

Minutes

Meeting: Local Enterprise Partnership – Overview & Scrutiny

Date/Time: 3 December 2020 at 3.00 pm

Venue: Virtually via Zoom

Members Present: Councillors Stanley Lumley (North Yorkshire County Council), David Staveley (Craven District Council), Kevin Hardisty (Hambleton District Council), Mike Chambers (Harrogate Borough Council), Paul Cullen (Richmondshire District Council), John Raper (Ryedale District Council) and Guy Coulson (Scarborough Borough Council).

Secretariat: James Farrar (Chief Operating Officer), Adrian Green (Head of Assurance), Aissa Gallie (Head of Communications and Organisational Development), Andrew Leeming (Head of Strategy), Liz Philpot (Head of Delivery) and Paul Clark (Governance and Assurance Manager).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor David Buckle (Selby District Council).

O&S20-1 Chief Operating Officer - Introduction and Overview

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) chaired the meeting.

After opening the meeting and having introduced the LEP Officers in attendance, the COO gave a presentation providing an overview of the LEP, its history, current challenges and future ambitions.

A copy of the presentation will be circulated after the meeting.

O&S20-2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported at the meeting.

O&S20-3 Delivery

The Head of Delivery gave a presentation on the LEP's progress to date in delivering a range of infrastructure and skills capital projects funded through the Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund and European Structural Investment Fund programmes. The presentation also provided detail on the support available to businesses via the

York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub – particularly in relation to EU transition.

Decision:

That the delivery update be noted.

O&S20-4 Communications

The Head of Communications and Organisational Development gave a presentation on the development of the Communications Team and its achievements in promoting the LEP's profile to the public and its stakeholders.

It was noted that the LEP and Growth Hub's web presence had been enhanced significantly through developments to their websites and social media outlets. The LEP's Annual Conference had been transposed to an online format at short notice due to Covid-19 restrictions and attendances had been high. This has also been reflected in the series of webinars hosted by the LEP to deliver Growth Hub support to businesses.

It was suggested that Chambers of Commerce could be empowered to engage directly with business to ensure that the LEP's messaging is received by end-users.

Decision:

That the Communications update be noted.

O&S20-5 Strategy

The Head of Strategy gave a presentation outlining the strategic framework and direction of the LEP. It was explained that focus had shifted to reshaping the economy as a result of Covid-19 and preparedness for extant and forthcoming challenges arising from it.

Members went on to discuss the Climate Emergency declared by local authorities and progress towards meeting carbon neutrality by 2030. It was felt that geography and architecture would present significant challenges in allowing businesses to make their premises more efficient within that time frame.

It was suggested that local authorities should address their own premises and fleet vehicles in order to provide leadership to other businesses on reducing carbon output.

Members discussed the role of electric vehicles in cutting carbon but acknowledged that battery technology and the layout of existing

street design would make electric vehicles unattractive for many people.

(Note: Councillor Paul Cullen left the meeting at approximately 4.10 pm)

Decision:

That the Strategy Update be noted.

O&S20-6 Assurance

The Head of Assurance gave a presentation on the governance structure of the LEP and its work in ensuring transparency, accountability and risk management in its operation and decision making.

Further detail was provided on meeting the terms of the LEP Review by the incorporation of the LEP as a limited company and the removal of overlapping areas by review of the LEP's geography.

Decision:

That the Assurance Update be noted.

O&S20-7 Terms of Reference and Future Options

The Governance and Assurance Manager presented a written report seeking a steer from members as to the value of Local Authority LEP Scrutiny and whether members wished to make the meetings more regular and formal.

It was proposed that the LEP hold 3 sessions per year but with a particular focus on specific issues rather than an overview of service performance. Those issues will begin with carbon reduction and Covid recovery but develop in line with other local authorities' scrutiny work programme priorities. The group will meet remotely via Zoom and the membership will be agreed formally by local authorities under their usual outside body appointment processes.

Decision:

That a terms of reference for the group be developed and agreed by the LEP Board based upon the following:

- (a) The panel will comprise nine members from the constituent councils in York and North Yorkshire – City of York Council, Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Richmondshire

District Council, Ryedale District Council, Scarborough Borough Council and Selby District Council.

- (b) Only members who have not participated in LEP decision making on its Board or Programme Boards are eligible to be a member of the scrutiny panel. Named substitutes are permitted.
- (c) Membership will be agreed annually. The LEP will contact member authorities each year ahead of their appointments to outside bodies.
- (d) Meetings will be held three times per year. Additional meetings can be scheduled to respond to particular issues.
- (e) Meetings to be held virtually.
- (f) It will review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the LEP's functions.
- (g) will make reports and/or recommendations to the LEP Board and/or a relevant Programme Board in connection with the discharge of any functions.
- (h) review and scrutinise the performance of, and decisions made by the LEP Board and/or Programme Boards both in relation to individual decisions and generally.
- (i) review and scrutinise the performance of the LEP in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas.

Meeting concluded at approximately 4.50 pm