

# North Yorkshire Council

## Executive Member Meeting

Wednesday 11 October 2023

### Grant Acceptance –York & North Yorkshire Made Smarter Business Support Programme

#### Report of the Corporate Director Community Development

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend that the Executive Member for Open to Business following consultation with the Corporate Director of Community Development, the Corporate Director - Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) authorises the acceptance of the grant of £208,860 from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (funded by Department for Business and Trade).

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (YNY LEP) delivers the free Growth Hub business support service across the York and North Yorkshire area on behalf of the Department for Business and Trade (formerly Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy – BEIS). YNY LEP act via their accountable body North Yorkshire Council (NYC).
- 2.2 In addition to the basic Growth Hub Business Support service delivered by the YNY LEP Growth Hub this funding provides the opportunity to deliver a specialist business support programme [Made Smarter](#), developed by HM Government and designed to help local manufacturing businesses to innovate and create new opportunities and technologies in the process. This aims to support the UK to become a leader in the manufacturing industry and develop the next generation of technology solutions.

#### 3.0 CURRENT ISSUE

- 3.1 As part of the Yorkshire and Humber Growth Hubs cluster for the region, Dept for Business and Trade (DBT) has commissioned South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to lead the delivery of the [Made Smarter](#) programme of specialist business support across Yorkshire and the Humber region.
- 3.2 York and North Yorkshire LEP has been offered grant funding in the sum of £208,860 as part of the Yorkshire and Humber delivery programme. The funding offer has been made by SYMCA, for delivery of the York and North Yorkshire Made Smarter business support service, using grant funds from the Department of Business and Trade.
- 3.3 The grant provides funding for a specialist business relationship manager employed within the York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub Business Support Service, and for

a programme of events and marketing activity aimed at engaging with the target businesses that can then be supported by the programme.

3.4 The specialist support provided will help a business to create an effective business plan to ensure they are optimising opportunities for the adoption of technology. There is also a business grant application process offering up to a maximum of £20,000, based on a 50% match contribution towards total costs, for equipment and/or specialist advice to implement projects. However, it should be noted that the business grants do NOT form part of this grant acceptance but are being managed directly between SYMCA and the beneficiary businesses.

3.5 The current grant acceptance amount of £208,860 may be increased in the event that additional funds are secured by SYMCA during the current programme up to March 2025, and if additional funds are offered to extend the programme, the grant acceptance process for the appropriate level of grant will be actioned at that time.

#### **4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

4.1 The York and North Yorkshire Made Smarter business support service which will be enabled by the grant from DBT will contribute towards:

##### **Economy**

- economically sustainable growth that enables people and places to prosper
- new and existing businesses can thrive and grow
- North Yorkshire has a high profile, is influential nationally and receives its fair share of resources

#### **5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 The alternative would be to decline the grant, which would result in being unable to participate in this innovative Government funded programme across Yorkshire and the Humber. It would leave York and North Yorkshire businesses at a disadvantage compared to those in neighbouring MCA/LEP areas.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The total grant funding offer is £208,890 from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, using funding from Department for Business and Trade for delivery of the York and North Yorkshire Made Smarter business support service. As mentioned at Section 3.5, it is possible that additional grant may be made available up to the programme end in March 2025. which would increase the number of businesses that can be supported across York and North Yorkshire. The grant acceptance process for any additional grant will be actioned as necessary.

6.2 The grant is payable to NYC, as the accountable body for the YNY LEP. Payment of grant will be made quarterly in arrears based on evidence of expenditure, which covers staff salary costs and overheads, and a marketing budget. The delivery of the Made Smarter Business Support service for York and North Yorkshire will be cost neutral.

6.3 YNY LEP will administer monitoring and reporting of the grant funded programme activity and will ensure compliance with NYC Finance and Legal requirements.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The grant agreement/s proposed by SYMCA have been reviewed by legal services.

## **8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix A). No equalities implications have been identified.

## **9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix B) and no climate change implications have been identified. It should be noted that there may be some indirect positive effects enabled by the business support activities, through working with businesses to help them improve their energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and associated costs, and to support them to implement decarbonisation measures contributing to environmental sustainability objectives for delivering the Route Map to Carbon Negative for York and North Yorkshire.

## **10.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 It is recommended that the grant from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, funded by Department for Business and Trade is accepted to enable York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub to offer the specialist Made Smarter business support service up to March 2025 for the benefit of businesses across York and North Yorkshire.

### **11.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Open to Business following consultation with the Corporate Director of Community Development, the Corporate Director - Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) authorises the acceptance of the grant of £208,860 from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (funded by Department for Business and Trade).

### **APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment  
Appendix B – Climate Change Impact Assessment

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

Nic Harne  
Corporate Director – Community Development  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
29 September 2023

Report Author – Liz Philpot, Head of Delivery  
Presenter of Report – Liz Philpot, Head of Delivery

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

## APPENDIX A

<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b>			
<b>This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.</b>			
<b>Directorate</b>	Community Development Directorate		
<b>Service area</b>	The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (YNY LEP)		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Recommendation of grant acceptance from South Yorkshire MCA (funding from Government Department of Business and Trade) to York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	Liz Philpot/Paul Clark		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	This screening concerns the YNY LEP offer of Made Smarter business support funding from Dept of Business and Trade via South Yorkshire MCA as lead delivery partner for Y&H Growth Hub cluster. The funding will support delivery (October 2022 to March 2025) via York and North Yorkshire LEP to provide specialist Made Smarter business support to eligible manufacturing and production processes across York and North Yorkshire.		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	This will support priorities identified in the YNY LEP published <a href="#">Covid-19 A Plan to Reshape our Economy plan</a> published in October 2020; also the YNY LEP Plan for Growth and research published March 2022 on Sector Analysis of the York and North Yorkshire local economy.		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?</b> Please give details.	N/A		
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics</b>			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>• Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>• Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul>			
All programmes will promote equality and diversity through the support provided and offer appropriate, timely and impartial information, advice and guidance. In delivering the programmes, a range of measures will be put in place that will prevent any unlawful discrimination relating to discrimination (whether in race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age or otherwise) in employment.			
<b>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <a href="#">Equality rep</a> for advice if you are in any doubt.</b>			
<b>Protected characteristic</b>	<b>Potential for adverse impact</b>		<b>Don't know/No info available</b>
	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex		✓	

Race		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
<b>NYCC additional characteristics</b>			
People in rural areas		✓	
People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)			N/A
<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts</b> (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	NO		
<b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics?</b> Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	The programmes will work with businesses across York and North Yorkshire who are required comply with all relevant legislation.		
<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
<b>Reason for decision</b>	<p>There are no equality impacts as all activities will be fully accessible and inclusive to all relevant target groups ensuring equal access to support, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and NYCC Equality and Diversity policies.</p> <p>The Local Enterprise Partnership operates in accordance with the National Local Growth Assurance Framework, and its own Local Assurance Framework, which contains a Diversity Statement setting out its commitments to fairness and inclusivity in its procurement and partnership arrangements.</p> <p>Screening exercises will continue throughout the project and where necessary and proportionate, an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken.</p>		
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	James Farrar		
<b>Date</b>	29 Sept 2023		

## APPENDIX B

### Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process.

If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

<b>Title of proposal</b>	Recommendation of grant acceptance from South Yorkshire MCA (funding from Government Department of Business and Trade) to York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	This screening concerns the YNY LEP offer of Made Smarter business support funding from Dept of Business and Trade via South Yorkshire MCA as lead delivery partner for Y&H Growth Hub cluster. The funding will support delivery (October 2022 to March 2025) via York and North Yorkshire LEP to provide specialist Made Smarter business support to eligible manufacturing and production processes across York and North Yorkshire.
<b>Directorate</b>	Community Development Directorate
<b>Service area</b>	York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
<b>Lead officer</b>	Liz Philpot, Head of Delivery
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	Paul Clark, Governance and Assurance Manager

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

<b>Environmental factor to consider</b>	<b>For the council</b>	<b>For the county</b>	<b>Overall</b>
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full CCIA:	(Not required)
<b>Reason for decision</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">All environmental factors are considered to be at least neutral.</p> <p>The Made Smarter business support programme may have some positive effect on environmental factors where support enables businesses to invest in improved efficiency equipment and process reducing energy consumption.</p> <p>Businesses can also be offered supported via YNY Growth Hub for support from specialist business support resource for decarbonisation, and through the use of the <a href="#">YNY LEP Net Zero Business Toolkit</a> (currently available as a web-based resource)</p> <p>The <a href="#">Routemap to Carbon Negative for York and North Yorkshire</a> provides a strategy framework within which significant positive impacts may be possible.</p>			
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	James Farrar			
<b>Date</b>	29 September 2023			