

**March 2020**

**Chief Executive's 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. LEP Board Recruitment**

A LEP Board Member recruitment campaign was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> January and resulted in 18 applicants, nine of which have been shortlisted for interview. A first round of interviews will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> February with a further round taking place during March. It is hoped to appoint two new members to begin their term before 31<sup>st</sup> March with further appointments being made with phased start dates to address succession requirements.

**2. Working with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Programme**

The Department of BEIS have partnered with the Massachusetts Institute Technology (MIT) to run a version of their global Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Programme (REAP) with six UK regions. SCR made a submission and we have been selected as one of the successful 6 areas.

Over the coming months we will be building a team drawn from different disciplines to work with BEIS and MIT. The work aligns with the emerging focus of the Strategic Economic Plan in providing a practical approach to strengthening innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystems.

**3. MIPIM**

Final preparations are underway for the MIPIM delegation. Development projects from across the region will be showcased during the event. All of the schemes can be viewed on the SCR online investment portfolio: <https://portfolio.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/#home>

**4. Budget 2020 preparations**

The Mayor has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out an ambitious set of proposals for the Chancellor to consider as part of his March Budget. There will be supportive LEP communications centred around some of the key proposals and we will continue to engage with Department officials in the lead up to the March 11<sup>th</sup> Budget.

**6. Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11)**

The NP11 have agreed a new NP11 workplan that focuses efforts on a Northern approach to:

- Trade and Investment
- Innovation
- Clean energy.

These priority areas were the subject of a submission to the Chancellor in advance of his March Budget and an NP11 hosted parliamentary event and private dinner with Ministers and key officials held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. The SCR were represented at the event.