



## Local Government North Yorkshire & York

15 October 2021

### LEP Update

#### Report of the Chief Operating Officer

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the work of the York & North Yorkshire LEP in respect of :

- Capital Funding Delivery - Getting Building Funding.
- Plan for Growth
- LEP Review Progress

1.2 The Board is requested to note the details set out in the report.

#### 2.0 Capital Funding – Getting Building Fund

2.1 The Local Growth Fund (LGF) grant programme ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. As reported previously, in addition to utilising the full LGF award of £83,213,138, the programme end out-turn included a final balance for over-commitment is £2,178,390, which was met from YNY LEP Growing Places Funding.

2.2 Previous reports have set out details of the Getting Building Funding (GBF) programme, which was launched by HM Government in Spring 2020 as part of the response to the pandemic. It offered opportunity for grant investment in capital projects, to be selected on their potential to provide short to medium term economic stimulus and growth to support recovery from the pandemic through delivery of jobs, skills and infrastructure. All GBF grant activity must be completed with financial closedown by 31 March 2022, however, reporting of outputs as a result of investments can continue up to March 2025. **Annex 1 provides a progress summary for all projects**

2.3 The programme operates broadly on the same principles as the Local Growth Programme. The programme funding was split by MHCLG equally between financial years, and grant was paid in two instalments.

<b>September 2020 Payment (2020-21)</b>	<b>April 2021 Payment (2021-22)</b>	<b>Total Funding Allocated</b>	<b>Additional Capacity Funding</b>
£7,700,000	£7,700,000	£15,400,000	£55,000

2.4 The 2020/21 programme out-turn was on target at £7,700,000.

2.5 Delivery for 2021/22 remains on track, however the project for delivery of employment land development at Thornton Road, Pickering has a range of complex issues – including land ownership, contamination, and strategic gas infrastructure easements - that have presented increased risk for delivery within the timescales remaining for GBF funded activity by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The project is of strategic significance to northern Ryedale and demand analysis shows that there is still strong market interest in the proposed development. The project is supported by Ryedale District Council (RDC). The GBF grant amount for the project is £880,000,.

- 2.6 In the event that the project is delayed beyond the current programme, it is likely that there will be insufficient time remaining to re-allocate any GBF grant that may be unspent by March 2022, and it would potentially be lost from the YNY LEP area. The LEP is therefore proposing, subject to approval by the Infrastructure Board to follow a similar process to the one which was successfully implemented for Local Growth Funding and to utilise Growing Places reserved to over-commit the programme and to mitigate the risk identified above.
- 2.7 Subject to approval, the mitigation will be linked to the North Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure project, which originally requested £5million of GBF grant, but was scaled back by agreement with the project in response to the slightly reduced overall GBF award to the YNY LEP. At that time, the principle of re-visiting the North Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure project was agreed, in the event that additional funds may come available, to allow activity to be scaled up again. The proposed over-commitment will require approval of £316,000 which is proposed to be met from the Growing Places Funding reserve, to enable the additional work identified by the North Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure project to proceed within the timescales for GBF programme delivery, and to minimise delivery risk for the Thornton Road, Pickering project.

**3.0 Plan for Growth**

3.1 In March 2020, as part of the HM Governments Budget announcement, a National Plan for Growth, ‘Build Back Better’, was published. This Plan for Growth focused on three pillars of investment to ‘act as the foundation on which to build the economic recovery’. These being Infrastructure, Skills and Innovation and in pursuing these would lead to ‘levelling up the country, a net zero carbon economy and a vision for Global Britain’. This National Plan for Growth supersedes the National Industrial Strategy.

3.2 Within this context and with further announcements due regarding Levelling Up Funding and the UK shared Prosperity Fund and the pending changes to Local Government structures, Devolution and the Combined Authority in York and North Yorkshire; now seems an opportune time for York and North Yorkshire to set out its own Plan for Growth.

3.3 It is proposed that our Plan is therefore aligned to the National Plan for Growth and will be built on the foundations set out in our Local Industrial Strategy (agreed in March 2020), our Reshaping the Economy post Covid 19 Plan (October 2020), and draft Devolution Deal (December 2020); and takes forward our overall vision of a Greener Fairer Stronger economy – A carbon negative, circular economy that increases productivity and provides higher paid jobs.

3.4 Fig 1: York and North Yorkshire Plan for Growth the next step in Responding to Covid-19



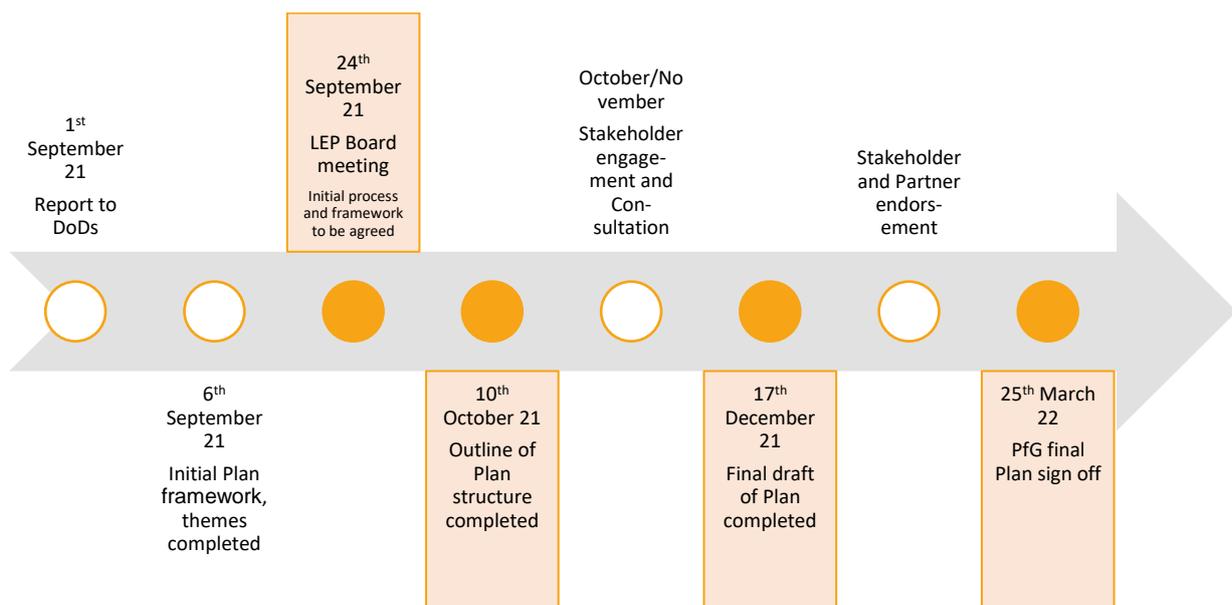
- 3.5 The purpose of a York and North Yorkshire Plan for Growth is to set the economic strategic framework:
- That builds on the agreed Local Industrial Strategy and aligns other economic strategies across YNY;
  - That provides the basis for future bids to and influence for the Governments Shared Prosperity Funding and further Levelling up Funding.
  - That forms the framework for attracting and leveraging private sector investment into York and North Yorkshire
  - That sets out the next step in how York and North Yorkshire can recover and grow post Covid 19;
  - That enables partners and stakeholders to work together to achieve ambitious economic outcomes for York and North Yorkshire;
  - That helps to drive forward the economic agenda for the Devolution Deal, the new Local Government structure and proposed Combined Authority in YNY; and
  - That clearly shows how YNY can make a significant contribution towards the Governments ambition for a Global Britain, Levelling up and Net zero.
- 3.6 This Plan will be developed in a way that:
- Engages and aligns all workstreams across the LEP;
  - Fully engages the LEP Board and Sub Boards in the process;
  - Seeks the views of stakeholders and gets their buy in;
  - Has a clear governance and ownership.
- 3.7 As outlined above, it is proposed that the Plan for Growth is framed in a way that can clearly speak not only to partners but also to Government. It will therefore be structured around the national Plan for Growth's Pillars of Growth, which includes Infrastructure, Skills and Innovation, and the also the Levelling-Up agenda, Net Zero and Global Britain ambitions.
- 3.8 In developing this structure, the YNY Plan for Growth will identify three strategic objectives based on the national Plan for Growth ambitions which align to the York and North Yorkshire vision of a Greener (Net Zero), Fairer (Levelling up) and Stronger (Global Britain) economy. Building on previous plans and strategies, it is proposed that these are focused as follows:
- Green Future Focus (Greener) – Ambition to be the first carbon negative region – contributing the Governments ambition to be net zero.
  - People and Places Focus (Fairer) – Ambition to reshape and transform our places and ensure our people have great opportunities – contributing to the Government's Levelling up agenda.
  - Sector Focus (Stronger) – Ambition for a stronger, innovative and more productive economy – contributing to the Government's ambition of a Global Britain.
- 3.9 To help this Plan for Growth underpin the principles of good growth, we would also look for the plan and investments to be aligned and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This will support identifying defined outputs and measures for the plan. The 17 UNSDGs are



3.10 Stakeholder and partner engagement and consultation forms a critical part of the process for developing our Plan for Growth. It is proposed that this is undertaken at different stages of the Plans development and engagement has taken place with Local Authority Economic Development Officers, Directors of Development and Chief Executives alongside the LEP Board and Sub-Boards.

3.11 The first stage will be a series of round table ‘think tank’ discussions. These will be held in October and will provide some forward thinking and horizon scanning under a series of topic areas. Stage two will be a much wider engagement during October and November and will help to further develop the ambitions, priorities and actions or investments within the Plan. Finally, a further consultation and engagement process will be held in January and February to seek partner endorsement of the Plan.

### 3.12 Timeline



## 4.0 LEP Review

4.1 The outcome of the LEP Review was not received as expected, prior to the summer recess. The Cabinet Reshuffle has further delayed progress and the outcome is now expected alongside the Levelling Up White Paper. A verbal update will be provided on the day.

## 5.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- LGNYY note progress with the Getting Building Fund
- Support development of a York and North Yorkshire Plan for Growth
- Note the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the LEP Review

## Getting Building Funding: Programme Update Summary

Project	Delivery Progress
North Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure	<p>Project in delivery.</p> <p><a href="https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/north-yorkshires-town-centres-benefit-wi-fi-switch">https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/north-yorkshires-town-centres-benefit-wi-fi-switch</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/free-public-access-wi-fi-launches-scarborough">https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/free-public-access-wi-fi-launches-scarborough</a></p> <p>Approvals have been confirmed to increase GBF grant from £3 million by total additional of £600,000 subject to availability of funds within the programme. This has enabled the GBF allocation to be increased initially by £300,000. Plans are in place to mobilise a further £300,000 of delivery across North Yorkshire subject to availability of funds – refer to Section 4 of the report.</p>
Pickering – Thornton Road	<p>Extensive preparatory work has been undertaken by developer to manage and mitigate risks on this long standing development site, currently owned by Northern Gas Networks and subject to potential contamination and gas infrastructure easements, but under option to developer (Lindum Group). Risks mainly relate to delivery within GBF timescales (i.e. by 31 March 2022) but following recent progress with land acquisition the Funding Agreement is being progressed to coincide with completion of land purchase end of September 2021. Ryedale DC is a partner with the developer for provision of managed workspace as an outcome of the investment. Risk mitigation is proposed as set out in Section 4 of the report.</p>
Whitby Business Park	<p>Project in delivery – extension to existing earlier phases of Whitby Business Park, developed by Scarborough BC, supported by Growing Places Funding.</p>
A19 Chapel Haddlesey	<p>Project completed early June slightly ahead of schedule – resumption of works due to flooding was quicker than expected (photo of floods Jan 2021 shows new section of elevated road at bottom left corner).</p> <p><a href="https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/opening-rebuilt-vital-a19-link-welcomed">https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/opening-rebuilt-vital-a19-link-welcomed</a></p> 

<p>Digital Skills Academy, Askham Bryan</p>	<p>Construction started in summer 2021 and is due to complete by March 2022</p> 
<p>Scarborough TEC – EV Skills Training Facilities</p>	<p>Project physically completed for capital equipment purchase and installation</p> 
<p>York College – EV Skills Training Facilities</p>	<p>Project physically completed for capital equipment purchase and installation</p>
<p>Harrogate West Business Park</p>	<p>Funding agreement completed – construction work commenced on site May 2021, including on-site developments levered by GBF investment</p> 



Digital Hub – Northallerton  
E-Campus

Project in delivery – operating agreements in place with delivery partners York College and University of Sunderland



York Guildhall Fit-Out

Project in delivery – fit out scheduled end of 2021  
City of York Council current progress video shows removal of tower crane via River Ouse <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7VYk-ecBzE>