

Local Enterprise Partnership

09 September 2021

Inclusion Plan for South Yorkshire

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Funding Stream:	Not applicable
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Not a key decision

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Ruth Adams, Deputy Chief Executive

Report Author(s):

Jonathan Guest
Felix Kumi-Ampofo

Executive Summary:

Update on the development of the South Yorkshire Inclusion Plan, with progress notes on the Employer Contract and Progressive Procurement themes.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

Unlocking opportunities for excluded groups is integral to achieving a transition towards a sustainable economy and society. Inclusion is an intrinsic element of building a stronger, greener and fairer economy in South Yorkshire.

Recommendations:

1. That the Board considers the progress made to date
2. That the Board agrees to lead the engagement phase of the Employer Contract theme (and the Inclusive Innovation theme later).

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

Business Recovery and Growth Board	28 October 2021
Education Skills and Employability Board	21 October 2021

1. Background

- 1.1 A more proactive approach is needed to ensure growth is more inclusive. The Inclusion Plan is being developed to outline what needs to be done, and how, with and for whom this occurs.
- 1.2 Inclusion is one of the three pillars (policy objectives) adopted by the MCA and LEP in the SEP, which outlines the plan for stronger, greener and fairer economic growth.

The SEP also sets out several aspirations around establishing social value policies to govern both “stakeholder behaviours and policy outcomes” through the vision to *“grow an economy that works for everyone..... and enhance quality of life for all”* and to work to ensure that all residents have a fair opportunity to participate in and benefit from growth.

- 1.3 The approach and agreed parameters for the Inclusion Plan were agreed at the May 2021 LEP board. The Plan seeks to focus on the fairer (inclusive) outcomes agreed in the SEP (see Section 9) and will outline activities, impact and the actions to be developed and taken with partners. This paper provides an update on progress in developing the Plan.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The factors that have shaped the themes of focus in Inclusion Plan, include:
- Areas of relevance identified in the SEP (e.g. social value and inclusive innovation);
 - The principles of inclusive growth (e.g. distributive dynamics) which highlight prominent working areas;
 - The levers, resources, capacity and powers of the MCA, LEP and partners (e.g. devolved powers, advocacy and direct investment);
 - Areas of inclusion that have become more prominent as a result of the pandemic (e.g. health and wellbeing);
- 2.2 Based on 2.1 above, in the period to March 2022, the focus will be on themes related to the MCA and LEP’s direct influence over businesses, people and communities as identified in the SEP:
- **Social outcomes** - Delivering greater social return on investment for South Yorkshire’s communities through the purchase of goods and services and contracting with businesses and other development partners.
 - **Employer contract** - Ensuring MCA investments and interventions not only deliver the immediate solutions for which they were designed, but also go further to provide more opportunities for South Yorkshire people. Once the Employer Contract is agreed, the potential to go further and agree an Employer Charter could be

explored in later in 2022. This will involve working with all partners towards a sustained cultural shift in the behaviour of employers towards employees, local communities, and the environment.

- **Social value via progressive procurement** – Using the MCA’s procurement “power” to create opportunities and grow the local economy, supporting local businesses and supply chains. Once this is agreed, further work to explore the potential for agreeing shared outcomes in public procurement across all anchor institutions could begin later in 2022.
- **Health and wellbeing** – Intervening individually or collectively to address health outcomes so that our people can live fuller lives, contributing to their maximum potential and benefiting from economic development.
- **Inclusive innovation** – The SEP outlined the importance of innovation in driving economic growth. This focus will be on people in decisions about innovation, ensuring that entrepreneurs - irrespective of background - can access the support needed, and investing to focus public resources on innovations that seek to address issues faced by our people. Finally, this also includes ensuring that when the taxpayer invests in innovative solutions with the private sector, the benefits generated are equitably shared.

All of these workstreams are inter-linked and have overlaps.

3. Progress

3.1 The Plan is not envisaged to be a single document but rather a series of policy and action papers based on the themes set out above. Over time, more themes may be explored and developed, depending on the evidence available. The ambition is for all outputs to be strategic, outcomes-led, evidence-based and action oriented, focusing on making a tangible difference to people and communities.

3.2 To date, progress has been made on the themes set out in 2.2 above. This includes:

- Engagement with LEP Board members through July and August, and also with LA officers, third sector partners, a limited number of employers and anchor institutions
- Producing a first draft of the Employer Contract. This is now undergoing a thorough review and will be the main subject of a planned workshop with LEP Board members later in September 2021.
- Producing draft policy papers which explore the potential and available opportunities across the four themes under development (as set out in 2.1 above).
- Commissioning work to
 - develop the evidence base,
 - conduct a health assets review,
 - explore the potential of community wealth building
 - ensure a full and rigorous engagement exercise with residents and all stakeholders.

This will develop through the Autumn.

- Working with Inclusive Growth Network (IGN) to drive the engagement process. There has also been further work with academics at both Sheffield Hallam University and University of Sheffield to ensure rigour and sound methodological thinking.

3.3 Most progress has been made on the Employer Contract and Social Value via Progressive Procurement and these policy papers on these will be discussed at the planned September workshop LEP Board members.

4. Timetable

4.1 Following engagement and workshops in September, it is envisaged that two policy papers (covering Employer Contract and Social Value via Progressive Procurement) will be presented at the November board for approval. Progress will also be presented to the same meeting, on the Health and Wellbeing and Inclusive Innovation themes.

5. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

5.1 Development of the Inclusion Plan is costed within the budget

5.2 There are potential resource implications of the Inclusion Plan, but these will depend on the recommendation and actions agreed by the LEP and MCA and these will be set out in the final policy papers. A decision can then be made on how any activity will be resourced.

6. Legal Implications and Advice

6.1 The policy papers will be worked through with Finance, Legal and Procurement teams and reported to the relevant Boards.

7. Human Resources Implications and Advice

7.1 Monitoring and delivery may have a human resource implication. This will be explored further, and the Board will be updated.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

8.1 The Inclusion Plan will enhance equality, diversity and social inclusion through activities funded by the MCA and interventions that are funded and delivered by partner organisations.

9. Climate Change Implications and Advice

9.1 Social outcomes often include environmental and wider sustainability benefits. These will be explored further as part of this work to ensure the link between and inclusion and sustainability is reinforced.

10. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

10.1 N/A

11. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice.

- 11.1 The LEP and MCA will need to communicate its intentions and ambitions to partners and stakeholders. This will include expectations, changes to processes and new requirements. Engagement is already underway and more detail will be presented to the Board at its next meeting. .

List of Appendices Included*

None

Background Papers:

None