

16 December 2021

Wards: All

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP – Assurance Framework Adoption

Report of the Director of Regeneration

This item is not exempt
Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

This is a key decision. The matter is in the Forward Plan
Insert forward plan number reference (delete if not applicable)

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

- 1.1 For the Leaders to support the Accountable Body by adopting the Hull & East Yorkshire LEP Assurance Framework and allowing for the Director of Regeneration of Hull City Council, in consultation with the S151 Officer to agree any future amendments and updates to the Framework to ensure it is maintained in line with national requirements.
- 1.2 Leaders agreed in March to adopt the draft framework based on the former Humber LEP Assurance Framework, with the expectation that the final HEY LEP document would be formally agreed once the LEP had finalised their governance arrangements.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Leaders approve the adoption of the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Assurance Framework and that the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Directors of Finance & Transformation and Legal Services & Partnerships is authorised to agree and incorporate any amendments to the Framework that are required for the LEP to remain compliant with national guidance.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The HEY LEP agreed the LEP's first Assurance Framework at their meeting of 21st July 2021. The accompanying report and Framework is at Appendix 1 for information.

- 3.2 The Assurance Framework sets the LEPs governance arrangements and how it will comply with rules on transparency and accountability that are appropriate for an organisation dealing with public funds.
- 3.3 The Director of Finance & Transformation as S. 151 officer for Hull City Council as Accountable Body is required to approve the Assurance Framework and to write to Government annually to confirm this has been done. Leaders are asked to provide their endorsement of the document, in support of the Accountable Body.

4. Impact on other Executive Committees (including Area Committees)

- 4.1 There is no direct impact on Executive Committees.

5.	<u>Background</u>	
	5.1	The adoption of an Assurance Framework that complies with the National Assurance Framework is a requirement of Government. Leaders agreed the LEP's draft framework in March 2021.
	5.2	The LEP have now produced their first formal Framework and have been acknowledged as an exemplar at their first formal review, the LEP Mid-Year Review, undertaken by civil servants in October 2021. The next review is expected to take place at the Annual Performance Review in either December 2021 or January 2022, ahead of the S151 sign off of the Assurance Framework which is required by 28 February 2022.

6.	<u>Issues for Consideration</u>	
	6.1	Although the HEY LEP Board has agreed and adopted this current version of the Assurance Framework, updates and amendments are anticipated throughout the year to ensure the LEP remains compliant with national guidance. The outcome of the Review of LEPs, announced in March 2021, is still unknown, therefore the scale and scope of any updates cannot be anticipated although these are expected.

7.	<u>Options and Risk Assessment</u>	
	7.1	In order to ensure that the area continues to benefit from a strategic and collaborative approach to economic growth and is able to access government funding programmes, it is essential that the Leaders of the two Councils work together to support the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP. There is no viable alternative option, as the adoption of an Assurance Framework is a central government requirement of all LEPs
8.	<u>Consultation</u>	
	8.1	The Assurance Framework has been considered and agreed by the HEY LEP Board in July 2021.
9.	<u>Comments of the Monitoring Officer (Director of Legal Services and Partnerships)</u>	
	9.1	Adoption of the Assurance Framework is supported. Although there is no statutory duty, Government expectation is that Authority Leaders express support for the Accountable Body by endorsing the Framework. It is noted that the HEY LEP Framework is considered to be an exemplar model at national review level.
10.	<u>Comments of the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance and Transformation)</u>	
	10.1	<p>The Director of Finance and Transformation supports the adoption of the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Assurance Framework.</p> <p>As the report states, the adoption of an Assurance Framework that complies with the National Assurance Framework is a key requirement of Government and the Director of Finance and Transformation has to confirm adherence to the framework annually, without which there would be no LEP related funding.</p>
11.	<u>Comments of Assistant Director of OD & HR and compliance with the Equality Duty</u>	
	11.1	The Assistant Director of OD & HR notes this report and the adoption of the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Assurance Framework.
12.	<u>Comments of Overview and Scrutiny</u>	

12.1	This report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting of Monday, 6 November 2021. Any comments or recommendations made by the Committee will be included in the report for consideration by the Hull and East Riding Unitary Leaders Board. (Ref. Sc6588 (FH))

Mark Jones

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Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: - none

Implications Matrix

This section must be completed and you must ensure that you have fully considered all potential implications

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report

If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, Overview and Scrutiny and the Climate Change Advisor and any other key stakeholders i.e. Portfolio Holder, relevant Ward Members etc prior to submitting this report for official comments	Yes
I have considered whether this report requests a decision that is outside the Budget and Policy Framework approved by Council	Yes
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes
The report is approved by the relevant Assistant Director	Yes
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	Yes
I have considered the potential media interest in this report and liaised with the Media Team to ensure that they are briefed to respond to media interest.	Yes
I have included any equalities and diversity implications within the report and where necessary I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	Yes
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	Yes
Any human rights implications are included within the report	Yes
I have included any community safety implications and paid regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act within the report	Yes
I have liaised with the Climate Change Advisor and any environmental and climate change issues/sustainability implications are included within the report	Yes

I have included information about how this report contributes to the City Plan/ Area priorities within the report	Yes
I have considered the impact on air quality, carried out an appropriate assessment and included any resulting actions or opportunities necessary to improve air quality in the report.	Yes