

Local Enterprise Partnership**09 September 2021****CEX 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. Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund

116 South Yorkshire businesses have secured more than £31m of investment from the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF), in addition to £24m attracted as private sector co-investment. NPIF is a collaboration between the British Business Bank and ten LEPs in the North and supports new and growing SMEs, creates jobs and attracts private sector investment. Neil MacDonald represents the LEP on the NPIF Strategic Oversight Board.

2. MADE Smarter Review

SCR MCA is the lead organisation and accountable body for the Yorkshire and Humber Made Smarter programme. Following MCA acceptance in June, a Memorandum of Understanding with BEIS will enable the procurement of a delivery partner. The programme has ambitious targets, considering the relatively small pot (£1.5m) available, aiming to reach 500 SMEs across Yorkshire and Humber. A number of requirements will have to be delivered including: digital road mapping, fully funded projects, funded projects through Cap Ex Grant, digital internships (graduates and students), and leadership and management training to a number of cohorts across the region.

3. Quarterly Economic Survey (QES)

The MCA and LEP continue to work with South Yorkshire's Chambers of Commerce to support the QES. Results give a snapshot of business sentiment and can help to inform strategic decision-making. Quarter 2 results showed positive signs as the economy opened up and companies grew in confidence. The Quarter 3 survey runs from 23 August to 13 September.

4. Support for the LEP Review

South Yorkshire MCA and LEP, alongside Cambridgeshire, West of England, Tees Valley and West Yorkshire, support the current LEP Review. It is regarded by the MCA and LEP as an opportunity to strengthen the role of business aligned to MCAs and local government decision making. An approach will be agreed with the

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to ensure that we can capitalise on progress our LEP and MCA have already made.

5. South Yorkshire Music Board

A review of the Sheffield City Region Music Board governance is currently being undertaken by the MCA and adverts for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair will go out in the autumn. Penny Blackham, who stepped down as Chair in July, led the board through an unprecedented time, and the Mayor has thanked her for her work representing the region's music industry.

6. Business Advisory Group

The South Yorkshire Business Advisory Group continues to bring key business representative organisations and other business leaders together to inform, assist and enhance the work of the LEP and MCA. The group cover a range of business topics that the LEP and MCA are directly involved with and where in-depth business input strengthens its thinking, supports delivery and secures backing. The Group is chaired by LEP Chair James Muir alongside Vice Chairs Dan Fell and Neil MacDonald.