

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on 16 May 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment.

Date notified to all members: Monday 20 May 2019

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on Friday 24 May 2019

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from Saturday 25 May 2019

#### 1. **TITLE**

Launchpad Programme 2019 - 2022

#### 2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment:-

(i) authorises the Council accepting and entering into an agreement for a grant of up to £416,553 from Barnsley MBC for the Launchpad programme over a three year period, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022;

(ii) notes that Barnsley MBC is the accountable body for the receipt of the MHCLG grant and delivery of Launchpad and not the Council;

(iii) authorises the Council providing match funding of £277,702 towards the total cost of the project, which will come from the City Growth revenue budget;

(iv) approves the award for a grant of £54,759 from the Council to Barnsley MBC over the lifetime of the project;

(v) notes that the Council will be the accountable body for the grant to Barnsley MBC; and

(vi) To the extent not already delegated by the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, delegates authority to the Director of City Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources to agree any variations to the above funding agreement.

#### 3. **Reasons For Decision**

##### Reputation and Reach

By recommending the approval of this funding City Growth can build on the reputation that its business support programme under the Business Sheffield brand has built since it started in October 2014 and through its

growth in the Launchpad project from April 2016 to the present day.

### Investment

The Launchpad 2 programme contract allows the Council to maintain its current provision of pre start and maintain early stage business support and will let City Growth continue to fund key members of the Business Sheffield team involved in the delivery of business support for individuals and businesses based in Sheffield providing a level of financial stability. The programme will fund (60%) income contribution from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for; 2 Start Up Advisors; 2 Business Advisors; and 1 Sales and Marketing Expert (50%) and a Contracts Officer (50%) at a time of significant financial challenge.

### Impact

The funding will provide the following outputs although Business Sheffield are confident they will significantly overachieve on these outputs based on its performance on the Launchpad 1 contract (see table above).

- Support 90 early stage businesses.
- Work with 140 individuals interested in starting a business to be ready to run their business.

#### **4. Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

Do Nothing – continue the pre start and early stage business support without Launchpad involvement:

Without the income contribution to the Business Sheffield team from the Launchpad ERDF programme with financial constraints across the Council, City Growth would struggle to find the Council monies required to make up the missing ERDF funding which could result in looking at reducing the Business Sheffield Team. Business Sheffield runs a very lean service, by providing a workshop programme through its own team and the private sector on a pro bono basis there is no wastage within the team. The risk of a drastic cut to the service and consequently the city would be high.

This option would also form a reputational risk if Sheffield City Council were not involved in the city region wide Launchpad programme. If the service for early stage and start-up businesses would be limited and not compare to our city region local authority neighbours who are involved in the Launchpad programme with Sheffield residents and businesses missing out on a similar offer and service.

#### **5. Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

#### **6. Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Executive Director, Place

7. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee If Decision Called In**  
Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee