

16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## RENEWAL ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

### **Purpose of Report**

This report presents the priority interventions that have been endorsed by the Thematic Boards for implementing the Renewal Action Plan objectives in the immediate term.

### **Thematic Priority**

This report relates to all the existing and future Strategic Economic Plan priorities.

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

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

### **Recommendations**

That the MCA:

1. Considers the RAP interventions that have been prioritised by the Thematic Boards as set out in Annex 1.
2. Approves the use of £16.5m of Gainshare revenue funding and £29m of gainshare capital funding to enable detailed development of the priority interventions.

## **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.
- 1.2** 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, Infrastructure and Transport Boards have developed the implementation plans for the Place interventions that are relevant to their respective remits.
- 1.3** The Thematic Boards have considered at a high level how the agreed priorities in the RAP should be implemented and which interventions should be prioritised for further development and delivery. These priorities were presented to the LEP Board on 5th November 2020. This paper presents the priority interventions for approval so that further development of the priorities can be undertaken, within the agreed budget envelope and brought back to the MCA via the Thematic Boards.

## 2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1 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, 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 Implementation Plan which has been continuously modified to respond to the raft of central government announcements.

- 2.2 The key interventions that have been identified to be progressed to detailed development 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.

### 2.3 People

On 20th October, the Employment and Skills Board considered a set of proposals, and endorsed two key interventions that could be delivered early through Gainshare for the next two years:

- **Enhanced Apprenticeship Training Agency/Broker (£4.4m)** – 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+ (£4m)** - 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.

### 2.4 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. The following interventions would require £8.1m of Gainshare investment for the next two years:

- **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.

### 2.5 Places

The RAP interventions for Places will primarily be delivered through existing infrastructure funding, specifically Getting Building Fund, Housing Fund (Brownfield), the Active Travel

Emergency Fund and the Transforming Cities Fund. At this time, it is not necessary to prioritise or bring forward these interventions for early delivery.

The Places interventions are instead being progressed through the development of a prospectus for the MCA Capital Programme, which will provide the framework for how £29m of infrastructure funds will be invested.

- 2.6** This paper proposes that the MCA Board considers and approves the RAP interventions that have been prioritised by the Thematic Boards as set out in Annex 1 and approves the use of Gainshare funding to commence immediate delivery of the interventions.

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

#### **3.1 Do Less**

Until the outcome of the CSR submission is known, there is an expectation from Government that the MCA will use existing resources to deliver some of the interventions in the RAP to aid economic recovery from Covid-19. However, the Board could decide not to act until further funding is secured through the CSR process so that more interventions in the RAP can be delivered.

### **4. Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial**

£16.5m of Gainshare funding is required to deliver the priority interventions outlined for People (employment and skills) and Employers (business recovery and growth) in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 above.

A further £29m of Gainshare capital has been earmarked for the South Yorkshire Capital Programme. This will be deployed on top of existing programmes including the Getting Building Fund, Housing Fund (Brownfield), Active Travel Emergency Fund and Transforming Cities Fund, to support delivery of the interventions for Places as identified in the RAP.

#### **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 Annex 1 – Priority Interventions for RAP Implementation

Report Author	<b>Lyndsey Whitaker</b>
Post	<b>Senior Economic Policy Manager</b>
Officer responsible	Felix Kumi-Ampofo
Organisation	Sheffield City Region
Email	<a href="mailto:felix.kumi-ampofo@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk">felix.kumi-ampofo@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk</a>
Telephone	0114 220 3445

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: