

# Public Document Pack



Tuesday, 25 August 2020

To: Members of the SCR - Business Growth Board and Appropriate Officers

You are hereby invited to a meeting of the Sheffield City Regional Mayoral Combined Authority to be held **Virtually**, on: **Wednesday, 2 September 2020** at **10.00 am** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Smith".

Dr Dave Smith  
**Chief Executive**



You can view the agenda and papers at [www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk) or use a smart phone camera and scan the QR code

## Member Distribution

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Co-Chair)  
Neil MacDonald (Co-Chair)

Lucy Nickson

Councillor Denise Lelliott  
Councillor Bill Mordue  
Sharon Kemp  
Dr Dave Smith

Barnsley MBC  
Private Sector LEP Board  
Member  
Private Sector LEP Board  
Member  
Rotherham MBC  
Doncaster MBC  
Rotherham MBC  
SCR Executive Team

## SCR - Business Growth Board

Wednesday, 2 September 2020 at 10.00 am

Venue: Virtual Meeting



### Agenda

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**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 10.00 am  
**At:** 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

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**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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 8 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 .....



**2 September 2020**

**MCA/LEP Business Support Operating Model**

**Purpose of Report**

To raise awareness of, and engage members of the Board, in work that has started to examine the options for how business support should be organised to meet the business-facing objectives of the Renewal Action Plan and the Strategic Economic Plan.

**Thematic Priority**

1. Ensure new businesses receive the support they need to flourish.
2. Facilitate and proactively support growth amongst existing firms.

**Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972**

The paper will be available under the Mayoral Combined Authority Publication Scheme.

**Recommendations**

Business Growth Board Members:

1. To note the commencement of this commission aimed at further developing the approach to business support, investment and engagement.
2. To provide any steer and direction deemed necessary to shape the progress and eventual outcome of this commission.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The MCA Executive Team is working with PwC to examine alternative models for the delivery of the business growth and support agendas and trade and investment functions of the MCA and LEP. The objective of this paper is to raise awareness of, and engage members of the Board in, work that has started to examine the options for how the region wide functions should be organised to meet the business-facing objectives of the Renewal Action Plan (RAP) and the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).
- 1.2** This is a ten-week programme of work, concluding at the end of September, to assess the current model for business support and develop a range of options for how this could be delivered to support the ambitions of the new SEP and RAP in the City Region.
- 1.3** The process of developing the SEP and the impacts of Covid-19 have shown that the vulnerabilities and weaknesses in the SCR economy prior to the Covid-19 crisis will be exacerbated. SCR may escape some of the worst initial impacts due to the structure of our economy but in the medium to long-term we are even more exposed. The systemic and fundamental economic challenges remain and will need to be addressed. These

challenges may be further exacerbated by the transition from the EU at the end of this year.

## **2. Proposal and justification**

**2.1** The intended benefits of any changes to the operating model include the following:

- Improve collaboration and building strategic relationships with businesses and entrepreneurs to help local businesses develop and stay local;
- look nationally and internationally to the markets and companies that will enhance and strengthen our capabilities;
- improve partnerships between businesses, academia and the public sector to collaborate in translational research and innovation to grow the economy through greater levels of commercialisation, modernisation and productivity;
- acting to enable greater business density in our key growth areas and networks to increase diversity, improve resilience and deepen relationships;
- developing a range of investment mechanisms to be better able to meet need, improve funding sustainability and obtain greater social value for the public investment made;
- developing business plans seeking to increase investment in business-driven innovation within the city region, based on the above developments;
- investing in business leadership;
- Better support SME's and supply chains;
- creating opportunities for businesses to participate and diversify into new sectors and export markets.

To deliver these changes, there will need to be MCA and LEP will need to adopt new approaches that:

1. A greater focus on active engagement with a range of indigenous businesses;
2. Enhanced work with businesses of all size who recognise the need to invest in change and growth;
3. Look outwards to enhance national and international influence and competitiveness;

**2.2** There are two aspects to the review being undertaken. Looking at the operating model (how the city region business support teams are structured to deliver the business facing objectives of the RAP and SEP) and delivery model (looking at options of service delivery). The project plan can be summarised in three steps:

1. Mobilisation: background research; literature review; data analysis
2. Discovery and access: current model appraisal; design principles; options identification
3. Option appraisal: assess future options; explore mechanisms and implementation

A wide range of stakeholders will be engaged with to inform this commission and the outcomes of the work will be reported to a future Business Growth Board

## **3. Consideration of alternative approaches**

### **3.1 Business as usual**

This option means continuing to work with businesses as we have done in previous years. The evidence illustrates that whilst we have been effective in creating jobs, this has not led to a step-change in our economic fortunes. This has been the case for

decades so change will not be quick nor be easy. Continuing with the same approach, however, will not lead to the transformation required in the economy.

### **3.2 Different operating models**

PwC has already identified UK and international case studies of how we could change our operating and delivery models. These will be assessed as part of the options appraisal.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial**

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report. Some financial outlay may be required to set up the preferred new operating model, once one is identified and agreed.

### **4.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **4.3 Risk Management**

This approach should mitigate the risk of local businesses with the potential to innovate choosing to relocate outside of the City Region and will ensure the MCA and LEP deliver the SEP and RAP and create stronger, greener and fairer South Yorkshire.

### **4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion**

The premise of changing the MCA and LEP's business support, investment and engagement operating model is to create an economy that works for everyone.

## **5. Communications**

5.1 N/A at this stage.

## **6. Appendices/Annexes**

6.1 *NONE*

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<b>Paul Johnson</b>
<b>POST</b>	<b>Senior Economic Policy Manager</b>
Officer responsible	Felix Kumi-Ampofo
Organisation	SCR Executive
Email	Paul.Johnson@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk
Telephone	07795 826563

Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at:

Other sources and references:

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**BUSINESS GROWTH THEMATIC BOARD**

**2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

**Renewal Action Plan Delivery Update**

**Purpose of Report**

This paper is to provide the board with an update on progress for the delivery work on the Renewal Action Plan. The Board will receive an update with the opportunity to discuss and provide input and direction on any specific areas of work. Attached to this report, are a number of appendices including the high level delivery framework document on progress to date.

**Thematic Priority**

1. Facilitate and proactively support growth amongst existing firms
2. Increase sales of SCR's goods and services to other parts of the UK and abroad.

**Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972**

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme

**Recommendations**

The Business Growth Board:

- To discuss and explore the progress made to date from the update and provide any input and thoughts on direction and content.
- Agree further action or focus on any specifics contained within the update or exploration of topics for the next Board.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The Sheffield City Region (SCR) Renewal Action Plan (RAP) has been agreed in response to the immediate need brought about by the Covid-19 crisis with a longer term view to support ongoing recovery and dovetail into developing a more resilient economy.

The RAP focuses upon three main areas of action:

- People
- Employers
- Place

The Employer area of the RAP has identified a number of themes for development and implementation and are included in section 2.1 below.

## 2. Proposal and justification

**2.1** This update focusses on the development of delivery interventions under the Employer section of the RAP, to be delivered within the next 12 to 18 months and focussed primarily on immediate relief to employers and businesses. The enclosed document for discussion in appendix A summarises the overall framework approach taken which breaks down the Employer section into the delivery areas, these include;

1. Flexible Investment and Re-capitalisation
2. Access to Specialist Advice
3. Supply Chain and Procurement Support
4. Leadership Support
5. Digital Upskilling and Technology Adoption

A task and finish group for each of the above areas has been implemented and involves members from the four local authorities and also the LEP, along with external representation being invited to provide advice and support to each group, including Chambers of Commerce etc.

**2.2** Each task and finish group has held regular sessions discussing the various delivery options under each of the above 5 themes. The document in Appendix 1 highlights and presents options for discussion on each theme where each of these can be discussed, assessed and challenged and suitable priority initiatives identified. These discussions are supported by appropriate evidence and data from the RAP document and other local authority/LEP sources.

Once key initiatives have been identified and agreed through each task group's discussions, draft proposals have then been worked up to include specific details of delivery and suggestions on implementation.

These recommended propositions will be incorporated to develop a draft delivery plan under the employer section, an example of a proposition for consideration can be seen in Appendix 2.

**2.3** Each task group is reporting into a wider delivery group for discussion and agreement, which collectively has been working to identify the most immediate priorities with a resulting proposal developed, with these being identified as;

- Priority 1 - A Relief Fund, providing financial support to ensure businesses that are at most risk of closure and redundancies are able to receive help to aid liquidity and survival ensuring the fund is effectively targeted and utilised for business and job retention.
- Priority 2 – Extending regional access to advisory support to ensure businesses are able to receive bespoke advice and support and brokerage into appropriate financial help, schemes and initiatives.
- Priority 3 – Provision of a framework of dedicated specialist providers to support specific business challenges whether financial, legal, HR, digital or other specialist support.
- Priority 4 - Leadership Support, enabling access to peer networks to support addressing key business challenges through cohorts of other business leaders.

**2.4** Ongoing, there are advanced discussions on a number of wider key initiatives including digital upskilling and technology adoption with the development of a regional digital hub. Wider leadership support including coaching and mentoring support for 2<sup>nd</sup> tier and

middle managers, support for procurement opportunities and the facing supply chain disruption with additional financial initiatives also still to be discussed and agreed. It is the intention that a first draft delivery plan will be presented at the next Business Growth Thematic Board in October.

### 3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1 There are no immediate proposed changes to the delivery work programme, however following discussion at the Business Growth Thematic Board any recommended approaches will be fully explored. The RAP document itself has been consulted on heavily with partners and stakeholders to shape evidence, the options, approaches, objectives and the delivery team will continue to engage and bring in expertise where necessary and prudent.

### 4. Implications

#### 4.1 Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### 4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report

#### 4.3 Risk Management

There are no legal implications arising from this report due to this being an update on development and no risk analysis has taken place or deemed necessary.

#### 4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

No requirements associated with the discussion of this paper at this point.

### 5. Communications

- 5.1 It is anticipated that following this discussion, at the next thematic board a further paper and a draft plan will be brought back for discussion and consideration.

### 6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 Appendix 1: RAP 'Employer' Delivery Framework  
Appendix 2: Delivery Proposition Paper

Report Author	<b>David Grimes</b>
Post	<b>Head of Growth Hub</b>
Officer responsible	<b>Dave Smith</b>
Organisation	<b>Sheffield City Region</b>
Email	<a href="mailto:dave.smith@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk">dave.smith@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk</a>
Telephone	<b>0114 220 3442</b>

Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: N/A

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**Employer Projects Delivery Plan**

Identified Priorities										
	Intervention	Support Area	Support Option	Key delivery requirements	Existing or New	Proposed Delivery Mechanism	Timeframe	Next Steps required	Interlinking priorities (People etc)	
Priorities	1	Relief Fund	Direct Financial Support	Option 4	Up to £25k Discretionary grant offer to businesses based upon LA data identifying business categories and potential numbers needing help. Provided by LA's method as Business rate and discretionary grants - those fallen between the Gaps	New	Utilising Local Authorities via same mechanism as Gov discretionary grants	Medium Term - requires Government response	LA's to identify categories of businesses so far omitted and that are in most need of financial assistance in a grant offer where unable to provide previously via discretionary pot	Not identified
	2	Regional Specialist Framework	Specialist Support	Option 1	Task sub group suggested and agreed utilising the Growth Hub Framework to access specialist advisors - requires extra Growth Hub core staff to manage new framework of specialists	Existing Framework	Bloom Neutral Vendor Framework	Immediate once additional staff in place to manage - Sept/Oct.	Specification released via Bloom - Early September	Not identified
	3	Access to Regional Advisors	Specialist Support	Option 6	Provision for businesses to access immediate advisor support to discuss wrap around support available for businesses - ie: can discuss strategic plans and identify wider support packages.	Existing Framework	Growth Hub Advisor Neutral Vendor Framework	Late August/Early Sept	Specification released via Bloom - Mid August.	Not identified
	4	Peer to Peer Networks	Leadership Support	Option 1	SMEs in cohorts of 12 to engage in facilitated sessions (18 hours) with diverse groups of business leaders, to find solutions to the challenges they are facing. Also some follow-up direct coaching / masterclasses included	Pre-Developed national programme	BEIS Funded - Commission an Action Learning deliverer	Delivery to commence October	Once Grant Acceptance approval, tender process can be initiated in August	Not identified
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## Renewal Plan –Delivery Project Proposal

<b>Renewal Plan Section</b>	Employer	<b>Support Area:</b>	Specialist Support
<b>Proposed Intervention :</b> Access to services and knowledge support			
<b>Date Completed :</b>		<b>Priority:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Recommended Delivery Approach</b>			
<p>Access to an expanded in-house team of specialists within the Growth Hub utilising the ‘Neutral Vendor’ Framework. Agreement reached proposing a two tiered approach -</p> <p>Tier One Provision of additional regional resource into LA areas to provide wrap around strategic advice and brokerage support initially 1 extra advisor per region (using Growth Hub Advisor model but deployed into each LA area).</p> <p>Tier Two Framework access to specialist advisors – Again utilising the existing Bloom framework – identify and have contracted with a bank of specialist providers on a call off basis – to include; HR, Legal, Financial, H&amp;S, QMS, Digital, others as identified. Once provision identified via an existing LA or GH advisor through a diagnostic, specialist can be commissioned to deliver into a business.</p>			
<b>Supporting Reasoning for Initiative</b>			
For the provision of knowledge, supporting businesses that need to adapt and survive. It includes scaling up our business support offer, - specialist areas like HR, legal, company formation and structure, health and wellbeing (especially mental health), and health & safety (including COVID adaptations).			
<b>Identified Pros/Cons:</b>			
<b>Pros:</b> Already in place - can enable access a range of specialists not just a grant to access one - can complement all other grant projects and fairly quick and simple to access once specialists are contracted with.		<b>Cons:</b> Potentially less flexible on number of specialisms depending on who is registered on the framework. Will need extra resource just to manage framework.	
<b>Resource Requirements with Explanation</b>			
<p>As a minimum there will be a requirement for at least one full time role to manage the issuing for work contracts to relevant specialists, along with increased administration support for processing timesheets for activity delivered and any output documents.</p> <p>For the relatively small size of the team currently, there is at least a 0.5 fte time allocated to managing the activity and time sheeting currently taken up within the team. Dependent upon the volume of specialist referrals, this may need to be flexible with the option to flex up if/when needed. May also need some slight uplift in contracts and performance team who manage the contract with Bloom and the issuing of contracts.</p> <p>Basic requirement - one project manager - one admin staff to manage and support effective delivery as soon as this is approved and goes live.</p>			
<b>Anticipated Costs with Explanation</b>			
<p>Currently difficult to predict in terms of specialist access, - but initial cost estimate £40k from September to March for additional Advisor support 1 x per LA. Total simply for a single additional wraparound resource per LA = £135k - extra budget already approved for GH</p> <p>For specialist activity based upon a day rate x based upon historical enquiry levels for specific advice – per month</p>			

Based on a maximum of 40 referrals per month per LA area on average. Potentially up to £768k based on allocating 2 x days per business referral from September to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

All costs up to March 31<sup>st</sup> 21.

£135k for Strategic advisors for each LA –

£768k for access to dedicated specialist advice

Plus costs for additional resource to manage.

£32k for project manager (Pro Rata)

£28k for project support (Pro Rata)

Anticipated maximum project cost – £933k

	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>

<b>Amendments:</b>	First draft completed.	<b>Date</b>	03/08/20
<b>Amendments:</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Amendments:</b>		<b>Date</b>	

**2nd September 2020**

**Business Growth Board**

**BEIS - Peer to Peer Networks**

### **Purpose of Report**

Following the development of a national programme by BEIS to support business leaders, each LEP area is requested to opt into the initiative, or to opt out. This paper requests approval to opt into the scheme and accept the grant and terms associated with this initiative.

### **Thematic Priority**

- Facilitate and proactively support growth amongst existing firms
- Develop the SCRs skills base, labour mobility and education performance

### **Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972**

Under the Freedom of Information Act this paper and any appendices will be made available under the SCR Publication Scheme

### **Recommendations**

The Business Growth Thematic Board consider and approve:

1. Agreement to opt into the Peer to Peer Scheme with approval to accept associated grant value.
2. Delegated Authority to the Head of Paid of Service, in conjunction with the Section 73 and the Monitoring Officer, to enter into the contractual arrangements required as a result of the above approval.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On 29 May BEIS set out to develop and implement a Peer to Peer business support initiative (Peer Network) helping more SMEs to access high quality Peer Networks whilst supporting the economic recovery from COVID-19 in the short term and improving firm level productivity in the medium to long term. Peer Network will enhance the leadership capabilities, knowledge and confidence of business owners and entrepreneurs within a local region. It will help build local connectivity and strength within the SME business community.

## **2. Proposal and justification**

- 2.1 The nationally funded programme will see the creation of a series of Peer Networks (cohorts) through the Growth Hub network, with each group consisting of 8-11 owners or managers from the SME business community participating in each network. Led by an experienced facilitator, these Peer Networks will typically meet fortnightly as part of delivering 18 hours of action learning through 2-3-hour sessions. Individual one-to-one

support (coaching, mentoring, or advice) will also be provided directly by the programme to help to implement and manage change. Our involvement in the The Peer Networks Programme will be funded by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in response to a commitment made in the 2019 Business Productivity Review.

- 2.2 As well as supporting the delivery of the SCR Renewal Plan, the Peer Networks are intended to form an important part of the Government's drive to improve productivity and deliver part of the economic response to the effect of COVID-19 on businesses, offering a nationally funded vehicle to support business leaders in Sheffield City Region. It will provide support to SMEs as they move into and through the Recovery phase of COVID-19 response. The aim is to improve SMEs' capability to adapt their business models to the "new normal", position themselves for future success and drive longer term productivity gains through improved leadership and management skills and tech adoption.
- 2.3 The programme will aim to support up to 6 cohorts of delivery across the Sheffield City Region. These will be delivered in line with local demand and will be delivered externally. Success in delivery will be measured by:
- 2.4 Firm survival, Participant views on the resilience of their SME, Participant views on their leadership and management skills, The SME's ability to access cash to continue trading, Changes in the SME's adoption of technology, Improvements in labour productivity, Growth in value added as an indicator of recovery from COVID-19.

### 3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1 Sheffield City Region LEP via its Growth Hub were given the option to take part in this initiative. As the Government is keen to pursue its levelling up agenda, it is vital that SCR is seen as a place to focus on and be involved along with all other 37 LEPs that have opted in.

### 4. Implications

- 4.1 **Financial**  
BEIS will cover 100% of the cost of the project, delivery of the programme will be tendered publicly.
- 4.2 **Legal**  
There are no legal implications arising from this report
- 4.3 **Risk Management**  
No risk analysis was deemed necessary for this project.
- 4.4 **Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion**  
No requirements associated with the endorsement of this paper.

### 5. Communications

- 5.1 Proactive communications opportunities will be sought at appropriate milestones throughout the project, to gain maximum positive publicity from the regional delivery. Communications work will be carried out in collaboration with partners, including BEIS, the and others, and will be delivered across a variety of channels, including through digital, social and traditional media.

### 6. Appendices/Annexes

None

Report Author **David Grimes**  
Post **Head of Growth Hub**  
Officer responsible **Dave Smith**  
Organisation **Sheffield City Region**  
Email [dave.smith@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk](mailto:dave.smith@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk)  
Telephone **0114 220 3442**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: NA

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**2nd September 2020**

**BEIS Growth Hub Uplift Funding**

**Purpose of Report**

At the last budget (2019) the Chancellor announced an additional £10million for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) for their Growth Hubs. Following the allocation to each LEP earlier this financial year, the board is asked to consider acceptance of this grant.

**Thematic Priority**

- Facilitate and proactively support growth amongst existing firms

**Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972**

Under the Freedom of Information Act this paper and any appendices will be made available under the SCR Publication Scheme

**Recommendations**

The Business Growth Thematic Board consider and approve:

1. Consider the contents of the report and whether to accept the additional grant funding.
2. Delegated Authority to the Head of Paid of Service, in conjunction with the Section 73 and the Monitoring Officer, to enter into the contractual arrangements required as a result of the above approval.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At the last budget the Chancellor announced an additional £10million for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) for their Growth Hubs which takes the total funding envelope up to £22million for 2020-21. The £10 million supplementary grant funding is awarded specifically to level up historical funding awards, enable continuation of the Cluster model and provide certainty in the short term that Growth Hubs will have the resources at their disposal to provide much needed targeted local support and advice to businesses, as they face the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2. Proposal and justification**

- 2.1 The Sheffield City Region LEP have been allocated and additional £290,000 to support additional business support via the Growth Hub to undertake additional activity of not more than 25% of the allocation to support Covid related support.

As per previous grant fund allocations, quarterly claim updates and bi-annual reports will be required to satisfy this grant allocation. Additional requirements above previous funds include that this funding support none of the activities already underway.

### 3. Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1 N/A – Additional funding being provided to support Growth Hub delivery.

### 4. Implications

#### 4.1 Financial

There are no other financial implications arising from the acceptance of this funding.

#### 4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report

#### 4.3 Risk Management

No risk analysis was deemed necessary for this project.

#### 4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

No requirements associated with the endorsement of this paper.

### 5. Communications

5.1 Proactive communications opportunities will be sought at appropriate milestones throughout the project, to gain maximum positive publicity from the regional delivery. Communications work will be carried out in collaboration with partners, including BEIS, the and others, and will be delivered across a variety of channels, including through digital, social and traditional media.

### 6. Appendices/Annexes

None

Report Author	<b>David Grimes</b>
Post	<b>Head of Growth Hub</b>
Officer responsible	<b>Dave Smith</b>
Organisation	<b>Sheffield City Region</b>
Email	<a href="mailto:dave.smith@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk">dave.smith@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk</a>
Telephone	<b>0114 220 3442</b>

Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: NA

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