

SCR - BUSINESS GROWTH BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2020 AT 1.00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING



Present:

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Co-Chair)
Neil MacDonald (Co-Chair)
Lucy Nickson
Councillor Denise Lelliott
Councillor Mazher Iqbal
Sharon Kemp

Barnsley MBC
Private Sector LEP Board Member
Private Sector LEP Board Member
Rotherham MBC
Sheffield City Council
Rotherham MBC

In Attendance:

Rachel Clark	Assistant Director Trade & Investment	SCR Executive Team
David Grimes	Assistant Director - Growth Hub	SCR Executive Team
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Assistant Director Policy and Assurance	SCR Executive Team
Rae Shearer	PA to Ruth Adams	SCR Executive Team
Katherine Humphreys	Project Manager	SCR Executive Team
Councillor Chris Furness		Derbyshire Dales DC

Apologies:

Councillor Bill Mordue	Doncaster MBC
Dr Ruth Adams	SCR Executive Team

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the SCR Business Growth Board.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda

None.

3 Urgent items / Announcements

None.

4 **Public Questions of Key Decisions**

None.

5 **Matters Arising**

None.

6 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th February 2020 were agreed to be an accurate record and approved for signing by the representative of the Head of Paid Service.

7 **Economic Recovery Plan**

F Kumi-Ampofo delivered a presentation to outline the development of the SCR's Renewal Action Plan (RAP) and timeline of activity for delivery.

The RAP set out the SCR's response to the current and potential social and economic impact of Covid -19 on the region, its residents and its businesses. The purpose of the Plan is to provide the SCR with the interventions required to prepare the region best for recovery and renewal, but also to provide immediate relief. The interventions presented focused on the relief phase (12 to 18 months).

Members noted that three priorities had been developed based on the impact Covid-19 would have on the region's people (jobs and skills), businesses and organisations and places.

The priorities were noted as follows:

People - to support work experience, apprenticeships, and training to avoid mass unemployment and/or reduce the period of unemployment. This intervention was likely to target approximately 20,000 people, anticipating an increase of 3,000 apprentices in 18 months.

Employers – to provide access to specialist advice, grants and loans to businesses, to meet business needs and deliver policy objectives of the MCA and city region. This intervention programme would target 20% of the overall business base, to survive and thrive, whilst also reducing their carbon footprint and reducing inequality.

Place – to accelerate investment to enable and promote cycling and walking, commitment to support local development plans which enable low traffic neighbourhoods and improve bus services. This intervention would increase cycling rates, uplift in urban centres and improved local economy resilience and health and wellbeing.

Members were informed that a total of seven broad interventions had been developed to date, to maximise support in these areas. The presentation provided Members with a detailed description of the initiatives that would have

the most impact, their delivery method and target impacts.

The next steps for implementation of the RAP were noted as follows:-

- Development of delivery plans to commence;
- The Mayor would make representations (“asks”) to central government by 1st July;
- Securing local stakeholder support and buy-in;
- LEP Board endorsement of the Plan to be obtained in July;
- MCA approval in July; and
- Joint delivery with all partners.

It was anticipated that the headline costs for implementation of the interventions would be available during week commencing 29th June 2020.

The Board considered and discussed the interventions at length. The following observations were noted:-

- In relation to Employment Schemes, the Board noted that there were proposals to run the schemes nationally, and not local. The Board requested that representations be made to Government to request that discretion is applied to run local Employment Schemes.
- With regards to delivery of the Plan, the Board requested that it be kept uncomplicated, focusing on “here and now” to avoid establishing new structures. The Board requested that the expertise of the local authority delivery teams be utilised alongside the expertise of the Growth Hub.
- The Board requested that the Plan should not be sector specific; the SCR should help as many businesses as it can.
- There should be a focus on inequalities for disadvantaged groups.
- Councillor Iqbal reported that there was a disconnect between the SCR’s RAP and local authority plans. Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Iqbal would forward the issues to F Kumi-Ampofo by email after today’s meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Iqbal**

The Board thanked F Kumi-Ampofo and his Team for all efforts in producing the ERP.

RESOLVED – That the Board considered and support the measures set out within the SCR Economic Recovery Plan.

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Any Other Business

None.

In accordance with Combined Authority's Constitution/Terms of Reference for the Board, Board decisions need to be ratified by the Head of Paid Services (or their nominee) in consultation with the Chair of the Board. Accordingly, the undersigned has consulted with the Chair and hereby ratifies the decisions set out in the above minutes.

Signed

Name

Position

Date