

BUSINESS BOARD	AGENDA ITEM No: 1.4
25 NOVEMBER 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

BUSINESS ADVISORY PANEL UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To receive the minutes of the Business Advisory Panel (BAP) meeting on 24th October 2019 and consider the recommendations made to the Business Board.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Austen Adams, Interim Chair of Business Board
Lead Officer:	John T Hill Director Business & Skills
Forward Plan Ref: N/A	Key Decision: No
<p>The Business Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Note the minutes of the Business Advisory Panel meeting held on 24th October 2019 and (b) Consider the Recommendations and Notes from the set out in the minutes. 	

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Business Advisory Panel was formed to fulfil the following functions:
- To serve as a consultative business group that is representative of the business community, to inform the Combined Authority Business Board, Combined Authority and partners on the issues, needs and opportunities facing the Combined Authority area's business community.
 - To consider and review the Local Industrial Strategy and provide practical business feedback and guidance to the Combined Authority on its prioritisation, development and effective implementation.

- To comment to the Combined Authority on the Local Industrial Strategy implementation and the Growth Hub activity.
- To support the Business Board with representation from a local, membership-based business community in a transparent and apolitical manner.

2.2 The BAP held a meeting on 24th October 2019, of which the minutes are attached as Appendix A. The BAP made the following recommendations and noted the following matters:

- a. Continue to support the retention and recruitment of EU workers at all skill levels with settled status documentation filing; upskilling; languages and incentives to stay and encourage others to join; in order to combat the outward flow of workers back to the EU and encourage those that stay to make more use of the qualifications and skills they bring with them as this could improve productivity.
- b. Note that insufficient reliable intelligence exists informing CPCA of scale of the problem regarding EU settlement and the retention of EU workers. SR has advised that an IoD survey has been sent out regarding EU settlement. An ask of the BAP to push out through their networks. Results will be shared.
- c. Note that V4 EU Settlement Contract could be Linked to groups such as Unity in the Community in Huntingdon, The Polish Saturday School and other community groups, would be useful links.
- d. Continue to encourage Local Authorities, District Councils, Unitary Authorities and the County Council to follow the CPCA example with Brexit Readiness Plans.
- e. Continue to encourage the town twinning principles that would support better business and people collaboration across countries which has been effective in other regions to promote cooperation and business growth.
- f. Note the launch of the new Apprenticeship Levy Pooling Service on 4th November with Levy Advisor to support levy employers utilise their levy and share with SME's. A request for the BAP to share with their networks.
- g. Note that BAP Terms of Reference ratified but BAP to consider going forward membership/representation from other regional business representative networks
- h. Note that BAP Representatives can amplify key messages from CPCA/Business Board to their members groups and vice versa. BAP can also help the Growth Hub with their messages such as key events, etc.

- i. Note that BAP Representatives should appoint formal Deputy Representatives. This will help ensure consistent and full attendance at future BAP Meetings.

3.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no significant implications.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR NATURE

6.1 There are no direct implications for nature.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 **Appendix 1** –Minutes of the BAP Meeting on 24th October 2019

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	N/A