

## **Business Support Landscape : Item 8**

- 1.0 As previously reported the City has appointed a Business support officer through the UKSpf 'supporting business' intervention to provide an additional local resource in addition to, the Lincolnshire Business Growth Hub, and University offers to support local Businesses.
- 2.0 An initial task as requested previously by the Town Board has been to map, in liaison with key partners, the City's current business support landscape which is summarised in the enclosed document.
- 3.0 The current support offer for pre startup/startup businesses, existing businesses wanting to expand/grow, and sector specific businesses is mapped in terms of the available local/regional support, funding, online resources, available premises, networking opportunities and national support.
- 4.0 Through the mapping and discussions with existing business support partners emerging current gaps in terms of premises include available grow on space, Hybrid Units, and manged workspaces. The latter is highlighted on the basis that City of Lincoln managed workspaces, the Terrace and Greetwell, have been operating at capacity for several years with a waiting list, which suggests unmet demand. However further analysis is required into the type of business on the waiting list and their specific needs. Sparkhouse & Thinktank have vacant space as does Regus. It is acknowledged that more evidence on the nature of the demand i.e. via survey is required.
- 5.0 In terms of business advice whilst the shared services from the Lincolnshire Growth hub undertake a wide range of support, there is less face-to-face support available and the level of intensity of support has fallen compared to previous years no doubt due to the loss of ERDF funded programmes. There seems to be fewer interactive webinars offered by Business Lincolnshire compared to other Local Economic Partnership areas.
- 6.0 In terms of sector support a key gap has been identified in health and care which is without a network of specific sectoral programme of support.

## **5.0 Recommendation**

That Board members note and feedback on the current landscape mapping work.