

# SCR RENEWAL ACTION PLAN

## PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

OCTOBER 2020

**DRAFT**

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - SUMMARY OF PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS

### EMPLOYERS

#### 1. Services and knowledge support for COVID-19 adaptation – Specialist Advisors

Proposed Intervention: Access to services and knowledge support. Access to an expanded in-house team of specialists within the Growth Hub utilising the 'Neutral Vendor' Framework. Agreement reached proposing a two-tiered approach

- Tier one - Provision of additional regional resource into LA areas to provide wrap around strategic advice and brokerage support
- Framework access to specialist advisors – identify and have contracted with a bank of specialist providers on a call off basis – to include; HR, Legal, Financial, H&S, QMS, Digital, others as identified.

#### 2. Digital adoption and upskilling for our organisations – Digital Upskilling and Tech Adoption

Proposed Intervention: Provision of support for businesses looking to adopt new technology and upskill workforce around digital and technology adoption and a gateway for tech starts and scale ups to the best tailored provision and access to investment.

#### 3. Backing employers to accelerate growth and deliver a job led recovery: Flexible investment and recapitalisation

- **Relief Grant**

Proposed Intervention: Provision of COVID Relief Grants to SCR business with the primary focus of safeguarding employment within the context of our Jobs First recovery.

- **Flexible investment and recapitalisation – Capital Fund Grant**

Proposed Intervention: Provision of project grant funding in the range of £15,000 - £250,000 to SCR indigenous businesses with the primary focus of safeguarding employment within the context of our Jobs First recovery and supporting growth of businesses during the recovery phase.

- **Repayable Loan**

**Proposed Intervention:** Provision of repayable loan funding in the range of £5,000 - £100,000 to SCR businesses with the primary focus of safeguarding employment within the context of our Jobs First recovery and supporting growth of businesses during the recovery phase.

- **Equity Fund**

**Proposed Intervention:** Provision of equity funding to early stage businesses via 3 seed funding products.

- Angel Co-investment Fund
- Co-investment pre-Seed Fund
- Co-investment seed fund incorporating early stage scalable businesses

- Employer leadership support

**Proposed Intervention:** Supporting and developing the capability and experiences of leadership and management teams. There is much economic research that suggests the nature of leadership in a place can have profound effects on regional outcomes.

- Leadership coaching and mentoring
- Peer to peer support
- Non exec access and support
- Formal training support

#### 4. Supply chain and procurement support

**Proposed Intervention:** Provision of a regional wide supply chain programme, focussed on opportunity development - capability building and regional mapping.

## PEOPLE

### Interventions under development

**Early Intervention Support Pilot** To provide early intervention support for individuals receiving support from mainstream employment services. Focused on whether early referral to support for those with complex needs reduces incidence of long-term unemployment. Also, whether providing a co-ordinated local approach reduces welfare benefits and other service dependence.

**Full Level 2 or Full Level 3 qualifications** -Take up is very low across the SCR and the focus would be to link the qualifications to occupations in growth sectors. Or people who need to upskill or reskill due to the Covid pandemic and require a second Full Level 2 or Level 3 to enable them to access new opportunities in growth sectors.

**Apprenticeship Advance** - Allow pooling of transferred apprenticeship levy funding as already available to the West Midlands MCA, the establishment of new ATAs to support SME take up of apprenticeships, and an employer incentive scheme to stimulate demand in key skill gap disciplines.

**Supporting our young people to progress into work or education** - Advanced Economy Institute with a Hub in Sheffield with spokes in Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley to provide a seamless approach to skill development across the city region. Linked to shortage of technical and professional skills at level 4 & 5

**Disadvantaged Learner Pilot** -Deliver and test a pilot programme of specialist employment and skills support for learners in 'alternative provision', including those within the existing Care Leaver pathway to increase the number of most vulnerable young people aged 19-24 participating in education, training or employment.

**Closing the Digital Divide** - Deliver Community Digital Skills Hubs to improve the number of South Yorkshire residents accessing and developing digital skills

**ESF** – European Social Fund projects are being delivered across the SCR, many supporting the RAP. A response has been provided to the ESF Reserve Fund Call. Identifying and securing sufficient local match funding, will be a challenge. The Board may want to consider how the MCA engages with national Government and how we might prioritise funding within SCR, particularly given the level of disadvantage that still exists. Five interventions, fully aligned with the RAP, have been proposed for the ESF call and are set out below:

- Reducing youth unemployment and inactivity in Sheffield City Region LEP Area;
- Improving existing workforce digital skills and Business Productivity Levels;
- Overcoming Barriers to Work – Digital Inclusion;
- Existing Workforce Progression / Productivity / Underemployment / Career Change;
- Job Creation and Skilling the Unemployed.

## PLACE

RAP interventions are being delivered via programme like Getting Building Fund, Housing Fund (Brownfield), Active Travel Emergency Fund and Transforming Cities Fund. Additionally, work is underway to develop a prospectus for the MCA Capital Programme. This programme will be the means by which all future place based infrastructure projects are developed approved and delivered.