

**July 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. Strategic Economic Plan and Recovery Plan Consultation**

- In April and May, SCR shared the draft SEP with 43 partners and stakeholders from across the region
- Overall tone of the feedback from stakeholders was positive with respondents being supportive of the SEP
- Following this short, stakeholder consultation we are planning to launch a public consultation that will run from 8<sup>th</sup> August through to 18 September
- For the consultation, to accompany the draft SEP we will also be providing a copy of the Recovery Plan as a supporting document
- The Recovery Plan will be discussed at the Mayoral Combined Authority Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> July
- The results of the consultation will be brought back to the LEP Board in November.

**2. Adult Education Budget**

- On the 1<sup>st</sup> April SCR submitted a suite of documents that are required by the Department of Education (DfE) to assess Mayoral Combined Authorities ability to exercise the functions and processes associated with the Adult Education Budget (AEB).
- On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May DfE notified us that they agreed that SCR had passed these readiness conditions. This means that control of the Adult Education Budget will pass to SCR for the 21/22 Academic Year.
- Officers introduced AEB to the Skills and Employment Board in June (29<sup>th</sup>) and are working to develop the appropriate governance processes to successfully implement AEB.
- Officers will be working with key stakeholders around how they can support SCR to deliver on its strategic priorities for AEB devolution.

**3. Bus Review**

- In mid-June, the Independent Bus Commission announced its findings.
- Three root causes in the decline in bus passenger numbers in South Yorkshire are insufficient funding, lack of leadership and a lack of accountability
- It took into consideration the experiences and feedback from 5,900 members of the public, bus users, community groups, businesses and interest groups, of the impact poor and unreliable bus services have had on their lives
- The review found that having an arms-length organisation, such as SYPTE, has not allowed local authorities the opportunity to make decisions about bus services

- The review recommended that a simpler ticketing system and the exploration of innovative fare structures are investigated.

#### **4. Devolution**

- On Monday 29 June, the order for the Devolution Deal was laid in Parliament after letters of agreement were submitted by the mayor and council leaders in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- The deal will be approved by Members of Parliament in the coming weeks.