needs of each of the growth driving sectors which we will use – working closely with industry leaders – to create multi-year, locally owned sector growth plans.

Along with Freeport site development and enabling infrastructure there are a number of emerging cross-cutting potential priorities which cut across the four sectors:

- **Improving access to finance**, with an emphasis on debt finance as well as equity. Transformation and growth will require investment, but access to capital is a challenge for businesses across this sector, and for several reasons, equity funding is not a solution for large parts of the businesses in HEY. Many firms in the region are family-owned, and there is reluctance to change ownership structures. Large parts of Hull's economy and strengths are also in sectors that do not fit the equity profile. Businesses in manufacturing, logistics and agribusiness require investments that are capital-intensive up front, and which deliver steady growth and returns, not the exponential growth possible from digital, technology and IP-based firms, which equity funding seeks (and requires). Improving local businesses' access to debt finance will be a necessary condition for unlocking growth across the existing business base. We will do this via enterprise support interventions that improve the investment readiness of regional firms, and also create new delivery infrastructure that helps streamline the interface between investors and investable businesses.
- **Digital and technology requirements:** each of the growth ready sectors require new technologies and digitisation to deliver productivity improvements and to retain competitiveness and market position. Supporting businesses to adopt technology is a challenge but also presents opportunities to leverage these sectors to drive growth in

the emerging digital cluster by expanding local demand. We will use the Made Smarter Programme to help drive this agenda forwards in the region, initially with the manufacturing and Professional and Business Services sectors. We will explore ways to link the growing Digital and Tech cluster in Hull to these sectors, and map local digital and technology capabilities to identify opportunities for collaboration or local supply chains as a starting point.

- **Career Opportunities:** a common feature across the growth ready sectors is a gap between the widespread perception of the careers on offer, and the reality of the roles and skills required as these sectors move to digital adoption and more widespread technology use. Raising awareness of the opportunities in these sectors and the pathways to access them will benefit residents and businesses.
- **Inward Investment:** attracting new firms and investment will be essential to delivering growth at a scale that is transformative over the short to medium term. To do this, HEY will support a robust inward investment function to pursue strategic opportunities and lead an ambitious, confident promotion of the region's offering as a place to conduct complex production activities and run sophisticated supply chains, etc. HEY has a distinctive offer that brings together the energy potential, the strength and breadth of its existing manufacturing sector, port infrastructure, and logistics capabilities.

In line with our intervention framework we will:

- **Upgrading and value capture:** support higher-value manufacturing and industrial processes and businesses; supply chain development
- **Energy capacity and enabling infrastructure:** grid coordination, connection planning and integration of industrial energy systems
- **Participation, progression and retention:** Entry routes into industrial sectors and develop workforce retention initiatives
- **Viability and delivery capacity:** De-risking strategic industrial sites; coordinated planning and infrastructure delivery
- **Business capability and scaling:** Productivity and process improvement support
- **National alignment and sequencing:** Engagement with national energy, industrial and infrastructure policy

Growth Driving Investments: opportunities for private sector investment that can turn the dial on our regional growth	
Investments	Summary
Humber International Enterprise Park	Building on strengths in port-centric manufacturing and logistics benefiting from Freeport Tax Site status.
Yorkshire Energy Park	Business campus developing our strengths in low-carbon high growth industries located on the Freeport Tax Site.
Goole Freeport Tax Site	Advanced manufacturing opportunity on two strategic land parcels close to the M62 in Goole, part of the Freeport Tax Site
Health Tech Innovation Campus	Exploring the feasibility of a Health Tech innovation campus building on internationally leading Wound Innovation Centre and clinical trials capabilities
Enabling Investments: Our priorities for attracting and directing public and private sector investment to tackle constraints to growth	
Investments	Summary
Transport works at Hull East	Investing in roundabout infrastructure to unlock key economic sites and maximise benefits of freeport status.
Targeted investment to remove barriers at key employment sites	Development and management of a pipeline of targeted investment in land remediation and mitigation for strategic employment sites
Improvements to freight connectivity	Promotion and prioritisation of key improvements to freight connectivity across the region through our Local Transport Plan
Strategic energy connectivity programme	In line with our shared priority with government, work with partners to transform access to power as part of a sequenced plan that supports growth
Business Rate Retention Zone	Seek to secure additional business rates retention at key sites, making growth driving investment with additional funding
HEYCA Innovation Programme	Resources to support the design and delivery of a coordinated programme of innovation support interventions in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy (Local Innovation Partnership Fund)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing (Med-tech innovation programme) • Smart Ports adoption • Agri tech innovation programme
Local Growth capacity	Creation of capacity and expertise within HEYCA to engage closely with industry in key sectors and work with stakeholders to develop and deliver strong sector development plans and on-going support through the Local Growth Fund, and via HEYCA's Growth Hub in partnership with the national Business Growth Service.
Strategic employment site pipeline	Establishing a prioritised route to delivery for the region's key growth locations, using the Mayor's convening power to bring together partners to identify and remove barriers early, and to identify and prepare further sites for development.

Delivery Plan - Big Play 2: Backing local business

Our approach to driving growth in this Big Play

This Big Play centres on supporting and building on the strengths of our whole business base: all sectors, all places, with a focus on sectors with growth driving potential and those with key enabling functions in the economy.

Supporting Growth Potential sectors

We will identify and support industries and firms that have significant potential to drive growth in future and those that can directly connect to supply chains of growth driving sectors to support them to meet their full potential. This potential lies particularly in sectors such as:

- Digital & technologies
- Construction
- Leisure, hospitality, tourism and culture
- Professional & business services
- Financial services
- Creative Industries

The focus of our support for these sectors will be on creating relationships and networks, understanding their business support and growth needs and working with them to help them on to development paths to maximise their growth driving potential. This will include a major focus on connection to the supply chains of growth driving industries for those that is possible.

Central to our approach will be to provide a 'whole system', wrap around offer, which blends support for innovation, access to finance, exporting advice, skills support, locations, space and premises - enabling easy access to a range of joined up solutions to business growth needs. HEYCA's Growth Hub is well placed to lead on this intervention working in partnership with the national Business Growth Service.

Support for growth enabling sectors

Alongside this we will recognise and support the strengths of our growth enabling sectors including:

- Health and social care
- Education & Skills Provision

- Retail & Wholesale
- Public Administration & public service
- Utilities and other local services e.g. real estate

Support for our growth enabling sectors will include quality and productivity improvement, workforce progression, digital and energy transition and service innovation.

Through this approach we can make sure our whole economy matters when it comes to generating growth.

In line with our implementation framework, we will focus on:

- **Upgrading and value capture:** Scaling and export support; investment readiness and management capability programmes
- **Energy capacity and enabling infrastructure:** Support for firms affected by connection constraints; guidance on navigating energy systems
- **Participation, progression and retention:** Support inclusive employment practices; workforce development for SMEs
- **Viability and delivery capacity:** Affordable and flexible business premises; town centre and local employment space
- **Business capability and scaling:** Access to finance; leadership and management development
- **National alignment and sequencing:** Alignment with national business support, finance and innovation programmes

Enabling Investments: Our priorities for attracting and directing public and private sector investment to tackle constraints to growth	
Investments	Summary
Western Docklands Feasibility Study	We will launch an assessment of the opportunity to regenerate the Western Docklands and St Andrews Dock including consideration of the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation, to provide a single, coordinated vehicle. The assessment will consider the integration of employment and housing sites, the development of a MedTech hub linked to

	established health and manufacturing strengths, and the potential to deliver other economic opportunities.
Hull City Centre Vision	Supporting and prioritising opportunities to grow Hull City Centre productivity and footfall, supporting high-skilled jobs with particular focus on the Ferensway Innovation Corridor and Myton Street districts at the heart of city centre transformation.
Bridlington Bay Opportunity Study	A chance to reimagine the growth potential of Bridlington Bay both on and offshore
Hull and East Yorkshire SME Alliance, backed by a £1m cross-sector strategy	Additional investment into direct support to SME 's directed by a co-created multi-year strategy
Small business grants programme	Continued support for small businesses through existing, locally delivered Business Growth services
HEYCA Innovation Programme	Resources to support the design and delivery of a coordinated programme of innovation support interventions in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy (Local Innovation Partnership Fund) • Manufacturing (Med-tech innovation programme) • Agri tech innovation programme • Smart Ports adoption <p>With a focus on local supply chain engagement and growth opportunities.</p>
Enhancing supply chain opportunities	Business support and development to connect and embed local businesses within value chain of growth driving industries
Backing an intelligence led business support programme	Continued backing for a range of locally delivered (non-grant) business support programmes where these have a proven positive impact. Over the next 12 months we will integrate and pivot these programmes to support emerging sector growth plans.

Delivery Plan - Big Play 3: Building skills and good work

Our approach to driving growth in this Big Play

This big play will follow the lead set out in the HEYCA gameplan that acknowledges the very strong link in Hull and East Yorkshire between health and well-being and economic inactivity – and the significant challenge that this presents. Too many people are economically inactive due to ill health, and too many young people who are not in employment, education and training – often also as a result of ill health. The work in this Big Play is therefore crucial to breaking cycles of economic inactivity, supporting economic growth and delivering social and economic inclusion.

Our delivery focus will be to tackle this challenge head on and ensure that all of Hull and East Yorkshire's people can see the opportunities available to them in the economy and access the training and other support they may need to progress in their work and careers.

All of this will be done through close joint working with employers, employer bodies, the education sector and in particular, the community and voluntary sector, which plays a crucial in enabling local reach and connection where that is not easily achieved by mainstream public services.

Our Local Growth Plan will be closely aligned with the employer led Local Skills Improvement Plan, ensuring that the LSIP is responsive to the sector framework, and establishes clear user journeys/pathways for people into the growth driving and growth potential industries and in ensuring the skills and recruitment needs of our growth enabling sectors are met.

Our focus here must be broad and deep, with support for basic employability skills through to the technical skills requirements of the sectors that can drive growth in our economy.

In line with our implementation framework, we will focus on:

- **Upgrading and value capture:** Skills aligned to higher-value roles; progression pathways within growth sectors
- **Energy capacity and enabling infrastructure:** Skills for energy and infrastructure delivery; workforce planning for enabling projects
- **Participation, progression and retention:** In-work progression programmes; integrated health, skills and employment approaches
- **Viability and delivery capacity:** Construction and delivery skills; use of local labour in enabling projects
- **Business capability and scaling:** Management and leadership skills; workforce capability development

- **National alignment and sequencing:** Alignment with national skills reform and workforce policy

Enabling Investments: Our priorities for attracting and directing public and private sector investment to tackle constraints to growth	
Investments	Summary
Goole College Regeneration	Boosting post 16 education in the region supporting the development of a skilled workforce developing specialisms in energy sector related roles.
Technical and Further Education Sufficiency and Expansion	Exploring the potential to enhance the sufficiency of the current technical education offer in the region, building on the successful work of Ron Dearing University Technical College
Social Investment Accelerator	A plan to attract more social investment to our region and communities through development of an accelerator programme to build partnerships and create growth aligned investable opportunities
Adult Skills Fund programme	£16m annual funding to support free or co-funded courses including basic English/maths, digital skills, community learning, and Level 3 "Free Courses for Jobs" to boost employment.
Careers Hubs	Continued support for partnerships between the Careers and Enterprise company, local schools, colleges, and businesses designed to improve careers education for young people.
Skills Boot Camps	Free, flexible training courses up to 16 weeks, designed to help adults (19+) gain in-demand skills for local employment, particularly in digital, construction, engineering, and HGV driving
Get Britain Working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect to Work • Breaking cycles of inactivity at neighbourhood level 	Programmes focused on breaking the cycle of low skills and worklessness across Hull and East Yorkshire – including a focus on the people and places that are furthest away from opportunity.

<p>(alongside Pride in Place initially)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEET and NEET prevention 	<p>This will include a focus on joined up service delivery (for example with health services) and prevention.</p>
<p>Pathways to Potential - Skills and employability programmes</p>	<p>Continued backing for a range of locally delivered (non-grant) skills and employability programmes where these have a proven positive impact. Over the next 12 months we will integrate and pivot these programmes to support emerging sector growth plans.</p>
<p>Health & Wellbeing Programme</p>	<p>Delivery of support and partnership work to remove health related barriers to work.</p>

Delivery Plan - Big Play 4: Connecting and enabling growth

Our approach to driving growth in this Big Play

The regional economic assessment identified a small number of system-level conditions that affect multiple sectors and places at once. These include labour market participation and skills matching, the viability of sites and premises, access to finance and scaling support, connectivity to jobs and markets, infrastructure capacity, and long-term resilience.

Our approach to tackling these issues will be to plan and deliver coordinated, place-sensitive action rather than isolated interventions. This will need to be sequenced, investable and aligned across partners.

It also includes mobilising the Combined Authority's relationship with Government to work on a set of shared priorities both within the region – particularly access to energy and nature mitigation and other site readiness challenges – and to resolve constraints that exist beyond Hull and East Yorkshire.

Our relationships with partners across the Humber will also be crucial here, in addressing key factors which related to our location and natural environment. This includes work to support and provide leadership for the Humber 2100 strategy which has a crucial role to play in the future prospects and stewardship of our place.

In line with our implementation framework, we will focus on:

- **Upgrading and value capture:** High-quality employment space; infrastructure that supports advanced economic activity
- **Energy capacity and enabling infrastructure:** Strategic infrastructure investment; site servicing and remediation
- **Participation, progression and retention:** Transport access to employment; place-based support to improve participation
- **Viability and delivery capacity:** Flood mitigation; site remediation; infrastructure-led place making
- **Business capability and scaling:** Digital infrastructure; digital adoption; innovation diffusion across places
- **National alignment and sequencing:** Coordination with national transport, resilience and infrastructure investment

Growth Driving Investments: opportunities for private sector investment that can turn the dial on our regional growth	
Investments	Summary
Housing Delivery Plan	Bringing forward opportunities for over 5400 new homes on high-potential growth impact sites across the region as part of our accelerated housing pipeline and Strategic Place Partnership, including East Bank Urban Village, Albion Square and North West Gateway, Howden, Bridlington.
Enabling Investments: Our priorities for attracting and directing public and private sector investment to tackle constraints to growth	
Rail upgrades plan	Feasibility study to identify a package of practical rail upgrades for the region and to explore new funding models to accelerate them
Local Transport Plan strategic road improvements	Unlocking our road network through delivery of a strategic programme of road improvements which serves to underpin key growth priorities
Brownfield delivery funding	Strengthen deliverability of our housing pipeline by securing and investing Brownfield Land Release Fund and Brownfield Housing Fund for the region
Targeted coastal investment	Provide targeted investment drawing on priorities from the Coastal Economy Plan
Local Transport Plan	Setting out a rich picture of our transport future that can unlock, guide and sequence major investment over the long-term.
Strategic Place Partnership	Bringing key stakeholders together to ensure a coherent approach to how our place develops and performs.
Strategic leadership on flood management and environmental protection	Developing the CA's key local brokerage role on these critical issues for Hull and East Yorkshire's people and economy and landscape, including maximising our nature assets and support for Local Nature Recovery.

Summary table of interventions types across the four Big Plays

Intervention framework priority	Powering our industrial future	Backing local business	Building skills and good work	Connecting and enabling growth
Upgrading and value capture	Support for higher-value manufacturing and industrial processes and businesses; supply chain development	Scaling and export support; investment readiness and management capability programmes	Skills aligned to higher-value roles; progression pathways within growth sectors	High-quality employment space; infrastructure that supports advanced economic activity
Energy capacity and enabling infrastructure	Grid coordination; connection planning; integration of industrial energy systems	Support for firms affected by connection constraints; guidance on navigating energy systems	Skills for energy and infrastructure delivery; workforce planning for enabling projects	Strategic infrastructure investment; site servicing and remediation
Participation, progression and retention	Entry routes into industrial sectors; workforce retention initiatives	Support for inclusive employment practices; workforce development for SMEs	In-work progression programmes; integrated health, skills and employment approaches	Transport access to employment; place-based support to improve participation
Viability and delivery capacity	De-risking strategic industrial sites; coordinated planning and infrastructure delivery	Affordable and flexible business premises; town centre and local employment space	Construction and delivery skills; use of local labour in enabling projects	Flood mitigation; site remediation; infrastructure-led place making
Business capability and scaling	Productivity and process improvement support	Access to finance; leadership and management development	Management and leadership skills; workforce capability development	Digital infrastructure; digital adoption; innovation diffusion across places
National alignment and sequencing	Engagement with national energy, industrial and infrastructure policy	Alignment with national business support, finance and innovation programmes	Alignment with national skills reform and workforce policy	Coordination with national transport, resilience and infrastructure investment

Managing Delivery

The Combined Authority will implement the Local Growth Plan through a clear and consistent delivery approach that links strategic choices to practical action through named senior officer leads and clear governance.

Delivery will be built around the four Big Plays and will be organised through a small number of delivery routes that can be scaled and coordinated across partners.

Our approach will be to ensure that we bring all the Combined Authority's powers, resources and relationships to bear in creating a step change in delivery – showing the real impact of devolution and partnership.

Understanding impacts and direction of travel

In understanding the impact that each Big Play will have, we cannot set a forecast or make guarantees; economic and social outcomes are shaped by global markets, national policy, private investment decisions and delivery capacity across multiple partners, of which the Combined Authority is only one. But we can set out the intended trajectory for change, grounded in the current evidence base and aligned with the outcomes established through the HEYCA Gameplan.

The Combined Authority will use a small number of directional impact ambitions to guide delivery of the Local Growth Plan over the next ten years. These ambitions will reflect the scale of change needed to support the Gameplan outcomes, will be grounded in our evidence base, and will require sustained partnership with government.

We will also consider including a small number of indicative milestones over the first five years of the Plan. These will focus on sustained movement in the right direction, rather than end-states, including improvements in things like:

- earnings and productivity relative to comparator areas
- increased delivery and take-up of investable employment sites and business space
- stronger participation and progression outcomes aligned to priority skills pathways
- improved access to opportunity through transport and place-based
- housing delivery

Social value and sustainable growth

The HEYCA Gameplan is clear that growth in Hull and East Yorkshire must be support a wide range of outcomes in order to drive broad prosperity that is visible in peoples' everyday lives. This means putting both economic and social value at the heart of how the Combined Authority makes the four Big Plays set out in this Local Growth Plan.

We will work with partners to develop an approach to social value that builds on national best practice and the strong track record of social value practice already established locally. This will ensure that devolved funding and convening power generate measurable, lasting social, economic and environmental impact.

Our work will focus on the following areas of activity and social benefit:

1. Good jobs, fair work and progression – taking steps to:

- Embed local labour and skills requirements within major capital and regeneration projects.
- Align investment to clear progression pathways from pre-entry through to higher technical and professional roles.
- Integrate the Local Skills Improvement Plan with sector growth plans.
- Strengthen the link between health and work, reducing inactivity linked to long-term sickness.
- Explore the role of a Good Work Charter to encourage fair pay, workforce development and inclusive employment practices.

2. Stronger local businesses and supply chains – taking steps to:

- Increase SME participation in supply chains linked to industrial, housing and infrastructure projects.
- Use commissioning frameworks that encourage local value capture and social impact.
- Support businesses to meet procurement standards and scale into new markets.
- Improve access to finance and innovation support.

3. Inclusive places and community benefit – taking steps to:

- Link housing delivery to affordability, design quality and access to services.
- Improve connectivity for rural and coastal communities.
- Embed community engagement and volunteering within regeneration schemes.
- Align flood resilience and nature recovery with long-term community wellbeing.

4. Health, wellbeing and participation – taking steps to:

- Join up commissioning across health, skills and employment services.
- Encourage employers to provide early occupational health and workplace adjustment support.
- Adopt neighbourhood-level approaches to reducing worklessness.
- Invest in sport, culture and volunteering as drivers of wellbeing and participation.

5. Environmental sustainability and intergenerational value – taking steps to:

- Align growth with flood resilience and Humber 2100 adaptation planning.
- Support delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Promote low-carbon transition and climate resilience in industrial and housing programmes.
- Integrate environmental value into business cases and investment decisions.

Measuring and Managing Social Value

Hull and East Yorkshire benefits from an established and nationally recognised approach to measuring social value, led by East Riding of Yorkshire Council through the Social Value Engine (SVE).

The SVE calculates Social Return on Investment (SROI) by applying financial proxy values to outcomes generated by activities. It includes a library of over 800 validated social value proxies, place-based and sector-specific data, external research integration and alignment with recognised frameworks including the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Embedding Social Value Across the Big Plays

Social value will be integrated at strategic, programme and project level, ensuring that growth is inclusive, sustainable and locally beneficial.

Through devolution, Hull and East Yorkshire now has the tools not only to grow the economy, but to shape how that growth is delivered – creating measurable social, economic and environmental impact for communities across the region.

Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan

*Powering our industrial
future*

Financial implications of LGP commitments

1. Introduction

This Appendix outlines the cost of the projects outlined in the Local Growth Plan (LGP).

The projects included in this list are those that support the four LGP Big Plays where they are **not already funded from existing grant schemes or the revenue budget** and, accordingly, will need to be funded from Local Growth Funding and the Mayoral Investment Fund.

Alongside these items, the LGP also provides a policy framework to guide allocation of Transport, Skills and projected future Housing funded programmes, as well as external investment from the private sector, central government and other partners. This wider funding landscape is not considered in this analysis.

Commitments in the LGP have been selected from a range of sources including:

- Gameplan priorities
- Submissions to the HEYCA pipeline harvest exercise undertaken in Autumn 2025
- Opportunities identified for the 2025 Regional Investment Summit
- Business case submissions to HEYCA in relation to the Local Growth Fund
- Opportunities emerging from the Regional Economic Assessment and deep dives
- Feedback from consultation

Commitments were prioritised based on their strategic alignment with the Big Plays and potential impact on growth.

In approving the Local Growth Plan, the HEYCA Board are prioritising these projects for development and delivery. Specific funding decisions will be taken at a later date in line with the adopted budget and the Combined Authority's assurance framework.

Any project or opportunity not included in LGP may still be funded in future, should it be brought forward through the investment pipeline.

2. Revenue implications

The analysis below summarises the total revenue impact of the delivery commitments in the plan, the source of funding and the remaining funds to be allocated.

Table 1: Summary of revenue implications of Local Growth Plan commitments

	26/27 £k	27/28 £k	28/29 £k	29/30 £k	Total
Total revenue commitments in LGP	7157	2111	1624	993	11885
Remaining HEYCA funds after commitments	4138	7863	8597	6880	27478

The Investment Fund has been adjusted for the additional capacity funding announced on 9 February (£4.4m over 3 years). There are also budgeted carried forward reserves of £6m revenue which are uncommitted. These are in addition to the position set out in the table above.

This analysis fully reflects the Local Growth fund recommendations in Appendix 3 Table 2.

The specific revenue commitments are set out below.

Table 2: Breakdown of revenue commitments in plan

	Big Play reference	26/27 £k	27/28 £k	28/29 £k	29/30 £k	Total
Innovation fund scoping, mapped to growth. To define future investment.	1&2	500	0	0	0	500
Mayoral feasibility fund supporting a range of studies over 2 years.	All	1000	500	0	0	1500
HEYCA sector and investment leads and development of sector growth plans.**	1	700	714	728	743	2885
SME alliance and cross sector strategy*	2	343	330	330	0	990
Cross sector business support, future years programmes to be scoped*	2	1038	0	0	0	1039
Goole College regeneration revenue support	3	317	317	316	0	950
Careers hub support, future years programmes to be scoped	3	140	0	0	0	140
Pathways to potential (skills and employability), future years programmes to be scoped*	3	2869	0	0	0	2869
Funding for NEET support and prevention programmes	3	250	250	250	250	1000
Total		7157	2111	1624	993	11885

*Items reflected in the LGF funding recommendation (appendix 3)

** Includes £500k reflected in the LGF funding recommendation (appendix 3) plus £250k topslice per budget

3. Capital implications

The capital impact is set out in the table below.

Table 3: Summary of capital implications of Local Growth Plan

	26/27 £k	27/28 £k	28/29 £k	29/30 £k	Total
Total capital commitments in Local Growth Plan	2600	289	200	0	3089
Remaining HEYCA funds after commitments	4090	6401	9490	11690	31671

The commitment relates to two projects which are shown below.

Further capital investments will arise through the emerging HEYCA investment pipeline in alignment with the LGP priorities and the agreed investment principles. There are also

commitments which are to be funded through Transport and projected housing budgets which are not listed here.

Table 4: Breakdown of Capital commitments in Local Growth Plan

	Big Play reference	26/27 £k	27/28 £k	28/29 £k	29/30 £k	Total
Small business grants programme, future years programmes to be scoped*	2	1000	0	0	0	1000
Goole College Regeneration Capital funding	3	1600	289	200	0	2089
Total		2600	289	200	0	3089

*Items reflected in the LGF funding recommendation (appendix 3)

Local Growth Fund 2026/27 – including transitional support for business and employment support

1. Purpose of the Local Growth Fund Annex and Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this annex is to provide the mayor with background on the UK Government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) and to set out the options available to HEYCA for the deployment of the 2026/27 allocation.
- 1.2 The Local Growth Fund (England), announced in November 2025, introduces a consolidated, flexible funding settlement for mayoral areas, replacing fragmented short term funding streams. It is designed to align investment with locally agreed Local Growth Plans and to support infrastructure, business growth and skills development that drive productivity and economic resilience. Hull and East Yorkshire has been allocated £7 million for 2026/27, comprising £5 million revenue and £2 million capital.
- 1.3 HEYCA Local Growth Fund proposals and project proposals received by Local Authority partners currently exceed available revenue funding, this paper pertains to the recommendations for allocation on the funding for 26/27 made in the main report.

2. Background and Funding Position

- 2.1 Local Growth Fund (England) is the latest in a line of external funding sources which have been allocated and utilised to drive local business growth and to support disengaged people back into the work place.

2.2 *UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2022 to 2025, extended into 2025/26)*

After EU exit, UKSPF became the main replacement funding stream for local growth and inclusion, structured around communities and place, support for local business, and people and skills. Hull and East Riding each received a multi-year allocation, including core UKSPF and Multiply (adult numeracy), which supported a large proportion of local employability, skills outreach and community-based delivery. From its government announcement the programme was well communicated as being a three year programme, however 2024 the government extended this programme into 25/26 whilst new policy approaches were developed. In Hull and East Yorkshire UKSPF was worth £9,410,471 for the 25/26 financial year, with £6,533,788 allocated for revenue activity and £2,876,694 capital.

Local Growth Fund (England) from April 2026

- 2.3 In November 2025, the Government announced a new Local Growth Fund (England) aimed at moving away from fragmented, short term competitive pots towards a single, flexible settlement aligned to Local Growth Plans and led by Mayoral Strategic Authorities. For Hull and East Yorkshire, the published allocation for 2026/27 is £5m revenue (RDEL) and £2m capital (CDEL), total £7m, with indicative allocations for later years also set out. Initially at the announcement of the funding it was suggested that Local Growth Fund would be a replacement for UKSPF funding, however subsequent guidance from MHCLG has confirmed that strategic fit for this fund would be judged against the Combined Authorities Local Growth Fund and revenue expenditure can only be used to fund employability and business support activity.

3. **Funding Requirement/ requests for LGF in 26/27**

- 3.1 As the Local Growth Fund is intended to support the delivery of the Local Growth Plan HEYCA have developed a series of interventions including business integration and SME business grants fund which are necessary to deliver the LGF.
- 3.2 HEYCA have been aware since the start of the 25/26 financial year of the ‘cliff edge’ issue created by the non-continuation of UKSPF revenue funding this creates a risk of local capacity being lost. Both Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council were asked in November 2025 to submit proposals to address this cliff edge issues. Proposals were submitted to HEYCA in mid January 2026 for consideration setting out their ask on how to spend this allocation of LGF and secure future delivery capacity after initial consideration a range of clarification questions were raised by HEYCA and these have subsequently been answered by the LAs.
- 3.3

Two proposals have been submitted by the Local Authorities; Pathways to Potential (an employability programme) and Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Business Support Programme (a business support programme). The ask has been made for **1 years funding** for each programme.

The overall funding ask is summarised in table 1

Table 1 Ask of LGF fund for 26/27.

Category	Programme / Item	Revenue £k	Capital £k	Notes
Local Growth Plan	SME alliance and £1m cross sector strategy -Mayoral Ask	330	0	Build on and adapt the business support business case
	Small business grants programme – Mayoral Ask	0	1000	As per Business Support business case
	HEYCA Local Growth Plan Delivery capacity	750	0	Capacity and resources for delivery of Local Growth Plan
Partner Projects	Pathways to Potential	4628	0	1 Year Programme based on previous UKSPF delivery
	Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Business Support Programme	1675	0	1 Year Programme based on previous UKSPF delivery
Total		7383	1000	
Funding Available		5000	2000	
Difference		-2383	1000	

- 3.4 To summarise total ask for 26/27 of LGF revenue include:

- Employability and skills support from local authorities £4.628 million
- Business support programme £1.675 million
- HEYCA Local Growth Plan Delivery resource £1.08 million

3.5 Total revenue demand identified is £7.383 million against £5 million available, leaving a shortfall of £2.383 million.

3.6 Capital proposals include a £1 million small business grants programme to be developed within HEYCA, which sits within the £2 million capital envelope.

4. **Recommended Allocations**

4.1 Based on the revenue asks above, a number of options were identified and assessed by officers.

4.2 The assessment of these included the implications for delivery capacity, economic impact and financial risk. The preferred approach is outlined in the recommendations made in the main paper.

4.3 The recommended option provides an approach which allows HEYCA to fund the identified requirements for delivery of the Local Growth Plan with remaining funding to allocated for delivery of generalist business support and employability support to both Local Authority partners.

4.4 Funding to Local Authorities allows an orderly transition to new delivery approaches whilst allowing local capacity to be retained which can be used for future delivery of other HEYCA priorities such business support for the Local Growth Plan and employability support for the upcoming Connect To Work Programme for which the MCA is the accountably body.

4.5 In order for HEYCA to retain strong management control over the LGF amount allocated to Local Authorities an approach is recommended where funding is allocated for six months initially with a second six months of funding to be allocated on the satisfactory presentation of an effective exit strategy for these two programmes. Overall, a maximum of 62% of ask for each programme will be allocated (31% for first 6 months, and 31% for a further six months at the discretion of HEYCA, allowing the time for providers to respond to the new policy framework established by the LGP).

Table 2 Recommended Allocation of Resource for 26/27

Category	Programme / Item	Revenue £k	Capital £k	Notes
Local Growth Plan	SME alliance and £1m cross sector strategy - Mayoral Ask	343	0	Build on and adapt the business support business case
	Small business grants programme – Mayoral Ask	0	1000	As per Business Support business case
	HEYCA Local Growth Plan Delivery capacity	750	0	Capacity and resources for delivery of Local Growth Plan
Partner Projects	Pathways to Potential	1434 for first 6 months & conditional 1434 for second 6 months. Potential total- 2869	0	

	Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Business Support Programme	519 for first 6 months & conditional 519 for second 6 months. Potential total- 1038	0	
Total		5000	1000	
Funding Available		5000	2000	
Difference		0	1000	

Table 3 – Recommended Outputs for Partner Projects - Supporting Local Business Outputs

HEY Business Support Programme Outputs	First 6 Months	Second 6 Months (dependent on agreement and achieving outputs)	Potential total for 12months
Number of Businesses Engaged	310	310	620
Businesses receiving Non-Financial Support	155	155	310
Potential Entrepreneurs Assisted to be Enterprise Ready	37.2	37.2	74
Jobs Created	10	10	19
Jobs Safeguarded	10	10	19
Number of New Businesses Created	10	10	19

Table 4 – Recommended Outputs for Partner Projects - Pathways to Potential Outputs

Outputs	First 6 Months	Second 6 Months (dependent on agreement and achieving outputs)	Potential total for 12months
Total Participants	679	679	1357
Breakdown of total participants			
Participants unemployed	450	450	899
Participants inactive	87	87	174
Participants employed	142	142	284

Equalities Impact Assessment – Local Growth Plan

1. Introduction

As a public sector organisation HEYCA is required to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. This means that we need to carry out equality analysis of new projects, policies or services and changes to existing projects, policies or services. The analysis should identify what positive or negative equality impacts the project, policy or service may have and if mitigating actions are needed, what these would be.

2. Purpose and scope

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) accompanies the Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan (LGP). Its purpose is to set out how equalities considerations have been built into the development, strategic direction and delivery plans of the LGP, in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Accordingly, this EIA provides a proportionate assessment of likely equalities implications as they are understood at this stage. Full Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) will be undertaken for major plans and programmes as part of business case development and to support consideration of specific project approvals, funding schemes or interventions arising from the Plan.

3. Growth Plan framework and equality impact considerations

The Local Growth Plan focuses on identifying the key opportunities for economic growth, the key constraints to growth and an approach to delivery with key investments that can drive the economy forward to deliver benefits for people and places across Hull and East Yorkshire.

The process of developing the Local Growth Plan has produced and explored evidence and priorities in four main areas:

- Understanding the region's growth driving, growth potential and enabling sectors
- Understanding the key constraints to growth across place, people and business

- Identifying a pipeline of key investments that will generate the economic impact and momentum that we are seeking
- Identifying shared priorities with Government designed to support delivery of the Growth Plan, maximising opportunities and removing constraints

Flowing from this analysis and development work, the focus of the Growth Plan is on four 'Big Plays' that form the framework for planned activity. These are:

- **Powering the Industrial Future:** Strengthening the investability and productivity of our industrial economy, including energy, manufacturing, ports and logistics, and agri-food.
- **Backing Local Business:** Improving business performance across the whole economy, with practical support for start-up, survival, scaling, adoption of new tools and methods, and access to finance.
- **Skills and Good Work:** Raising participation, improving progression, and strengthening job quality, including practical action on health and other barriers to work
- **Connecting and enabling growth:** Improving transport connectivity and reliability, and secure investment in flood defences, housing and the infrastructure and commercial space needed to grow.

Each of these areas of focus presents potential equalities impacts that have been considered in developing the final Plan. These impacts, which are overwhelmingly positive are set out in the template EIA below. This includes reference to how the Local Growth Plan is expected to impact on equalities in overall terms and how it should impact people with protected characteristics.

4. Next steps

Further programme-level EIAs will be carried out for specific interventions framed by the LGP. This approach ensures that equality considerations are embedded throughout the ongoing development and delivery of the Local Growth Plan.

HEYCA LOCAL GROWTH PLAN
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposal Information

Title of project, policy or service: HEYCA Local Growth Plan	
The proposal is a:	
Policy	
The proposal is:	
New	
Does this proposal require a Combined Authority Board decision?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Date the EIA process started:	October 2025

Section 1 – What do we want to do?

What are the aims and objective of this proposal?

This EIA has been produced in respect of the Hull and East Yorkshire Local Growth Plan, which is a key strategic engagement process and document that will guide the Combined Authority and partners approach to driving economic growth in the region for the period 2026 – 2036.

National Local Growth Plan guidance

Local Growth Plans provide a long-term 10-year strategic framework for growth in their region. They are produced and owned by Mayoral Strategic Authorities, focused on the holistic needs and opportunities in their region, and should set out the priorities where the authority will focus its devolved powers and funding to drive productivity and growth.

Local Growth Plans highlight the areas that will benefit from collaboration and joint working between Mayoral Strategic Authorities and central government, with the plans identifying “shared priorities” to underpin joint working. Growth Plans also set out an economic vision for the region and identify regional sector strengths, informed by the Industrial Strategy. They also identify opportunities for Mayors to work together in cross-regional collaboration. They will also ensure national and regional government are working together as critical delivery partners and enable communities to hold Mayors to account for delivering growth and change.

HEYCA Growth Plan – commitment to inclusion and equality

The Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority is producing its first Local Growth Plan. This is focused on identifying the key opportunities to drive growth and also to remove constraints. It sets out a pipeline of investments that are designed to generate economic prosperity for places and people across the region in an inclusive way that also tackles the disadvantages and barriers to economic and social inclusion that some people face.

The overarching objective of the Local Growth Plan is to drive economic growth and prosperity in Hull and East Yorkshire. The plan frames prosperity as broader than economic output alone. It links to wider social and environmental outcomes such as good jobs, health, housing and connectivity. There are positive opportunities to use growth to reduce inequalities in income, health and access to opportunity.

However, there is also a risk that without targeted action and focus on equalities, the benefits of growth could be unevenly distributed. Ensuring that evidence and decision-making take account of different experiences and needs across protected groups will therefore be critical to achieving inclusive prosperity.

Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

The HEYCA Workforce Businesses Partner Organisations

Residents / Service Users / Beneficiaries / Customers

The potential impact upon these stakeholders will be assessed in more detail as specific investment proposals and business cases are considered in the implementation phase.

Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal have any impact, positive or negative, on people with protected characteristics?

Yes –

Please complete the remaining sections

No – If you are certain there will be no Equality impact, the remaining sections do not need to be completed. Please state why no EIA is required below, sign and send this form to

The Local Growth Plan evidence base highlights four sectors identified as having the strongest potential for growth. These sectors employ a significant share of the local workforce and have strong links to skills, transport and housing priorities.

As growth policy develops, it will be important to ensure that new opportunities within these sectors are accessible to all residents, including women, disabled people, minority ethnic groups and older workers, who are currently under-represented in some technical and higher-value occupations.

There will also be a need to consider how smaller firms and social enterprises in foundational sectors can benefit from investment and supply-chain opportunities.

The evidence also identifies a range of interconnected barriers that limit productivity and inclusion. Each has potential equalities implications.

- Place: transport connectivity and digital access are uneven across the region, affecting rural and coastal communities and residents without

access to private vehicles. Affordable and accessible housing remains a challenge for lower-income groups and people with disabilities.

- **People:** skills, health and participation gaps are influenced by structural inequalities. Women, carers, disabled people and some minority ethnic communities face higher barriers to accessing training, employment and progression. Health-related inactivity also affects opportunities to participate in work and civic life.
- **Business:** small and medium-sized enterprises face constraints in premises, leadership, and access to finance. These issues can affect the diversity of business ownership and limit opportunities for local entrepreneurship and inclusive procurement.

Section 2 – Data and Evidence

This section covers the data and evidence we have used to understand the Equality Impact of the Local Growth Plan.

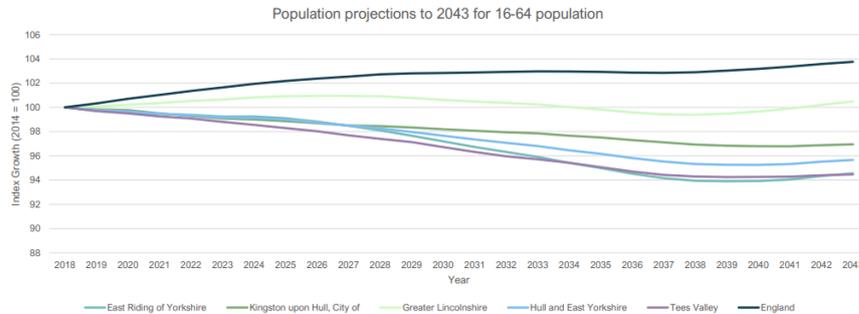
All protected characteristics	Data Sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Regional Economic Assessment and growth driving sector deep dives using a range of underpinning, industry standard economic data sets • Broader evidence base, including economic geography, labour-market participation, productivity, infrastructure and deprivation • Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025)
Age (Young people)	
Age (Older people)	
Disability	
Sex	
Sexual orientation	
Pregnancy / maternity	
Gender reassignment	
Race	
Religion or Belief	
Marriage & Civil Partnership	

Summary of evidence – economic context for Growth Plan

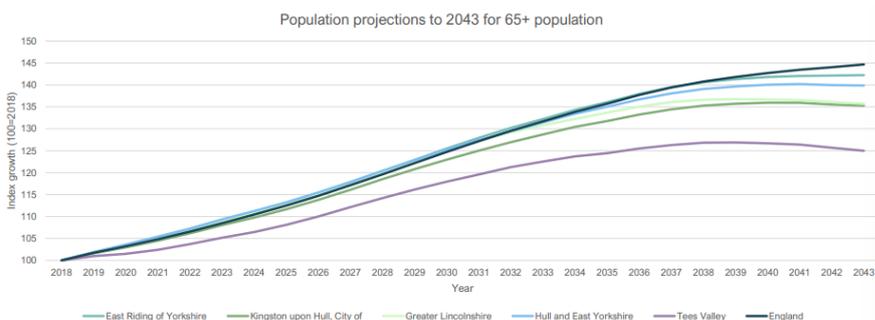
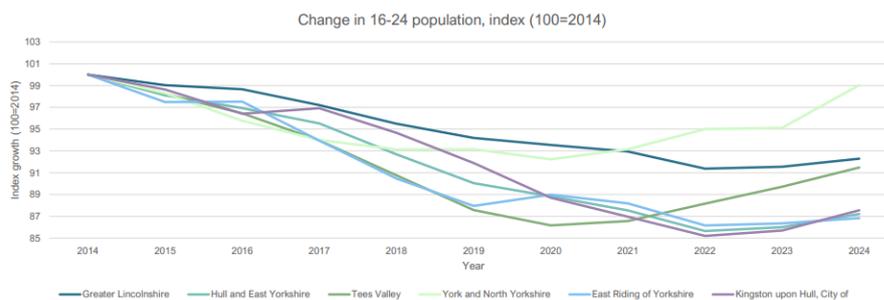
Hull and East Yorkshire has a population of just over 631,000 and is one of the smaller combined authority areas in England. The age structure shows important differences within the area. Hull has a relatively younger population and a higher share of working-age residents, while the East Riding has a much older profile, with more than a quarter of residents aged 65 and over. Over the past decade the total population has grown modestly, but this growth has been driven mainly by older age groups.

16-64 population projections

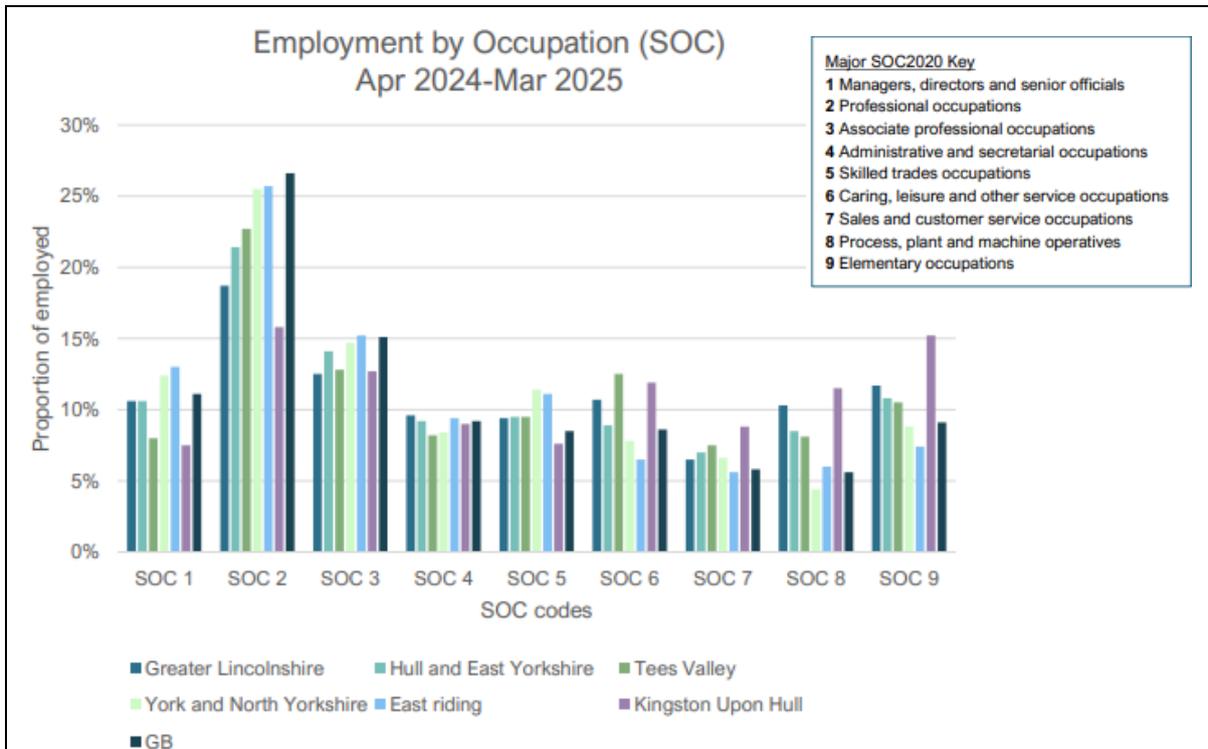
Hull and East Yorkshire's working-age population is projected to decline over the next two decades, falling by around 4% by 2043.



The number of residents aged 16–24 has fallen by more than 10 percent, and the working-age population is projected to decline slightly over the next two decades while the population aged over 65 continues to rise.



The labour-market participation is mixed, with a range of occupations, with above average process, plant and machine operatives and elementary occupations in Hull, while below average in the East Riding. On the other hand, Hull has a low number of roles in management and professional occupations, with the East Riding having a high number of roles, with the East Riding more in line with UK averages.

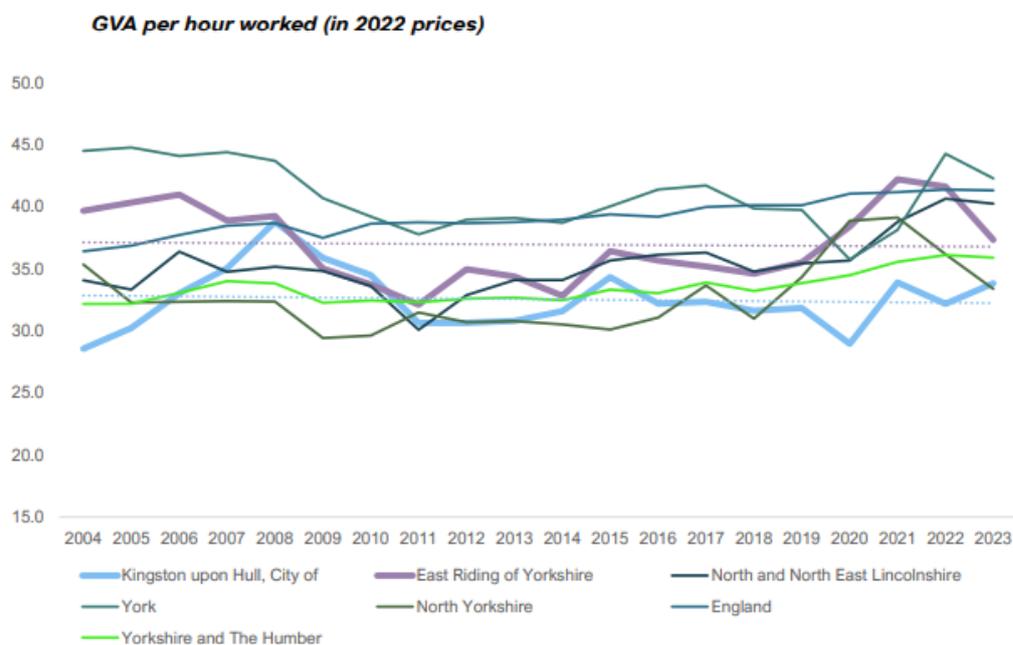


Overall economic activity is relatively high compared with the national average, but unemployment remains elevated in Hull and a significant share of residents are economically inactive. Long-term sickness is the largest reason for inactivity, affecting more than a third of inactive people and representing a major constraint on labour supply.

Type of economic inactivity	Number in HEYCA	Proportion of economic inactive in HEYCA	Proportion in UK	Annual Growth	UK	Long term growth (2018-2025)	UK
Students	12,900	18%	27%	-27%	2%	-27%	3%
Looking after family/home	11,100	15%	18%	-23%	-3%	-38%	-20%
Temporary sick	1,100	2%	2%	-76%	21%	-39%	19%
Long-term sick	26,300	37%	28%	-15%	4%	26%	26%
Retired	12,900	18%	13%	9%	-5%	11%	0%
Other	7,500	10%	11%	-36%	2%	-5%	3%

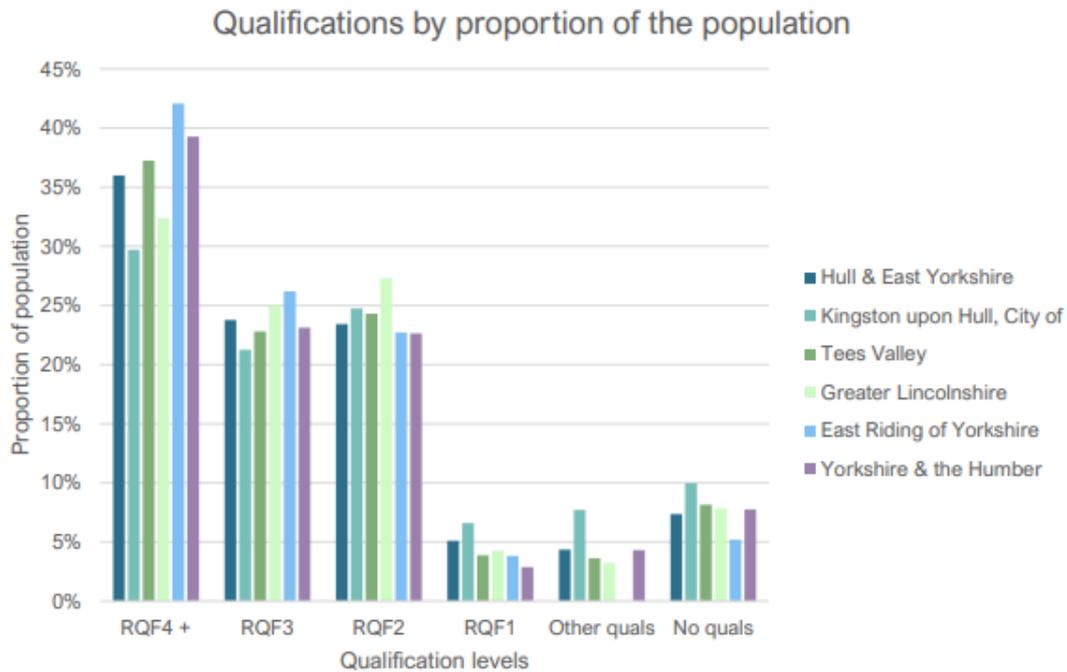
Employment rates have improved over time, yet differences between places remain clear, with stronger outcomes in the East Riding than in Hull.

	HEYCA	Hull	East Riding	GB	Tees Valley	York and North Yorkshire	Greater Lincolnshire
Economic activity rate (%)	80.2	77.6	82.5	78.5	75.1	80.0	75.2
Employment rate (%)	76.3	72.9	79.3	75.4	71.9	78.6	72.7
Unemployment rate (%)	4.8	6.1	3.8	4.0	4.3	1.7	3.4
Economic inactivity (%)	19.8	22.4	17.5	21.5	24.9	20.0	24.8

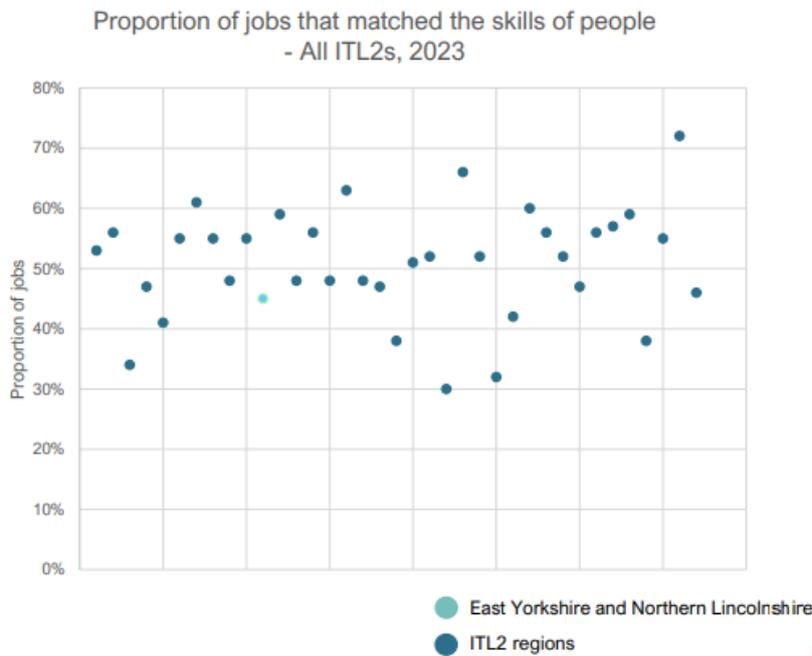


Skills and qualifications also vary across the area. Hull has a lower proportion of residents with higher-level qualifications and a larger share with low or no qualifications compared with the East Riding and regional averages. Across the wider sub-region, the workforce is concentrated in lower and mid-skill occupations,

with fewer people employed in professional or managerial roles than seen nationally.



Source: ONS annual population survey

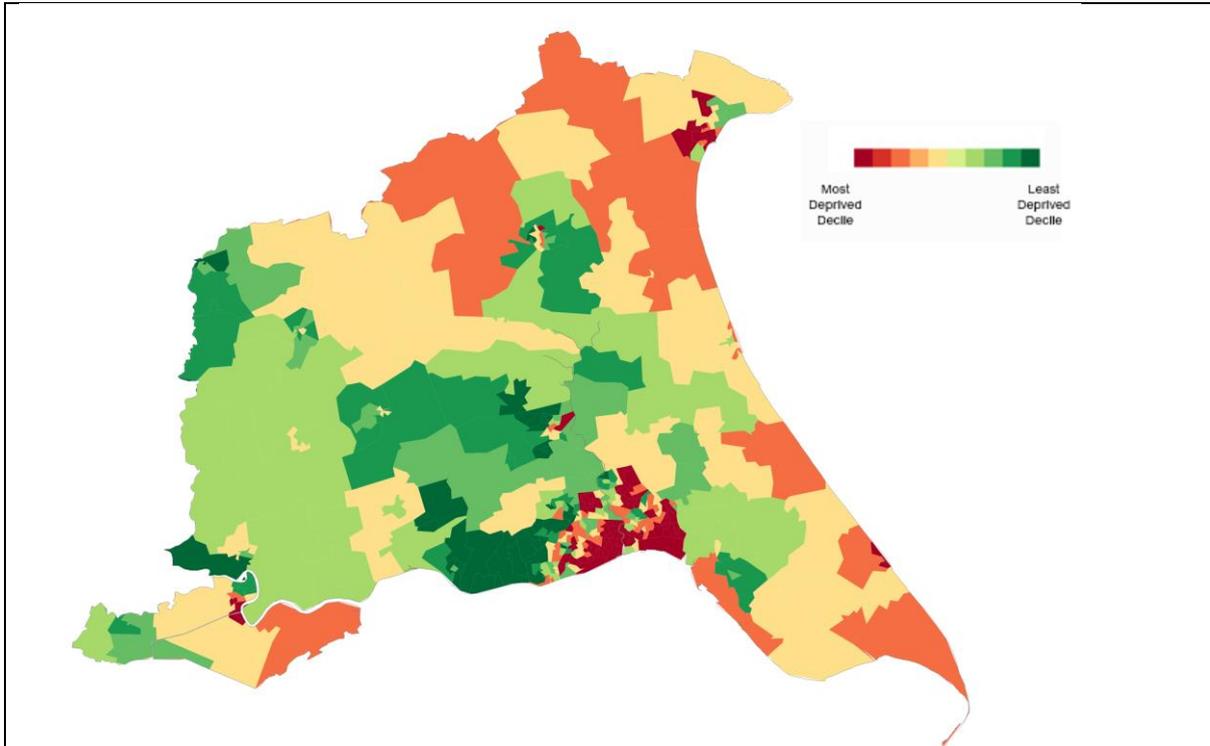


This occupational structure reflects the area’s industrial base and contributes to lower average earnings and productivity.

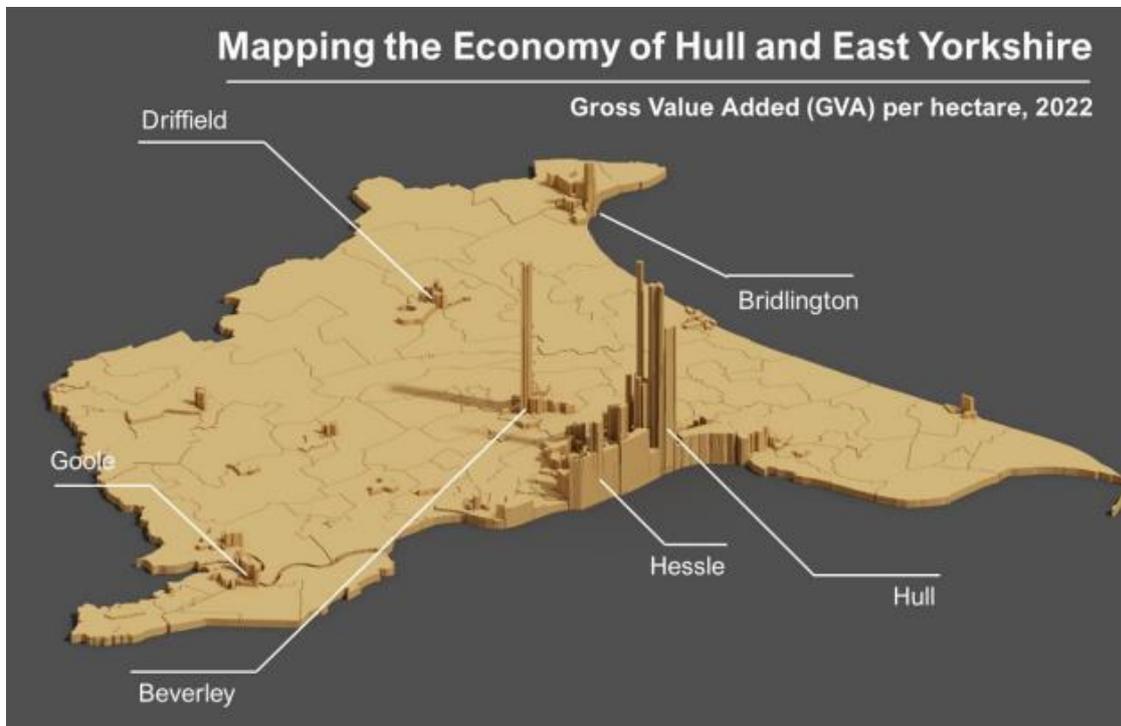
Pay levels for both residents and workplaces are below UK averages, and patterns of commuting mean that higher-paid jobs are often filled by people living outside Hull, while many local residents benefit less from these earnings.



Living conditions and inequality remain significant challenges. Hull ranks among the most deprived local authorities in England, with 15 out of 21 wards in the most deprived 10% nationally, while deprivation in the East Riding is far lower but still present in some coastal and urban areas, with ranked 126 out 153. Despite these challenges, Hull remains the main centre of employment and economic activity within the region, drawing workers from surrounding areas.



IMD map 2025



Overall, the evidence shows a population that is ageing, losing younger residents, and facing health-related inactivity, skills gaps, and inequality.

Improving participation, skills, health, and access to better-paid work will be central to improving living standards and supporting future economic growth across Hull and East Yorkshire.

How have you involved communities and groups that could be affected?

The Local Growth Plan has been developed through a combination of economic evidence gathering and stakeholder engagement and consultation. This has included a Phase 1 Economic Evidence Base and a Stage 1 open consultation process receiving responses from local authorities, education and skills providers, universities, VCSE organisations and private-sector bodies and private individuals.

Consultation feedback highlighted the importance of inclusive growth, addressing rural and coastal geographies, and ensuring a clear relationship between evidence, sector priorities and delivery.

There has also been regular and ongoing engagement with local authorities and elected members of the two constituent councils who are portfolio holders for key areas of delivery of HEYCA's wider Gameplan objectives.

Consultation on the Growth Plan has included several rounds of Scrutiny by elected members, and direct engagement with representatives of the community and voluntary sector across Hull and East Riding and key community organisations involved in community level employability and skills, which is a key focus of the plan.

Further engagement will take place as delivery plans, investment programmes and implementation arrangements are developed.

Are there any gaps in the evidence base?

The evidence base gives a clear picture of Hull and East Yorkshire's economy. It shows how different sectors perform in terms of productivity, jobs and growth, as well as levels of employment, skills shortages, limits in infrastructure and investment, and differences in deprivation across places.

The evidence base has not at this stage covered analysis relating to all groups with protected characteristics and how inequalities overlap, and what impact specific programmes may have on equality during delivery.

Some data will require updating and therefore only limited conclusions are drawn about on impacts on certain groups with protected characteristics.

As the Local Growth Plan moves into implementation, more monitoring, engagement and data collection will be developed.

Section 3 – What impact could the proposal have?

Assessment of potential impacts across protected characteristics:

Equality Impact Analysis
Age: Young People
<p>Evidence</p> <p>Barriers to young people in Hull and East Yorkshire are the high levels of economic inactivity, persistent health issues and higher than average numbers of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), with these issues impacting young people’s ability to achieve aims and support the economy.</p> <p>Currently, young people are also negatively impacted by poor transport connectivity, lack of high skilled work and shortage in skills relating to digital technologies, impacting on ability to retain young people in the region, including graduates. The Growth Plan’s focus on transport connections and creation of pathways to good work in growth driving sectors will aims to address these concerns</p>
<p>Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:</p> <p>Yes. The Local Growth Plan is expected to have positive impact on young people as a demographic, seeking to align skills and jobs, improve transport connections, increase neighbourhood integration and improve educational prospects. This includes a specific focus on technical education and prevention of young people becoming NEET.</p> <p>This should, improve skills participation and progression, and create higher-value employment opportunities is likely to improve access to good work and long-term career pathways for young people.</p>
<p>Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:</p> <p>Yes, the evidence base and our engagement and consultation has identified that access to technical education and pathways to skills and work and progression for young people can support greater social mobility and inter-generational opportunity across communities.</p> <p>The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are</p>

furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact

Yes No

Young People - The risk that without targeted action to address the number of NEET young people and to provide opportunities to enable local young people to access good work in a thriving economy, the area's young people will be unable to benefit sufficiently from growth.

Equality Impact Analysis

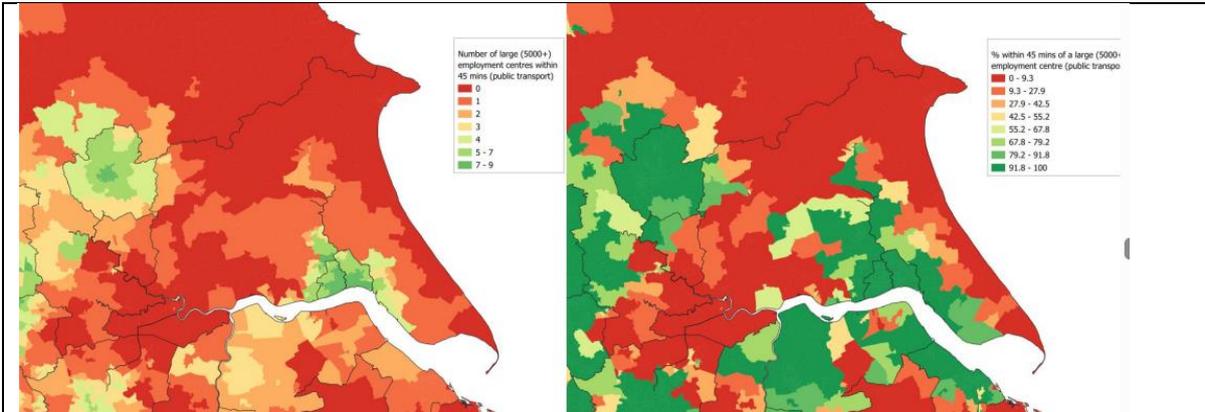
Age: older people

Evidence

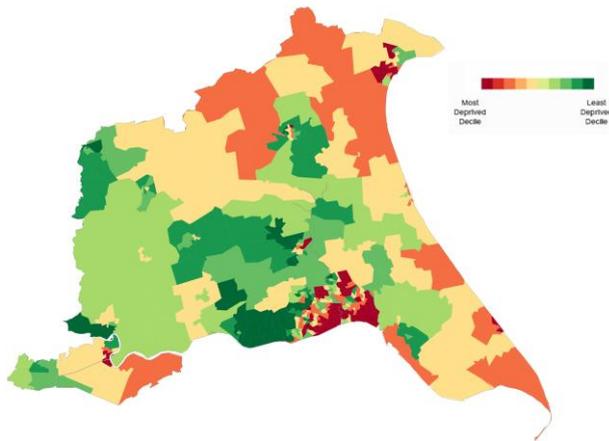
Our evidence base highlights a growing rate of people aged 65+, with 22% aged above 65, lower than neighbouring York and North Yorkshire. The region's over 65 population is expected to grow by over 40% by 2043, although this is less than the UK's average. Sector evidence indicates an ageing workforce across manufacturing and agri-food in particular, alongside challenges attracting younger workers into technical occupations, indicating that older residents will need to keep working later in their lives.

While older residents may benefit indirectly from improved prosperity, infrastructure and services arising from economic growth, participation in new employment opportunities may be more limited without inclusive skills, health and flexible working interventions, with just 45% of residents' skills matching industry's needs, reflecting the move away from heavy industry into skilled occupations.

Increasing number of digital roles, need for skills and increasing move away from heavy industry may marginalise older generations who cannot or are reluctant to upskill or reskill. Moreover, poor connectivity with rural areas, which have the highest percentage of older people, further limits the ability to contribute economically.

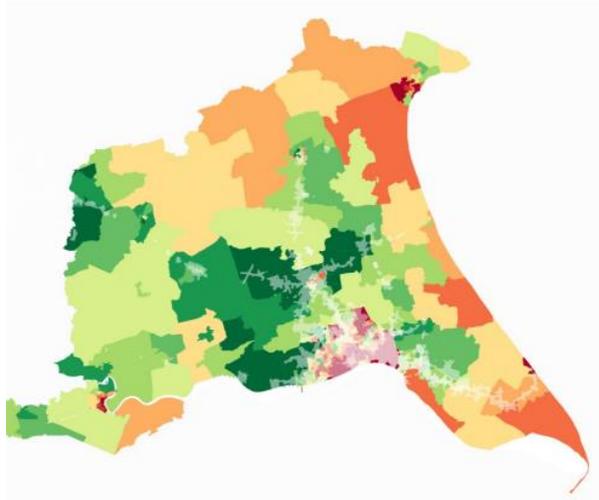


Public transport travel to work map 2025



IMD map 2025

Transport connectivity to highest activity areas, and deprivation



Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:

Yes, a key focus of the Growth Plan will be to improve connectivity and to support people of working age to develop the skills required to contribute to the modern

economy. Broader economic growth and stronger public services may indirectly benefit older residents' wellbeing and financial security.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:

The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact

Yes No

Risks of losing skilled older workers in key industries and related risk of older workers not developing skills required to support jobs in the emerging economy. Risk of some older people who are inactive facing barriers to accessing the labour market and need for integrated skills and health support.

Equality Impact Analysis

Sex

Evidence

No disaggregated quantitative evidence relating specifically to sex is identified within the Local Growth Plan or sector evidence base. However, it is notable that the Growth Driving sectors identified for prioritisation in Big Play 1 predominantly employ men, and that other sectors recognised in the Plan report – at a general or national level – a continuing gender pay gap.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:

Yes. The Local Growth Plan's focus on aligning the skills system to the sectors in the economy providing the strongest routes to good work and careers will include a focus on improving access for underrepresented groups – for example encouraging more women and girls into technical skills and employment.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:

The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact

Yes No

The need to manage the risk of women being excluded from opportunities to access employment opportunities in traditionally male dominated industrial occupations and sectors and the potential for gender pay gaps to continue to exist.

Equality Impact Analysis

Sexual orientation

Evidence

No disaggregated quantitative evidence relating specifically to sexual orientation is identified within the Local Growth Plan or sector evidence base.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:

An inclusive economy and responsive skills and labour market support system will aim to provide access and opportunities for all groups within society. Improved access to flexible, higher-quality employment may support participation. This includes ensuring that the skills and role of people from different sexual orientations are valued and utilised within the local economy.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:

The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> There are no specific proposals that should have a negative impact or unintended consequence for this group
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Equality Impact Analysis	
Pregnancy/maternity	
Evidence Improvements in good-quality employment opportunities and inclusive working conditions may therefore support participation for those who are pregnant or have caring responsibilities. Improvements in health and employment support will help women return to work following maternity.	
Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details: An inclusive economy and responsive skills and labour market support system will aim to provide access and opportunities for all groups within society. Improved access to flexible, higher-quality employment may support participation.	
Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details: The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building. The focus on breaking the cycle of inactivity related to health status may positively impact on women who are economically inactive following pregnancy, facing barriers to work.	
Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No There are no specific proposals that should have a negative impact or unintended consequence for this group

Equality Impact Analysis	
Gender reassignment	
Evidence No disaggregated quantitative evidence relating specifically to gender reassignment is identified within the Local Growth Plan or sector evidence base.	

<p>Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:</p> <p>An inclusive and economy responsive skills and labour market support system will aim to provide access and opportunities for all groups within society. Improved access to flexible, higher-quality employment may support participation.</p>	
<p>Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:</p> <p>The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.</p>	
<p>Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u></p> <p>There are no specific proposals that should have a negative impact or unintended consequence for this group.</p>

<p>Equality Impact Analysis</p>	
<p>Race</p>	
<p>Evidence</p> <p>No disaggregated quantitative evidence relating specifically to Race is identified within the Local Growth Plan or sector evidence base.</p>	
<p>Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:</p> <p>An inclusive and economy responsive skills and labour market support system will aim to provide access and opportunities for all groups within society. Improved access to flexible, higher-quality employment may support participation. This includes ensuring that the skills and role of people from different racial backgrounds are valued and utilised within the local economy.</p> <p>Investment, connectivity improvements and inclusive growth may reduce spatial inequality and widen opportunity.</p>	
<p>Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:</p>	

The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact

Yes No

There are no specific proposals that should have a negative impact or unintended consequence for this group

Equality Impact Analysis

Religion or belief

Evidence

No disaggregated quantitative evidence relating specifically to sexual orientation is identified within the Local Growth Plan or sector evidence base.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:

An inclusive and economy responsive skills and labour market support system will aim to provide access and opportunities for all groups within society. Improved access to flexible, higher-quality employment may support participation. This includes ensuring that the skills and role of people from different religious backgrounds are valued and utilised within the local economy.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:

The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact

Yes No

There are no specific proposals that should have a negative impact or unintended consequence for this group

Equality Impact Analysis

Marriage/civil partnership (employment only)

Evidence

Household employment participation, earnings and productivity are key determinants of financial wellbeing and stability. Evidence on labour-market structure and economic performance therefore indicates that improvements in good-quality employment and income may positively influence outcomes for people who are married or in civil partnerships.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:

Improved employment and earnings may strengthen household stability

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:

The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact

Yes No

There are no specific proposals that should have a negative impact or unintended consequence for this group

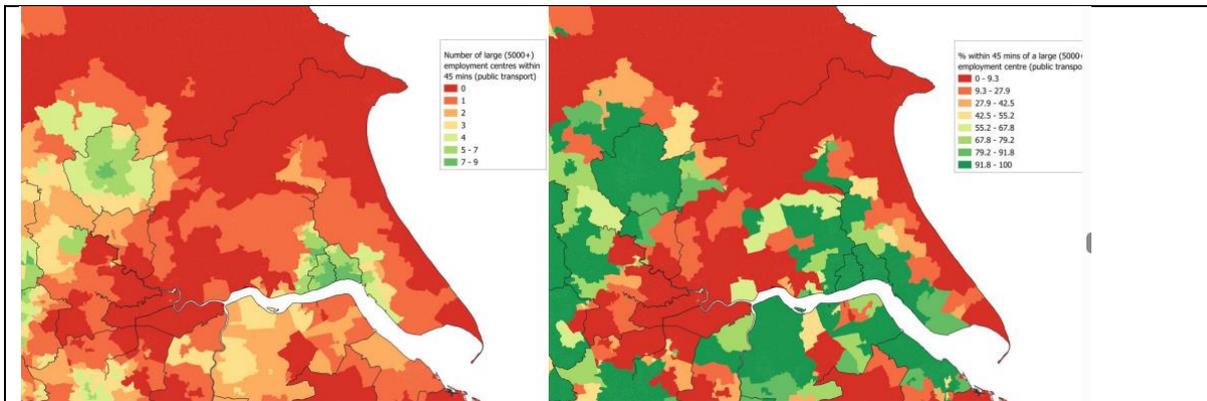
Equality Impact Analysis

Disability

Evidence

Labour-market and participation evidence identifies health-related inactivity as a significant structural constraint affecting employment and productivity across the region.

Disabled residents may experience barriers to accessing and sustaining employment, particularly in sectors requiring physical, technical or shift-based work. Inclusive employment support and skills provision are therefore important to widening opportunity. Poor connectivity between rural and urban areas may also be a barrier to upskilling, support and engaging economically.



Public transport travel to work map 2025

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by promoting equality of opportunity? If yes, please provide details:

The Local Growth Plan has a specific focus on breaking cycles of economic inactivity related to ill health, which includes people with disabilities, though an integrated health and work support system.

An inclusive and economy responsive skills and labour market support system will aim to provide access and opportunities for all groups within society. Improved access to flexible, higher-quality employment may support participation. This includes ensuring that the skills and role of people with disabilities are valued and utilised within the local economy.

Improved employment participation and activity, skills provision and inclusive growth interventions may reduce inactivity and widen access to work.

Does your analysis indicate a potential positive impact on this group by fostering good relations? If yes, please provide details:

The growth plan includes a commitment to reach all people and places with access to opportunity, including a specific focus on people and places that are furthest away from the labour market. This includes local level engagement and relationship building.

Does your analysis indicate a potential adverse impact

Yes No

The risk that people who are economically inactive are not enabled to support the growth of the economy and to improve their own health and well-being. The need for a coordinated systematic approach to delivery of effective health and employment related support.

Section 4 – Equality Impact Action Plan

Action Plan

Summary of key potential negative impacts and proposed actions

Potential negative impact	Action
<p>Young People - The risk that without targeted action to address the number of NEET young people and to provide opportunities to enable local young people to access good work in a thriving economy, the areas young people will be unable to benefit from growth, and value will be extracted from the local economy.</p>	<p>The Local Growth Plan is expected to have positive impact on young people as a demographic, seeking to align skills and jobs, improve transport connections, increase neighbourhood integration and improve educational prospects. This includes a specific focus on technical education and prevention of young people becoming NEET.</p> <p>This should, improve skills participation and progression, and create higher-value employment opportunities is likely to improve access to good work and long-term career pathways for young people.</p>
<p>Older people - There is a risk of the potential for older people to continue to be underrepresented in industrial and technical workforce and the loss of skills and economic potential as a result due to heavy labourious nature of the work and inflexible working patterns. Furthermore, weak public transport and the rural nature of some industries limits older people's ability/attraction to seek or retain employment.</p>	<p>A key action within the Local Growth Plan will be to improve connectivity and to support people of working age to develop the skills required to contribute to the modern economy.</p> <p>Broader economic growth and stronger public services may indirectly benefit older residents' residents' wellbeing and financial security. The Local Growth Plan also aims to diversify the economy, providing a wider range and nature of sectors, which will benefit older people.</p>
<p>Sex - There is a risk of the potential for women to continue to be underrepresented in industrial and technical workforce and the loss of skills and economic potential as a result.</p>	<p>The Local Growth Plan's focus on aligning the skills system to the sectors in the economy providing the strongest routes to good work and careers will include a focus on improving access for underrepresented groups – for example encouraging more women and girls into technical skills and employment.</p>
<p>Disability - The risk that people who are economically inactive are not mobilised to support the growth of the economy and to improve their own health and well-</p>	<p>The Local Growth Plan has a specific focus on breaking cycles of economic inactivity related to ill health, which includes people with disabilities, though an integrated health and work support system.</p>

<p>being. The need for a coordinated systematic approach to delivery of effective health and employment related support.</p>	<p>An inclusive and economy responsive skills and labour market support system will aim to provide access and opportunities for all groups within society. Improved access to flexible, higher-quality employment may support participation. This includes ensuring that the skills and role of people with disabilities are valued and utilised within the local economy.</p> <p>Improved employment participation and activity, skills provision and inclusive growth interventions may reduce inactivity and widen access to work.</p>
<p>Socio-economic status - There is a risk that without a focused partnership effort the benefits of growth will not reach all people and places and will not release the economic and human potential of people who are economically inactive. The growth plan has a specific intent to break these cycles.</p>	<p>The Local Growth Plan has specific focus on breaking cycles of worklessness at neighbourhood level, and this includes a shared priority with government focused on this. There is an intent to ensure that growth reaches all people and all places in Hull and East Yorkshire and that the Combined Authority works in a flexible way with Local Authorities and other public services and community and voluntary organisations to deliver the local response needed. This combined with a focusing of the skills system on the needs of the economy will create pathways to ensure that people have every opportunity to access opportunity in a vibrant economy and labour market.</p>

5. Recommendation

Proposed way forward Actions	Decision – please select
<p>Continue unchanged – the proposal does not cause any disproportionate impacts and can proceed with no major change required.</p>	
<p>Justify and continue – the proposal could cause some disproportionate impacts but these can be avoided by mitigating actions.</p>	✓
<p>Change– the proposal requires some changes to ensure it does not adversely affect certain groups of people or miss opportunities to affect them positively</p>	
<p>Stop – the proposal will cause a sustainable risk to equality and should not continue.</p>	



Report to the Combined Authority Board

4 March 2026

Hull and East Yorkshire Transport Transitional Arrangements

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Status:

This item is not exempt

Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

- 1.1 The Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2025 transferred certain local transport functions from the two Constituent Councils (Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council) to the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA). HEYCA and the Constituent Councils shared these powers through the transition period which comes to an end on 31 March 2026. Other transport powers will be exercisable concurrently by both HEYCA and the Constituent Councils.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the necessary delegations and assurance to ensure continuation of transport functions whilst HEYCA develops and builds its strategic transport capacity.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) Board is asked to:
 - 2.1.1 Approve delegation of the specific local transport functions which are now the functions of HEYCA only to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 respectively to allow the Constituent

Councils to continue delivering the functions on behalf of HEYCA; and

- 2.1.2 Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to enter into an agreement with the Constituent Councils to delegate such transport functions, including delivery of concessionary fares schemes and locally funded supported bus services during HEYCA's formative stage.
- 2.1.3 Approve the transfer of the consolidated local transport funding for the 2026/27 financial year to Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, to enable the continued delivery of agreed local transport programmes, based on the allocations used by the Department for Transport to calculate the overall settlement.
- 2.2 Approve the adoption of the constituent councils' current Enhanced Partnership schemes for adoption to allow the allocation of the bus grant funding to be spent in line with Department for Transport Bus Grant guidelines.
- 2.3 Approve the adoption of the constituent councils' current concessionary travel schemes and locally funded socially necessary/supported bus programmes.
- 2.4 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section.73 Officer, to finalise and submit the draft Local Transport Delivery Plan to the Department for Transport by the 20 March 2026 submission and to complete all enabling actions required for the proper implementation of the recommendations in this report.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 HEYCA became the Local Transport Authority for Hull and East Yorkshire when HEYCA was established by Parliamentary Order in February 2025. The legislation that created HEYCA made provision for a transition period where certain transport powers were exercised concurrently between HEYCA and the constituent councils until 31 March 2026. As a result, all Department for Transport (DfT) local transport funding is now routed through HEYCA.
- 3.2 The DfT consolidated local transport funding is additional to and not a substitute for existing local authority baseline transport budgets funded by locally raised revenues or public transport funding allocations from other Government Departments, including the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS). DfT consolidated funding cannot be used to meet statutory English National Concessionary Scheme

duties / requirements, and the DfT expect baseline bus budgets from other sources to be maintained.

- 3.3 Strategic leadership and accountability for transport sits with HEYCA, while delivery of highways and transport schemes continues to sit with the constituent councils as highway and traffic authorities. From 2026/27, DfT funding will be outcomes based and failure to demonstrate delivery, value for money or assurance could result in DfT intervention. The requirement to submit a draft Local Transport Delivery Plan by 20 March 2026 is the first step towards this new way of working with the DfT.
- 3.4 At its November 2025 meeting, the Board agreed that Department for Transport Bus Grant Funding for 2026/27 be delegated to the constituent councils, subject to mutual agreement of spending plans and Mayoral approval, and that the delegation be governed through a formal agreement pursuant to and in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.5 As the Local Transport Body, from the 1 April 2026, HEYCA has a statutory duty to prepare and maintain a Local Transport Plan. During the transition period, this duty has been met through the alignment of the constituent councils adopted Local Transport Plans, pending development of a single HEYCA Local Transport Plan. The Plan is currently in development, supported by the existing overarching strategic transport framework.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The consolidated local transport funding allocation for 2026/27 brings together funding previously provided through mechanisms such as the Integrated Transport Block and Local Transport Grant.
- 4.2 Although issued as a single block allocation, the DfT previously provided indicative notional allocations for Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. It is proposed that 2026/27 funding is allocated in line with DfT notional allocations as agreed by the Board at its May 2025 meeting for 2025/2026 funding.

5. **Issues for Consideration**

- 5.1 During 2026/27, HEYCA will operate as the strategic transport authority, setting direction and providing assurance, while the constituent councils continue to deliver schemes on the ground.

5.2 In December 2025, the Department for Transport confirmed a new approach to local transport funding, consolidating previously separate grants into a single local transport funding allocation. This approach provides greater flexibility but also introduces stronger requirements around assurance, value for money and delivery.

5.3 HEYCA is required to produce its own Enhanced Bus Partnership. This work is ongoing and will be the subject of future decisions. The DfT has confirmed revised guidance on the Enhanced Bus Partnership will be available in early spring 2026.

6. **Equalities Impact Information**

6.1 The proposed approach enables the continuation of local transport schemes that support accessibility, safety and connectivity for all users, including those with protected characteristics.

7. **Options and Risk Assessment**

7.1 Option 1: Retain the full consolidated transport funding within HEYCA for direct delivery in 2026/27.

This option was not recommended as HEYCA is operating with limited direct delivery capacity. Retaining funding centrally would increase the risk of underspend, delay to scheme delivery, and potential recovery of funding by the Department for Transport.

7.2 Option 2: Partially transfer funding, retaining a proportion of capital funding within HEYCA.

This option was considered but discounted due to the added complexity it would introduce in programme management and financial administration whilst HEYCA is still developing. A partial approach would also dilute delivery responsibility and weaken clarity of accountability for schemes intended to be delivered by the constituent councils.

7.3 Option 3: Delay allocation decisions until later in the financial year.

This option was not recommended as it would create uncertainty for delivery programmes, compress delivery timescales, and materially increase the risk that funding could not be spent within the financial year.

- 7.4 **Option 4: The recommended** approach of transferring funding in full to the Constituent Councils provides the clearest, lowest-risk route to delivery during 2026/27 while maintaining Combined Authority accountability. The risks this mitigates includes:
- 7.5 Risk of underspend or funding recovery. Retaining funding centrally could increase the risk of underspend in 2026/27. Transferring funding to established delivery bodies mitigates this risk.
- 7.6 Assurance and accountability risk. HEYCA remains accountable to the Department for Transport for funding use. This risk will be mitigated through clear funding agreements and monitoring arrangements.

8. **Legal Implications and Statutory Officer Comments**

- 8.1 In accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 a Combined Authority may make arrangements for the discharge of any of their functions by (inter alia) any other local authority. Part 3 (ss 7-14 inclusive) of the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2025 (SI 2025/113) also provide enabling legal framework for the recommendation in this report. An appropriate agreement between HEYCA and both Hull City Council (HCC) and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) is required. The terms and conditions will be reviewed by legal services colleagues at HEYCA and both HCC and ERYC. This agreement will be administered in line with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, HEYCA's applicable procurement and contract procedure rules, and, where applicable, the Procurement Act 2023.

9. **Financial Implications and Statutory Officer Comments**

- 9.1 There are no financial concerns with the recommended approach to transfer the proposed funding to the constituent councils, provided that appropriate funding agreements are put in place.

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Officer Interests: None

Appendices: None

Background Documents: None



Report to the Combined Authority Board

4 March 2026

**Skills and Business Advisory Boards - Reorganisation into
Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board**

Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer

Report Status:

This item is not exempt

Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the merger of the current Skills Advisory Board and Business Advisory Board arrangements into one Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board.
- 1.2 This report sets out the proposed governance arrangements to support and facilitate this commitment.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **THAT** an in-principle decision be made to merge the current Business Advisory Board and the current Skills Advisory Board into a single Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board and **THAT** HEYCA's constitution be amended to establish a single Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board in the place of the separate Skills Advisory Board and Business Advisory Board with arrangements as follows.
 - The 'placeholder' in HEYCA's Constitution for Terms of Reference for the Skills Advisory Board be deleted.
 - The 'placeholder' in HEYCA's Constitution for Terms of Reference for the Business Board Advisory be deleted.
 - The new Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board have Joint Chairs being the current chairs of the Skills Advisory Board and the Business Advisory Board.

- That all current members of both the Skills Advisory Board and Business Advisory Board be invited to express an interest in being members of the new Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board.
- That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to develop, in conjunction with the joint chairs of the new Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board, a draft Terms of Reference, initial draft work plan and initial draft calendar of proposed meetings for presentation at the next meeting of Executive Board.
- That current Skills Advisory Board and Business Advisory Board meetings and proceedings continue, unchanged, until such time as Executive Board resolve to accept Terms of Reference and the first meeting of the new Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board is declared open.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board will deliver against HEYCA's ambitions and expectations across linked themes of Business, Skills and Employability through addressing them as a single system and modifying governance arrangements to reflect that system level strategic thinking. It is intended that this broadening, through a single body, will better enable and facilitate delivery of Mayoral priorities. The recommendations are made to facilitate growth through strong cross-cutting partnership working across the public and private sectors.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 Hull and East Riding are vital parts of the UK economy, leading in global trade, energy security, advanced manufacturing, and foundational industries. Realising the full potential of the region is essential for strengthening the region's competitiveness nationally and internationally and thereby delivering sustainable growth.
- 4.2 The work of the Business Advisory Board and the Skills Advisory Board are important contributors to the achievement of Mayoral priorities and strategic place-making across Hull and the East Yorkshire. Initial, high-level consultation was carried out in early 2026 with the chairs of both the Business and Skills Advisory Boards.
- 4.3 The Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board will provide a formal mechanism for collaboration and partnership

working across Hull and the East Yorkshire. It will contribute to the delivery of the Local Growth Plan; the Game Plan and the Humber Economic Strategy and wider growth ambitions aligned to the functions of the mayoral strategic authority.

5. **Issues for Consideration**

Business, Skills and Employability: Engagement

- 5.1 Strong voices across the business, skills and employability ecosystem are essential for the longer-term achievement of Mayoral priorities and the ambitions of HEYCA. In the immediate term, engagement with the same strong voices is necessary in the development of draft Terms of Reference, initial work plan and meetings calendar.

Operation of the Business, Skills and Employability Board

- 5.2 The Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board is proposed to be led by joint chairs being the current chairs of the Skills and Business Advisory Boards. It is intended that the Board is populated, at its outset, with members of the current Skills and Business Advisory Boards, all of whom will be invited to express an interest in membership thereof. The initial tasks are to resolve draft Terms of Reference for presentation at the next Executive Board, an initial draft work plan and an initial draft calendar of meetings.

6. **Equalities Impact Information**

- 6.1 No specific implications were identified in the preparation of this report.

7. **Options and Risk Assessment**

- 7.1 To not merge the Business Advisory Board and the Skills Advisory Board into one Business, Skills and Employability Advisory Board. This would not achieve the outcomes, ambitions and priorities across this system as well as unification into one system board. Operating two separate Advisory Boards increases the likelihood of duplication of work scope, increasing the potential for silo working and increasing the workload of HEYCA as it services two separate Boards.

8. **Legal Implications and Statutory Officer Comments**

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report because the recommendations are to merge in principle, subject to Terms of Reference, an initial draft work plan and an initial draft calendar of meetings being presented to a subsequent Executive Board meeting.

9. **Financial Implications and Statutory Officer comments**

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report. Existing resources will be used to support the operation new Business, Skills and Employability Board if and when necessary.

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Officer Interests:

Appendices:

Background Documents: None