

Local Enterprise Partnership

01 July 2021

Chief Executives Update

Purpose of Report

To provide LEP Board Members with a general update on activity being undertaken by the LEP outside of the agenda items under discussion.

1. Levelling up Fund

The MCA has submitted a bid to the government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The bid asks for £50m of Government support to level up the standards of the public transport system. The overarching aim of the bid is to improve local community transport infrastructure and the lives of passengers across the region. The bid includes modernising bus shelters, improvements to walking and cycle routes, and upgrading a fleet of community buses to zero emission vehicles.

2. Community Renewal Fund (CRF) bid

The MCA has made a £12m bid to the government's Community Renewal Fund (CRF). CRF aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK and will invest in skills, community and place, local business and supporting people into employment. The Government is making projects in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Priority 1 – this is the highest priority level for funding. The MCA has worked closely with local authorities on its bid and a decision will be made over the summer to enable approved schemes to move to delivery as a matter of urgency.

3. Adult Education Budget (AEB)

From 1st August 2021, as part of the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Devolution Deal, the authority will take responsibility for more than £36m of devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and will commission adult skills provision for the residents of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. Devolution of the AEB enables us to move away from a funding system driven by national priorities to a more strategic regional approach that's better attuned to local priorities and the needs of South Yorkshire residents and businesses.

4. Business Advisory Group

The Business Advisory Group brings key business representative organisations together to consider the latest economic intelligence and insight available on issues relating to business and the economy. The Group's agenda is led by the Strategic Economic Plan and Renewal Action Plan and covers, in detail, a limited range of topics that the LEP and MCA are directly involved in – and where business input would strengthen its thinking, support delivery and secure backing. Meetings include the latest analysis of government policy and consider how the LEP and MCA can work with the business community to help shape that debate.

