



## HEY Business Board

10am on 5 February 2025

Hull History Centre

### Members Present

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

### In attendance

HEY Business, Growth and Skills Hub: Jon Brunton (Growth Hub Manager), Phil Glover (Business Development Manager) and Teresa Chalmers (Chief Operating Officer).

HCC: Alex Codd (Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration), Louise Hawkins (Democratic Services Officer), Matt Jukes (Chief Executive), Richard Lowther (Inward Investment Manager).

ERYC: Alan Menzies (Chief Executive) and Steve Silvester (Inward Investment and Infrastructure Manager).

DBT: Peter Campey (Area Lead – York and North Yorkshire and Hull and East Yorkshire).

Minute No	Item	Action By/Deadline
20	<b>APOLOGIES</b>  Apologies were received from Madge Moore and Thomas Martin.	
21	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  P. Ascough declared an interest in minute 26 insofar as he has delivered work on behalf of the Growth Hub, following all procurement guidance.	
22	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024</b>  The Democratic Services Officer submitted, for approval, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024.  <b>Agreed</b> – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, with the amendment to the those listed as present to include Mark Barratt, be approved as a true and correct record.	LH

23	<p><b>DEVOLUTION PROGRESS UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Board was informed that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority had been created and was now a legal entity;</li> <li>ii. Mark Rogers had been appointed as the Interim Head of Paid Service for the Combined Authority and would attend future meetings of the Business Board;</li> <li>iii. The two local authorities were working together to ensure that the Combined Authority had the officers it needed to function and that the staffing of the Combined Authority would be built up over time, and</li> <li>iv. The creation of a Combined Authority was the most significant change in governance in Hull and East Yorkshire since the 1990s.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place and members of the Board queried how the Combined Authority would set its budget. M. Jukes explained that the amount of funding allocated to the Combined Authority was known and the budget proposals would be considered at the inaugural meeting of the Combined Authority. The budget would be relatively small to begin with however allocation of funding over longer periods of time would be come later.</p> <p><b>Agreed –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That the update be noted;</li> <li>b. That a briefing note on the governance arrangements of the Combined Authority is presented to the next Board meeting;</li> <li>c. That an update on the draft HEY Economic Framework is submitted to the next Board meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>LD</p> <p>AH/LH</p>
24	<p><b>UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY</b></p> <p>P. Campey (DBT) attended the meeting to provide an update on the progress of the Government’s National Industrial Strategy. A presentation was provided and the following points were highlighted -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The National Industrial Strategy was for a 10 year period and would aim to take advantage of existing strengths;</li> <li>ii. There had been 1000’s of responses to the consultation and HEY officers had been provided with a small window to undertake some further consultation;</li> <li>iii. As part of the consultation process there had been engagement with the Humber Energy and Freeport Boards;</li> <li>iv. That further detail around how the targets set out in the strategy would be delivered would be included within the next stage of the process.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Members of the Board discussed the following matters –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That for some time there had been a need for the development of ‘plug and play’ projects and that this Board could help with the helping to provide priorities, and</li> <li>ii. That WPS had been involved in a review of ‘blockers’ in relation to the development of Freeport sites. A list of priority sites was required and sites had to be delivered by 2031.</li> </ul> <p><b>Agreed –</b> that the update be noted.</p>	
25	<p><b>INWARD INVESTMENT BRIEFING PAPER</b></p> <p>P. Glover, R. Lowther and S. Silvester attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update on activities East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC), Hull City Council (HCC), and the HEY Business, Growth and Skills Hub, (BGS Hub, formerly the HEY LEP,) to secure inward investment into the area.</p> <p>The officer provided a presentation and the following points were highlighted –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The team dealt with enquiries in relation inward investment in the area;</li> <li>ii. The enquiries were usually from new companies coming into the area rather than those that were already operating in the area;</li> <li>iii. The invest landscape had changed significantly over recent years. There had been political uncertainty which had affected trade routes;</li> <li>iv. It had been acknowledged that the area had been creative in relation to inward investment;</li> <li>v. The single conversation group had worked well and had provided an opportunity for various statutory organisation to come together to discuss developments, and</li> <li>vi. That site assembly projects had taken place in both Hull and the East Riding which included the developments in Goole and the Fruit Market in Hull.</li> </ul> <p>The Board discussed the following matters –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That sites which were ready to be developed needed to be identified;</li> <li>ii. That the single conversation group needed to be part of an offer to enquiries of inward investment;</li> <li>iii. The Combined Authority would provide an opportunity to work together and a single point of contact for potential investors;</li> <li>iv. Whether it was possible for an Investment Zone to be created in East Yorkshire, and</li> <li>v. Whether there was any performance information available to show how the area compared to other areas in relation to successful inward investment.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Members of the Board queried what support was included in any enquiries which were received by the team through the Department for Business and Trade. The Board was informed that a staged approach was taken; that a tour of the area was provided and a bespoke offer was created. It was highlighted that the team were passionate about the area and there was only one chance to create an impression on prospective investors.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> – that the update be noted and a further input on the major investment infrastructure projects come to a future board.</p>	
26	<p><b>SMALL BUSINESS STRATEGY AND NATIONAL GROWTH SERVICE PRESENTATION</b></p> <p>(P. Ascough declared an interest in the item that follows below insofar as he had supported the delivery of the services of the GrowthHub.)</p> <p>J. Brunton attended the meeting to provide the Board with a presentation on the developing Small Business Strategy and the national Business Growth Service. (please see slides attached).</p> <p><u>Small Business Strategy</u> The Board was informed that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were critically important to the region, and</li> <li>ii. The Government had announced nine pledges for SMEs and that small businesses were feeding into the development of the strategy.</li> </ul> <p><u>Business Growth Service</u> The Board was informed that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The SME sector was a broad spectrum which included a wide range of organisations. It was important for the Business Growth Service to be able to engage with individuals and organisation at differing levels, and</li> <li>ii. It was acknowledged that a business owners time was at a premium.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place and members of the Board suggested that resources could be targeted at businesses which had the potential to grow.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Business Intelligence reports had arisen from Brexit and were a key way of informing Government of activity in the area. It was confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce also published a quarterly intelligence report.</p> <p>Members of the Board queried how Hull and East Yorkshire compared with other areas. The Board was informed that the comparable information in the reports was not available, however there were issues nationally in relation to economic conditions which included the rise in National Insurance contributions and Inheritance Tax.</p>	

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	<b>Agreed</b> – that the presentations be noted.	
<b>27</b>	<p><b>HEY SKILLS BOARD</b></p> <p>T. Chalmers explained that the Skills Board had held its second meeting in January. The majority of the discussions had taken place around the Skills Framework consultation and the Adult Skills Fund.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> – that the update be noted.</p>	
<b>28</b>	<p><b>WORK PROGRAMME</b></p> <p>The Chair explained that the Work Programme would be updated following the discussions that had taken place during the meeting.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> – that the Work Programme be updated and submitted to the next meeting of the Board.</p>	TC/LH