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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 25 February 2020

**Subject:** **Trade and Investment Forward Plan**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To inform LEP Board Members about important activities relating to trade and investment operations and the forward planning activities for the Trade and Investment service for 2020/2021

## **2. Information**

### **2.1 Trade & Investment team 2020/21 Forward Plan**

- 2.2 Following an analysis of 2019/20 activity the Trade and Investment team is developing a forward plan of proposed activity for 2020/21.

- 2.3 A presentation will be given at the LEP Board meeting reflecting upon an analysis of previous years foreign direct investment (FDI) patterns and trends and how the implementation of new sector plans will provide greater clarity on what the region's main investment opportunities are in 2020/21.

- 2.4 In the context of Brexit, the retention of all foreign owned companies, irrespective of location, remains a high priority for the team as does providing ongoing support to companies during the transition period.

- 2.5 During 2020/21 the team must retain a degree of flexibility and agility so it can respond accordingly to emerging opportunities during a period of change from both a national and international perspective.

- 2.6 Guidance from Department for International Trade (DIT) on future trade deals will be critical so the LEP can deliver a comprehensive and regular trade focussed communications programme and assist businesses to explore future international trade opportunities.

## **Northern Powerhouse (NPH) Trade & Investment Prospectus**

- 2.7 Following a request to NP11 by Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Jake Berry MP, a proposal for significant growth in trade and investment activities across the Northern Powerhouse region was submitted in January.
- 2.8 The Proposition is the product of collaboration by local trade and investment specialists across the North, underpinned by Steer Economics and supported by NP11 LEP Chairs and the Convention of the North.
- 2.9 The report re-affirms the NPH regions future export and inward investment ambitions. It also identifies several operational and strategic initiatives that should take place if they are to be achieved.
- 2.10 The report has been submitted to the Department for International Trade (DIT) and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) states that the operational activities are estimated to require an additional £67.4m over three years. It requests ministerial sign-off and the creation of a Northern Powerhouse Trade and Investment Leadership Board to oversee its delivery via a pan-Northern trade and investment plan.

### **3. Clean Growth Implications**

- 3.1 There are no clean growth implications in endorsing this strategy

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications in endorsing this strategy

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

### **6. Staffing Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

### **7. External Consultees**

- 7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 The LEP Board are asked to approve the approach outlined in the 2020/21 Forward Plan.

### **9. Background Documents**

- 9.1 None

**10. Appendices**

None