

BUSINESS GROWTH THEMATIC BOARD

2nd 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 2nd 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

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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