

SCR BUSINESS GROWTH EXECUTIVE BOARD

27th FEBRUARY 2018

BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD

No.	Item	Action
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>Present:</p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Neil MacDonald (LEP) – CHAIR Laura Bennett (LEP)</p> <p><u>In Attendance</u> Matt Gladstone (BMBC) Tim O’Connell (RMBC) Chris Scholey (LEP) Julie Kenny (LEP) Peter Dale (DMBC) Sarah Want (TUoS) Ed Highfield (SCC) Helen Lazarus (SCR Exec Team) Mark Lynam, SCR Exec Team Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit</p> <p>+ Kate Downes (Regeneris) for item 4</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Julie Dore (SCC), Diana Terris (BMBC), Kevin Kerrigan (SHU), Andrew Denniff (BRCoC) and Damien Wilson (RMBC)</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No specific declarations of interest in relation to the matters to be discussed on today’s agenda were noted.</p>	
3	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd January were agreed to be an accurate record.</p>	

	<p>It was noted the Digital Action Plan - Industry Panel event is scheduled for 13th March.</p> <p>Regarding BGEB membership the Board was advised Professor Kevin Kerrigan would be the SHU representative.</p>	
4	<p><u>Growth Hub Review</u></p> <p>A report and presentation were received to update Members on the early stages of the independent review of the SCR Growth Hub.</p> <p>The report noted the Government confirmed its commitment to continuing to support Growth Hubs in the 2017 Autumn Statement. It was therefore suggested it is timely to take stock of our current Growth Hub model and agree a future direction to ensure that both policy and finances are directed towards achieving the ‘best benefit’ for the SCR,</p> <p>It was noted Regeneris Consulting were commissioned in January 2018 to undertake the review. Members were asked to note this is a review rather than an evaluation.</p> <p>The presentation provided information regarding the review’s substantive stages, noting this has commenced with a data review and interviews / consultation with stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, Chambers of Commerce, other partner organisation, universities and also Hub user and non-user representatives etc.).</p> <p>It was noted that private sector LEP Board members have not yet been interviewed.</p> <p>Action: Helen to schedule interviews with Julie Kenny, Chris Scholey and Neil MacDonald to discuss the Growth Hub review.</p> <p>It was noted an options workshop will be held mid-April to give further attention to the key matters identified and attempt to establish some consensus propositions. It was confirmed all stakeholders will be invited to the event.</p> <p>An update to be presented at BGEB on 17th April</p> <p>End reports will be presented by Regeneris by 30th April.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that nationally there are 39 Growth Hubs, each with a different model of operation, and therefore difficult to draw ‘benchmarkable’ comparisons between them. The Board was informed BEIS has a framework for what needs to constitute the</p>	HL

	<p>minimum requirements of a Growth Hub, but beyond which, it is for each individual Growth Hub to determine what it chooses to aspire to.</p> <p>Action: Mark to present the BEIS ‘opinion of the SCR Growth Hub to the next meeting.</p> <p>It was suggested the review will broadly assess whether the Growth Hub has achieved against its original expectations. However, it was acknowledged there has never been a wholly shared understanding of the role of the Growth Hub and how this fits with the complementary business support services provided by the local authorities and other agencies. It was confirmed this issue is within the scope of the review.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board approve the Growth Hub review process</p>	<p>ML</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Business Growth Plan</u></p> <p>A report and presentation were received to update the Board on the development of a SCR Business Growth Plan (as instigated at the previous meeting) and to invite Members input into the current draft.</p> <p>Action: Helen to circulate the presentation</p> <p>It was noted the Plan will essentially fill a space between the overarching strategy of the SEP, and the detail of the Business and Investment Delivery Plan, in that the Plan will determine how one is translated into the other, promoting the instigation of SEP-achieving actions that are capable of delivery against a number of defined principles.</p> <p>The draft principles were presented as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the productivity of the SCR’s business to reduce the gap to the national average. • A higher proportion of GVA growth occurring across the SCR’s priority sector businesses. • More of the SCR’s indigenous businesses participating in supply chain opportunities • More of the SCR population creating businesses, a high proportion of which can scale up to achieve additional growth • Increased levels of private sector financial investment to support business expansion and improvement. <p>It was suggested the potential actions that may then arise from these principles could generate a different approach to how the</p>	<p>HL</p>

	<p>SCR achieves its business growth ambition (beyond the current Growth Hub and BIF model), such as through increased collaboration and the co-design of plans with partners, more cross-boundary working and more pilot undertakings, all supported by a culture of not being afraid of failure.</p> <p>It was suggested these principles need to be developed in line with, and capable of delivering, the SCR's inclusive growth agenda and met with general support from Board members.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the prioritisation of sectors, the role of the Growth Hub, identifying existing good practice which may be scaled-up, the need to demonstrate additionality.</p> <p>It was suggested this approach risks being too 'big' and efforts should be maintained to keep the focus on business growth rather than risk writing another SEP or unnecessarily overlapping with the work being led by the other SCR Executive Boards.</p> <p>It was suggested the Plan may be in-part a means of capturing, promoting and scaling up current exemplar business growth practices.</p> <p>It was agreed there needs to be a commonality of language between the various strategic tiers (SEP, Growth Plan and Action Plan)</p> <p>Action: Helen to present the draft Business Growth Plan to the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: ALL to provide Helen with any more comments</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board notes the content of the current draft and instructs offices to develop this further in recognition of the comments received as the priority proposals are developed in relation to each of the principles</p>	<p>HL</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Draft Business and Investment Delivery Plan</u></p> <p>A report was received to provide the Board with a draft of the Business and Investment Delivery Plan, and to invite any additional comments prior to the current draft being finalised.</p> <p>The Board was reminded the current SCR Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) is in the process of being refreshed, and will be supported by a number of discrete Delivery Plans concerning; Place, Business and Investment, Transport, Education, Employment and Skills and Research and Innovation. The purpose of these plans being to capture what activity is being</p>	

	<p>delivered against the identified programmes within these themes, along with proposed additional activity which will focus the work of the LEP over the next three years.</p> <p>It was noted the Plans will be kept under constant review.</p> <p>It was noted the plans will provide a basis for what matters (by exception) are presented to the Boards for steer and consideration.</p> <p>It was noted the metrics contained within the circulated report have been superseded and new figures are available.</p> <p>Action: Mark to circulate an updated version of the Plan</p> <p>The Board acknowledged the wealth of activity being led by other partners and agencies that aims to deliver the same outcomes as the Plans, but isn't LEP-led. It was confirmed the Delivery Plans will focus on actions the LEP is taking a lead on but the Executive Board will provide the opportunity to consider matters within a wider context.</p> <p>It was noted the Delivery Plans also act as frameworks for helping determine the activities of each of the SCR commissioning teams.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board endorse the current draft and agree to dashboard updates on identified activity being presented back to future meetings</p>	<p>ML</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><u>Quarterly Economic Survey</u></p> <p>The Board was advised a report was received at the last SCR LEP Board meeting (5th February) to inform the Board of the outcomes of the last Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) and invite views on the survey's continuation.</p> <p>It was reported the Board members expressed opinions that there is room for improvement in both the numbers of businesses responding to the survey and in how the results are used, and agreed there was a need to continue to monitor the efficacy of the survey.</p> <p>However, in light of the LEP Board not being able to formulate a unanimous opinion on whether to continue the QES Surveys, it was reported the responsibility for making a decision was delegated Business Growth Executive Board, with the direction to BGEB being to consider whether the QES is a useful barometer of business confidence and intelligence within the City Region.</p>	

	<p>The Board acknowledged the survey is not primarily a policy-influencing initiative but rather an engagement tool and a means of strengthening engagements with the Chambers and the business community. It was agreed the survey is a useful barometer of business confidence and intelligence within the City Region.</p> <p>It was noted there are intentions to do 'more' with the survey results, such as using these to inform subsequent thematic engagement events.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board agrees to support the continuation of the QES, noting the cost of this activity will be £24k.</p>	
8	<p><u>Business Investment Fund Panel</u></p> <p>The Board was provided with the BIF Panel meeting update of 13th February.</p> <p>This noted there were 5 indigenous applications for funding considered and awards totalling £657k were made, creating 98 new jobs. An additional inward investment application was supported in principle with the request this be brought before the next meeting for more detailed consideration.</p> <p>It was noted the BIF Panel is spending 'ahead of plan' and may have the capability to oversee the award of additional investment should it be made available.</p> <p>Regarding the potential appropriation of additional funding, the Board was reminded of plans to arrogate some degree of control over the South Yorkshire Investment Fund (SYIF) legacy which amounts to c£15m and is effectively awaiting a decision on its usage (to be 'managed' by Finance Yorkshire at DHCLG's direction). It was noted more information on this matter will be available at the next meeting.</p>	
9	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>No further matters requested.</p>	
11	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 17th April, 2.00pm at AMP Technology Centre, Rotherham</p>	