

## **SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

### **INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD**

The following decision was taken on 23 September 2016 by the Cabinet Member for Business and Economy.

Date notified to all members: Friday 23 September 2016

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on Thursday 29 September 2016

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from Friday 30 September

#### **1. TITLE**

Sheffield City Region - Growth Hub Enhancement Project

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

That the Cabinet Member for Business and Economy:-

(i) agrees that Sheffield City Council through Creative Sheffield will act as Accountable Body for the SCR Enhanced Growth Hub Project;

(ii) authorises the Council to enter into a funding agreement with the DCLG for a grant of up to £2,738,946 which also requires delivery partners and the private sector to provide match funding of up to £2,233,147 giving a total project spend of up to £4,972,123 from April 2016 to March 2019;

(iii) authorises Sheffield City Council to pay the relevant levels of grant to Delivery Partners and SME's; and

(iv) delegates Authority to the Director of Creative Sheffield:-

- in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources to agree the terms and sign off any variations to the above funding agreement;
- in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance to sign Service Level Agreements with the Delivery Partners of the project;
- in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance to sign contracts with business applicants of the grant scheme;

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

Approval of the recommendations will allow:

Entering into the Funding Agreement

- The SCR to build upon the service already offered to SME's across region by providing additional and more intensive resources to address specific barriers to growth.

- Project delivery to commence immediately meaning that businesses are able to access support from this programme from as early as 1st October 2016.
- Assist 900 businesses across the City Region to deliver their growth plans between now and the end of March 2019.
- Deliver 150 new jobs and secure over a million pounds of Private Sector Match funding.

SCC acting as Accountable Body

- Contribute towards a greater degree of financial stability for Creative Sheffield (the project will fully fund 1.4fte's within the programme management team)
- Efficiencies to be gained from utilisation of the existing Programme Management Team. Existing systems, processes and people are already in place.
- The potential for SCC to act as Accountable Body / Managing Agent for other SCR-wide schemes.

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

Do Nothing

- Business within the SCR would not have access to the suite of business support projects necessary to progress.
- If business productivity and employment levels were to fall there would be no locally targeted suite of resources to encourage growth across the SCR.
- The latent demand for external advice and support which is deemed a barrier to growth for SME's would remain unaddressed.

Reduced Funding from ESIF

- Smaller scale project would mean less businesses supported, meaning fewer jobs created and less business growth.
- The lack of available support would negatively impact on the reputation of the Growth Hub and the SCR as a whole.
- Business Support could start to 'grow back' at a local level resulting in a confused, and inconsistent business support offer across the Region.

#### 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