

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

**LEP Annual Report 2019-20 and Delivery Plan 2020-21**

**Purpose of Report**

A requirement of the LEP Review 2018, is that all LEPs are required to publish an end of year report to outline the activities, outputs and achievements that have been delivered in the preceding financial year, and an annual delivery plan of activities for the coming year. This paper presents, for approval, the LEP Annual Report (2019-20) and Delivery Plan (2020-21).

**Thematic Priority**

Cross-cutting across all six thematic priorities.

**Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972**

Under the Freedom of Information Act this paper and any appendices will be made available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme.

**Recommendations**

LEP Board members are asked to:

- Endorse the content of the LEP Annual Report (2019-20) and Delivery Plan (2020-21) and provide feedback where required;
- Delegate final approval of the final document to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, to comply with the requirement to publish by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** On 24 July 2018, the Government published the '*Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*' report which outlined the conclusions and recommendations from the LEP Review.
- 1.2** To improve the accountability of LEPs and to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of LEP performance, the Government require all LEPs to produce and publish an annual LEP delivery plan and an end of year report from May 2019. This paper presents the LEP Annual Report for 2019-20 and LEP Delivery Plan for 2020-21 combined into a single publication at Appendix A.

**2. Proposal and justification**

- 2.1** The LEP Annual Report 2019-20 and Delivery Plan 2020-21 provides a review of activities undertaken by the LEP during the previous financial year including progress made towards the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) targets and notable achievements. It also summarises

the LEP's plans and key projects that will be delivered in the current financial year; the last year of the six-year LGF programme.

## 2.2 Achievements and Successes from 2019-20

Notable achievements and successes that are highlighted in the report include:

- The new initiatives that have been launched by the SCR Growth Hub (eg. Talent Bank, the Scale-Up initiative, Brexit Planning Tool and Access to Growth +, which have assisted in the SCR Growth Hub being ranked in the top three of Growth Hubs nationally.
- The successful trade mission to India to showcase the City Region's strengths in advanced manufacturing.
- The launch of the Locate in SCR online tool to provide a wealth of information to potential investors on our sites, potential workforce and opportunities to aid their decision-making.
- Skills Bank 2 signing-up over 100 businesses and 1,000 individual learners and employees within nine months of its launch.
- The engagement of over 250 business leaders and partner organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors on the development of the revised Strategic Economic Plan.
- The launch of the new Thematic Boards which are co-chaired by a LEP Board member and local authority Leader.
- Achieving 100% of planned spend on the LGF programme.

## 2.3 Key Activities for 2020/21

The report includes a table of the outputs that LEP funded projects will deliver in the 2020/21 financial year. Other key activities that are highlighted for delivery this year include:

- Full engagement with the SCR Mayor on the development and production of the Economic Recovery Plan as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Public consultation and publication of the [new Strategic Economic Plan](#).<sup>[RA1]</sup>
- Undertake preliminary work with neighbouring LEP areas and the Greenscies Partnership to investigate innovative and deliverable minewater heat schemes.
- Preparation of the SCR Digital Infrastructure Strategy to provide a framework for the roll-out of full fibre and 5G across South Yorkshire.
- Completion of the SCR Housing Review and implementation of the agreed recommended actions.

2.4 LEP Board members are asked to consider the draft LEP Annual Report and Delivery Plan at Appendix A and advise of any required changes. The finalised document will be submitted to Government and published on the SCR website by 31st May 2020.

## 3. Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1 The documents could have been drafted and published as two separate documents – this has been discounted as there was considerable overlap in the forewords and introduction.

3.2 Doing nothing and not producing the required documentation is not a viable option as it would adversely affect our Annual Performance Review grading.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial

The professional design of the LEP Annual Report and Delivery Plan will incur £2,450 + VAT.

### 4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this paper.

#### **4.3 Risk Management**

Should SCR fail to produce these reports / combined report, SCR could be subject to Government intervention. This ranges from regular performance meetings and remedial action plans to risk-based deep dive reviews and ultimately, the withholding of LEP funding.

#### **4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion**

The LEP Review stipulated that LEP Boards should ensure that by 31st March 2020, one third of their members were women. SCR LEP met this requirement. The current gender composition of the LEP Board's permanent private sector members is 33.3% female and 66.7% male and 50% of co-opted private sector members are women (combined ratio of 35.7%).

### **5. Communications**

- 5.1** Once approved, the combined LEP Annual Report 2019-20 and Delivery Plan 2020-21 will be published on the SCR website. A mid-year report on progress towards the activities, expenditure and outputs outlined in the Delivery Plan will be presented to the LEP Board in November 2019 and published on the SCR website.

### **6. Appendices/Annexes**

- 6.1** Appendix A: LEP Annual Report 2019-20 and Delivery Plan 2020-2021

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: