
Report to: Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel

Date: 8 March 2021

Subject: **Impact Hubs**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of the potential of Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector hubs, in particular the international 'Impact Hubs' model and the one established recently in Bradford.

2. Information

- 2.1 Regional investment in the creation of third sector (community) hubs and support for the sector, including social enterprise start-ups and spin-outs, are key propositions contained within the pipeline of inclusive growth interventions discussed at the December 2020 meeting. These have been identified by the LEP Board as one of many interventions that have potential to help deliver the ambition of the region's Inclusive Growth Framework.
- 2.2 The February 2020 meeting of the Panel was convened at the Old Fire Station, Gipton, which is an exemplar of a sustainable community hub which provides high quality refurbished accommodation and workspace for a number of third sector organisations serving a disadvantaged community.
- 2.3 This report provides members with an introduction to the Impact Hubs model. Impact Hub Bradford, established in August 2020, is part of a global network of 101 impact hubs across 50 countries. Bradford is the third UK city with Impact Hub status, joining London, where there are hubs in Islington and Kings Cross, and Inverness.
- 2.4 The Impact Hub global community is one of the world's largest networks with the shared objective of building entrepreneurial communities for impact and at scale who are creating tangible solutions to the world's most pressing social, economic and environmental issues.

- 2.5 This shared objective is delivered through three offers to Impact Hub members:
- Community and workspace to create meaningful connections by attending or hosting local events, programmes, or becoming a full member of a local hub;
 - Startup support to turn ideas into impactful social enterprises with access to a global network of similar entrepreneurs; and
 - Programmes and events that promote innovation and local and global networking between social entrepreneurs.

- 2.6 In terms of impacts, the global network of Impact Hubs have delivered the following:

- 17,000 members
- 11,000 events (in 2016)
- 60% of members prioritise social and environmental return over financial return
- 67% of members founded their own ventures
- 6,400 startups founded between 2012-2016

- 2.5 Impact Hub Bradford offers co-working spaces, meeting rooms, and event spaces and hosts a programme of events and services to social enterprises, microbusinesses, artists, performers, designers and makers who want to make a positive social impact. The support provided includes helping to secure investment for social entrepreneurs and the chance for collaborations and innovation across sectors including arts, healthcare and technology.

- 2.6 A presentation on the development and ambition of the hub going forward, including the challenges of launching and operating during the pandemic, will be provided at the meeting.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 None arising as a direct result of the report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The focus of the impact hubs model is to address socio-economic inequalities and therefore promote inclusive growth.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

7. Staffing Implications

7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

8. External Consultees

8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Members are asked to note and discuss the Impact Hubs model and its potential in promoting regional inclusive growth.

10. Background Documents

None.

11. Appendices

None.