

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## RENEWAL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

### **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) provided the basis for the MCA's submission to the Government's 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR); providing a formal request for additional revenue funding for the next three years and additional capital funding for the next four years. The Government has since announced that the 2020 CSR has been abandoned due to the Covid pandemic and that a one year settlement will be announced in due course.
- 1.2 The Thematic Boards have all considered how the agreed priorities in the RAP should be implemented and which interventions can be delivered. This paper provides an update on the progress made to date and the interventions which require immediate support.

## **2. Proposal and justification**

- 2.1 The Skills and Employment Board has guided the development of the People Implementation Plan; the Business Recovery and Growth Board has led the development of the Employers Implementation Plan; and the Housing and Infrastructure and Transport and Environment Boards have developed the implementation plans for the Place interventions that are relevant to their respective remits.
- 2.2 Each Thematic Board has considered the interventions that require immediate financial resource; including the anticipated outputs and outcomes for each intervention, the investment required from the MCA, and the use of new Government initiatives such as the

Getting Building Fund, Housing Fund (Brownfield) and Emergency Active Travel Fund. The priority interventions are detailed in Annex A.

It is worth noting here, that as this crisis has evolved and Government funded interventions are being announced regularly, the proposed interventions in the RAP have also progressed and been adapted accordingly. This is particularly relevant in the People focused interventions which have been continuously modified to respond to the raft of central government announcements.

**2.3** The key interventions that have been identified to be progressed immediately, using current resource are summarised below. Please note that these do not represent the sum total of interventions under development. Instead these are the first in a sequence of interventions selected on the basis of impact, cost and deliverability. More interventions are being developed and will be shared with the board in future meetings.

#### **2.4 People**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October, the Employment and Skills Board considered a set of proposals, and endorsed two key interventions that could be delivered immediately through utilisation of Gainshare resources:

- **Enhanced Apprenticeship Training Agency/Broker (EATA)** – this would create an Apprenticeship Hub for South Yorkshire to increase the volume of new apprenticeship starts and completions, particularly for 16-18 year olds and growth sectors. The hub would also potentially act as an employer of apprentices to reduce the risk for businesses who want an apprentice but who are unable to employ them in the current climate.
- **Kickstart South Yorkshire 25+** - this would assist economically inactive adults aged over 25 years to access training and employment by providing them with job placements. The current national Kickstart scheme is restricted to individuals aged between 16 and 24 years.

#### **2.5 Employers**

On 21<sup>st</sup> October, the Business Recovery and Growth Board discussed the draft Employer Implementation Plan and the endorsed five priority interventions for immediate delivery:

- SY Business Relief Fund - providing immediate financial support to businesses
- **Advisory and Specialist Support** – this would enable more businesses to access services and knowledge support from Specialist Advisers to help them to adapt to COVID-19.
- **Digital Adoption** – this would support businesses in accessing and utilising digital technology services in their companies including the provision of training to increase digital skills.
- **Supply Chain Development** – to map and identify opportunities for businesses to enter supply chains and access procurement contracts.
- **Marketing** – this would support the production and promotion of positive messaging and communications to businesses on the range of initiatives and market opportunities available.

#### **2.6 Places**

Work is underway to develop a prospectus for the South Yorkshire Capital Infrastructure Fund. This fund will deliver a portfolio of interventions based on the four key areas of focus set out in the RAP

1. Covid-19 spatial adaptation: reconfigure and redevelop urban centres and principal towns.
2. Sustainable Travel: public transport support, cycling and walking investment.

3. Shovel-ready decarbonisation investment: investment to accelerate low carbon transition.
4. Shovel-ready infrastructure investment: spades in the ground and cranes in the sky.

The objectives of the fund will be aligned with the SEP and RAP (Stronger, Greener, Fairer) objectives. The details of this work will be presented to the Board at its January 2021 meeting.

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

#### **3.1 Do Less**

until, new funds become available, the MCA will use existing resources to deliver the RAP interventions it is able to fund in order to aid economic recovery from Covid-19. However, the LEP and MCA could decide not to act until further funding is secured so that more interventions in the RAP can be delivered.

### **4. Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial**

If the proposed interventions in this paper are taken forward, this will use up the equivalent of two years Gainshare, at a minimum.

#### **4.2 Legal**

There are no direct 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 Annex A – Thematic Board Priorities for RAP Implementation

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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: