

**MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE  
HUMBER LEADERSHIP BOARD  
Held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

**Present:**

<u>Hull City Council</u>	Cllr Stephen Brady
<u>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</u>	Cllr Richard Burton
<u>North Lincolnshire Council</u>	Cllr Rob Waltham Cllr Richard Hannigan
<u>North East Lincolnshire Council</u>	Cllr Philip Jackson
<u>Humber LEP</u> (observer)	Stephen Parnaby
<u>Greater Lincolnshire LEP</u> (observer)	Pat Doody
<u>Hull and East Riding LEP</u> (observer)	James Newman

Officers	Rob Walsh – North East Lincolnshire Council Denise Hyde – North Lincolnshire Council Matt Jukes – Hull City Council Caroline Lacey – East Riding of Yorkshire Council Alan Menzies - East Riding of Yorkshire Council Mark Jones – Hull City Council Simon Green – North Lincolnshire Council Clive Tritton – North East Lincolnshire Council Sharon Wroot – North East Lincolnshire Council Kishor Tailor – Humber LEP Ruth Carver – Greater Lincolnshire LEP Paul Windley – North East Lincolnshire Council
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**HLB.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor Stathers (East Riding of Yorkshire Council).

**HLB.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in any items on the agenda for this meeting.

## **HLB.24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Humber Leadership Board meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

## **HLB.25 FREEPORTS UPDATE**

The Board received a report providing an update on progress in submitting a Humber Freeport bid and seeking endorsement for both the bid principles and the principles within a supporting Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr Tritton outlined the key issues contained within the report.

Mr David Gwynne, on behalf of the Steerco bid team, thanked all those involved from across the region in supporting them through the process. He felt that this presented a huge opportunity for the region and the focus should be on unlocking that potential.

Councillor Jackson suggested that reference be made within the bid to the ask for a smaller geographical area than the 45km limit. He sought an assurance that we were able to make a case for including Goole as a tax site outside of the 45km boundary without risking the whole bid being rejected.

Mr Gwynne believed that there was strong economic case for including Goole as it was a unique asset within the port sector and a core part of ABP's facilities within the region. The type of development proposed would drive additional cargo, so the whole estuary would benefit from this.

Councillor Jackson commented on the assumption that, if the Able site fell away, then the South Humber Inward Investment Programme site would be the default tax site but he noted that the bid clarification document suggested that tax sites could not be amended post-bid.

Councillor Waltham noted that there was concern about variation of investment timescales, which could impact on the seed capital element for other sites. His view was that all owners of sites looking to be included in the Freeport bid must provide a commitment to invest according to the same timescales as those proposed by the government.

Mr Lewis Atter, from the Steerco bid team, commented that there was some flexibility as switching and conditionality was hard-wired into the bid. He acknowledged that this did present a risk but this was enforced due to the misaligned timetable.

Councillor Burton emphasised the importance of deliverability. He suggested that the letter of support from the Leaders include a reference to there being a single coherent geography that included Goole. It was further suggested that the letter of support include reference to the innovation element of the bid. These points were agreed by the Board.

The Board thanked the bid team for the work that they had undertaken with partners to prepare the bid.

RESOLVED –

1. That the bid principles set out in the report now submitted, be endorsed and final submission of the bid by Steerco be supported.
2. That the principles set out in appendix 1 of the report now submitted (in respect of tax sites and seed funding and to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that those principles are adhered to), be agreed.
3. That, in the event of a successful bid, each local authority will progress the bid principles through their individual local decision-making processes.

## **HLB.26 HUMBER 2100+ PRESENTATION**

The Board received a presentation from Helen Todd, Humber Strategic Manager and Sue Manson, Humber Technical Manager, at the Environment Agency on Humber 2100+, a new strategy for managing flood risk over the next 100 years.

The strategy would involve all local authorities and LEPs working in partnership with the Environment Agency to support sustainable development and a prosperous Humber, by redefining the strategic approach to managing flood risk. It was proposed that the Humber Leadership Board would have an advisory role as part of the governance of the strategy.

Councillor Jackson sought further clarification of the governance arrangements that would be in place to ensure that all local authorities would be included in consultations and decision making.

Ms Todd responded that there would be three levels of governance, each involving representation from every local authority covered by the Humber's geography. Advisory groups such as the Humber Leadership Board would feed into the governance arrangements.

Councillor Hannigan welcomed the focus on the first 25 years and the need for a flexible approach. He noted the rising sea levels creating an ingress of salt water and enquired whether the impact of this would be included in the strategy.

Ms Todd confirmed that this was something that they were acutely aware of, particularly in relation to the impact on farming. Discussions were ongoing with water companies on this issue. Ms Manson added that this was an emerging topic of understanding with national projects ongoing and she felt that this was an area for collective focus.

Councillor Burton enquired how this would be promoted to highlight how well placed we are in terms of providing assurance to businesses looking to invest in the area.

Ms Todd noted that she was participating in a number of events and raising their profile both externally and internally within the Environment Agency. She noted that there was a delicate balance between raising a level of awareness of the level of risk without creating a sense of negativity. She was acutely aware of the need to demonstrate the value of the economic case for investment in flood management, including the benefits and opportunities.

Mr Taylor raised an additional issue over insurance and the need to involve the insurance industry in discussions.

Ms Manson noted that there was some ongoing work with DEFRA around business insurance, which was focused on Doncaster, but the project would pick up the findings.

Councillor Brady noted the need for the broader buy-in of all Elected Members in the region and stressed that the economic future of the area was dependent on the management of flood risk.

Councillor Waltham welcomed the proposals and emphasised the importance of protecting homes and employment. He felt that there was a need for effective scrutiny as part of the process. He looked forward to further updates.

Councillor Jackson referred to the number of assets around the Humber that were strategically important for the nation as a whole and he suggested that this strengthened the case for ensuring the region gets the investment needed.

RESOLVED – That proposals to develop the Humber 2100+ Strategy be noted and welcomed.

## **HLB.27 HUMBER ESTUARY PLAN**

The Board considered a report seeking adoption of the Humber Estuary Plan.

Councillor Hannigan welcomed the document and echoed the comments from local colleges that it could be stronger on skills, particularly in relation to knowledge. He also suggested that more consideration be given to the role of Humberside Airport.

RESOLVED – That the Humber Estuary Plan be adopted.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.54 a.m.