

LEP Budget and Structure

SSLEP Executive Board is asked to consider, comment and vote on the following option:

- Agree the draft budget of the LEP for 2023/24
- Agree draft budget and structure for the Growth Hub 2023/24
- Approve the Growth Hub delivery model (subject to funding) to allow tendering and recruitment to begin

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 It was agreed at the December 2022 Board that the Interim CEO present a full budget for the year 2023/24. This was based on receipt of confirmation from Central Government of the core LEP grant and Growth Hub allocation for the forthcoming year. At time of writing that confirmation has not yet been received.

2. Background

- 2.1 Due to the fact that Government confirmation has not yet been received the attached budgets are based on the assumption that current allocations for 2022/23 will be repeated for 2023/24.
- 2.2 Staffing budgets have remained broadly the same taking into account agreed increments with SCC.
- 2.3 A budget line for a full time LEP CEO has been included, though this is open to discussion on what role the Board and Chair see this position taking moving forward. The interim CEO will support the Board on developing a Job Description with the intention of going to market by the 1st March 2023
- 2.4 The budget also assumes that there will be no contributions from Local Authority partners for core LEP activity and that all funding will be provided by Government contributions and LEP reserves.
- 2.5 No changes have been made to the staffing structure in this draft on the understanding that this is subject to change with new direction from the Board/CEO
- 2.6 The Growth Hub budget is based on significant consultation with partners and represents a significant change to the current operational model. The added emphasis on Business Insight/Intelligence is a direct result to the recommendations of the Board.
- 2.7 As above an assumption has been made on receipt of Government funds remaining the same as 2022/23, any reduction in this would require the Executive to reassess some aspects of the model.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Take note of the attached draft budgets for the LEP and Growth Hub as well the structure and delivery model of the Growth Hub.
- 3.2 Approve the Growth Hub model subject to funding to allow the tendering and recruitment to begin in order that there is continuity of support for Businesses across the region and no gaps in provision
- 3.3 In order to deliver the attached there is a requirement to use LEP reserves, the exact amount is dependent on Government contribution and will be clarified before formal approval. The attached budgets set out the financial position.