

# North East Local Enterprise Partnership Investment Board

9 May 2022

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

## Present:

### Members:

Andrew Moffat  
Cllr Carl Johnson  
Mark Thompson

### Advisors:

Jason Hobbs  
Nick Gholkar

### Northumberland County Council (item 5 only)

John Hildreth, Head of Economic Growth  
Carol Jameson, Regeneration Programme Investment Manager

### NTCA Officers:

Donna Martin

### LEP Officers:

Helen Golightly  
Paul Woods  
Ray Browning  
Nicola Laverick

### Minutes

Brenda Joyce

## 1 **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dixon, Ian Richards and Gillian Hall.

Nick Gholkar was in attendance as a substitute for David Furness and would attend the next few meetings.

The Investment Board agreed to change the order of the agenda and take the EZ sites presentation first.

## 3 **MINUTES OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD 7 MARCH 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### 4 **MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS LOG**

An extra paper had been circulated to further update on progress on past approvals.

#### 5 **ENTERPRISE ZONE SITES UPDATE - NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (PRESENTATION)**

**This report was strictly confidential as it contained commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and was not for wider circulation.**

John Hildreth, Head of Economic Growth and Carol Jameson, Regeneration Programme Investment Manager at Northumberland County Council gave a presentation to the Investment Board on the development and performance of the following EZ sites: -

- Port of Blyth - Bates Site
- Blyth Workspace/Quay Works
- Northumberland Energy Park (East Sleekburn Site)
- Ramparts Business Park Berwick
- Ashwood Business Park
- Fairmoor (Morpeth)

The Chair thanked the Northumberland County Council officers for their time and useful presentation.

#### 6 **PROGRAMME UPDATES**

##### (a) **Getting Building Fund (GBF)**

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Final draft budget outturn figures confirmed that this the 2022/23 GBF budget of £23.5m would be fully expended.

##### (b) **Local Growth Fund (LGF)**

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The draft LGF budget expenditure outturn for 2022/23 was £9.3m. Over 1,000 jobs had been reported by the year end. Budget forecasts for 2022/23 were set out.

**RESOLVED – That that Investment Board noted the matters raised in the report.**

**(c) Project Development Accelerator Fund (PDAF)**

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The report provided a programme summary update following Qtr. 4 2021/22 project monitoring returns and an overview of progress on each of the 21 approved projects. Budget expenditure for 2021/2022 was £432,032.

**(d) North East Investment Fund (NEIF)**

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This report provided a high-level update on the current position of the North East Investment Fund (NEIF) including performance figures on the North East Property Fund. With plans to invest up to £35m from the NEIF into an externally procured new Commercial Investment Fund it was noted that this will see the management of the NEIF becoming focused on the oversight of repayments from existing investments. Strategically the NEIF will no longer be promoted by the LEP as a means to invest new loan finance in capital infrastructure, given the commitment of funds into the new funding schemes.

**(e) Enterprise Zones (EZ)**

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The draft business rate income outturn position in 2021/22 was reported as £2.968m. higher than the previous year but £1.208m lower than the estimate for the year. In terms of capital financing costs, the outturn figure of £2.171m included in year interest costs paid to councils for projects in construction (£0.096m), annuity loan borrowing costs (of £1.436m) paid to councils and funding in year feasibility costs (£0.119m) and repayment of NEIF loans (£0.519m) previously used to fund capital costs on EZ sites. The Revenue Account generated an in year surplus of £0.544m.

A range of revised forecast lifetime Business Rates Growth Income were presented for discussion setting out calculations and assumptions on which they were based.

**RESOLVED – That the Investment Board agreed to receive the EZ Model update for information and noted that the model was still being updated and that a final report would be presented to the LEP Board.**

## 7 **FORWARD PLAN**

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The Forward Plan was noted.

## 8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Helen Golightly informed Investment Board members that this was possibly the Chair's last meeting. A report was on the agenda for 19 May Board meeting in terms of recruiting new members as a number had completed a second term. It was anticipated that new Board members would be in place by the Board meeting in July but this was dependent on the recruitment process.

She went on to offer a huge thank you to Andrew on behalf of the Executive Team and the LEP Board for his work over the last six years.

Mark Thompson reiterated Helen's comments.

The Chair also offered thanks to the Executive Team, the Investment Board and advisers and NTCA colleagues.

## 9 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 7 July, 2:00pm – 4:30pm