

10th September 2020

RENEWAL ACTION PLAN

Purpose of Report

This paper presents an update on the SCR Renewal Action Plan.

Thematic Priority

Cross-cutting across all six thematic priorities.

Freedom of Information

This paper will be made available under the SCR Publication Scheme.

Recommendations

LEP Board Members are asked to note the progress made and provide any comments and suggestions they deem appropriate, on how the Renewal Action Plan should be implemented.

1. Introduction

1.1 The SCR Renewal Action Plan (RAP) was approved by the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) on 27 July 2020, following endorsement by the LEP Board.

1.2 The RAP focuses on three high-level objectives:

- **People** - we will invest to ensure local people have the opportunity to develop their skills, and to find, stay and progress in work
- **Employers** - We will invest to ensure employers can survive, adapt and thrive
- **Places** - We will invest to create jobs and thriving places, in a way that reduces inequality and enhances our environment

1.3 Work is now underway to identify how the agreed priorities in the RAP should be implemented and this paper provides an update on the progress made to date.

2. Proposal and justification

2.1 Following approval by the MCA Board, the Thematic Boards were tasked with steering the development of Implementation Plans to deliver the RAP objectives and priorities. The Skills and Employment Board is guiding the development of the People Implementation Plan; the Business Growth Board is leading the development of the Employers Implementation Plan, and the Housing, Infrastructure and Transport Boards are developing implementation plans for the Place interventions identified in the RAP and

which are relevant to their remit. The progress made by the Thematic Boards in developing each Implementation Plan is detailed below.

2.2 People

Significant engagement has taken place with national and local partners and stakeholders to map existing provision that can support RAP and identify additional activity and projects to fill any gaps in support. The mapping exercise has included ascertaining whether and how the MCA could influence and co-design national programmes on traineeships, apprenticeships and supporting long-term unemployed people into work.

The Local Authority Officers Group for Skills and Employment is currently reviewing local initiatives for young people and the re-skilling and training of adults.

Consideration is also being given to explore how the European Social Fund (ESF) National Reserve Fund can be accessed to support job creation, career progression, digital skills and support for unemployed individuals and those seeking career change.

2.3 Employers

Task and Finish groups have been established to lead on each of the five Employers interventions set out in the RAP:

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

Task and Finish group memberships include MCA Exec Officers, local authority officers and LEP Board members, and business representative organisations such as the Chambers of Commerce, to provide advice and support. The September meeting of the Business Growth Board reviewed the delivery options, and detailed proposals are now in development.

2.4 Places

Local authority partners have all recently developed scheme outlines in response to various calls from Government. Work is underway to deliver the “shovel-ready” schemes approved as part of the Getting Building Fund and the Housing Fund (Brownfield). This is in addition to the delivery already underway as part of the Emergency Active Travel Fund Programme. The proposals in the RAP are already aligned with the activities in the SCR Active Travel Implementation Plan (ATIP).

Work also underway on the Digital Infrastructure Strategy to identify the gaps in digital infrastructure provision and accelerate full fibre and 5G roll-out across the City Region.

2.5 As the Thematic Boards, in consultation with other partners and stakeholders, develop the options and costings in the Implementation Plans, efforts are being made to identify and secure the funding required for delivery. As identified in paragraph 2.4 above, some funding has already been secured, such as the Getting Building Fund, Housing Fund (Brownfield), Emergency Active Travel Fund. National programmes have also been announced by Government to assist people back into work and this will delivery parts of the People interventions in the RAP.

2.6 The RAP Implementation Plans will be presented to the LEP and MCA Boards in November for approval and delivery will begin as soon as funds are available and allocated. Work is underway to secure more funds to deliver more of the RAP and the draft SEP.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1 Do something

Until additional resource from central Government is identified, The LEP and MCAs primary focus will need to be on delivering those interventions identified for the Relief phase (immediate and short-term) in the RAP, and which can be delivered with available resources.

3.2 Do Less

The RAP was submitted to Government in July with a request for additional resource. There is an expectation from Government that the MCA will use all available resources to deliver what interventions it can fund from the RAP as a minimum. However, the Board could decide to not act now until further funding is secured to deliver more of the interventions in the RAP.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper at this stage.

Whilst the interventions and costings are still being developed through the RAP Implementation Planning process, additional funding will need to be secured from Government in order to deliver both the RAP and the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The MCA Executive Team is engaging with Government through the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and Autumn Budget Statement processes to secure the additional funding required.

4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this paper.

4.3 Risk Management

Risks include:

- Failure to adequately prepare for and implement schemes that mitigate the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on young people, those employed in lower paid jobs or vulnerable sectors and SCR residents who have lost employment. The consequences being a significant rise in unemployment, a sustained fall in productivity and a prolonged economic recession in the City Region.
- Failure to adequately prepare schemes to a detailed level of development, that evidences their deliverability to support individuals in a timely manner. The consequence being the inability to secure additional funding from Government.
- Failure to demonstrate leadership on the response to COVID-19 to the City Region's businesses and residents. The consequence being adverse publicity or reputational damage to the Mayor, the MCA and the LEP.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

There are no equality, diversity and social inclusion implications arising from this paper at this stage.

The RAP is focusing on the economic wellbeing of residents in South Yorkshire. Through it we are seeking to mitigate against increasing levels of poverty and improve social inclusion. Interventions are targeted at vulnerable groups and those individuals who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications on the RAP and the RAP Implementation Plans will be delivered across a range of channels, including digital, social and traditional media, as detailed in the RAP Communication Plan. The LEP and MCA will work with partners and stakeholders to deliver these communications.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 None

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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: