


Regional Recovery Update



REGIONAL RECOVERY PLAN

				
<p>Rebuilding business to help new and existing businesses survive and thrive in order to safeguard existing and create new jobs</p>	<p>Getting residents back into jobs which pay above the Real Living Wage and offer security of employment through targeted training and brokerage to available opportunities</p>	<p>Strengthening inclusion to prevent further widening of inequalities and build an inclusive economy where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their potential, reducing inequality gaps</p>	<p>Supporting a green recovery using changes in behaviour brought about by the pandemic to accelerate our transition to net zero carbon</p>	<p>Renewing places to re-think our approach to 'place', creating greener, healthier, more vibrant places to live and work and so continuing to attract people from across the world</p>
<p>CLEAN AND INCLUSIVE</p>				

Regional Recovery Fund

- A **£9.4m** modest investment to progress aspects of the Regional Recovery Plan
- Works alongside current **£90m** investment in Business and Skills
- Any investment must be able to meet the following criteria:
 - Directly address a **regional economic issue or opportunity** identified and prioritised by the Taskforce & Plan
 - Be a genuinely **additional** business and/or skills activity, not covered by existing national, regional and local measures
 - Be able to mobilise quickly generating **immediate, tangible and sustainable impact**

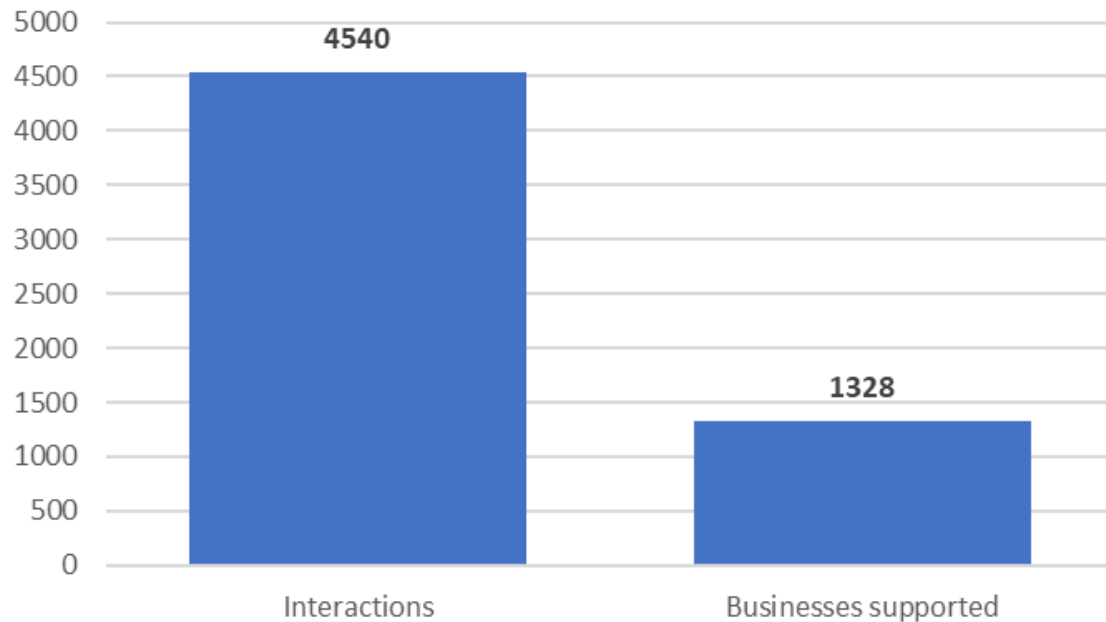
Progress Update

- ✓ **Future skills forecasting & planning- Post 16 Skills** - CEOs sign off w/c 16th November. RFQ to be issued before Christmas.
- ✓ **Talent Retention Scheme** - Platform procurement agreed by CEOs 30th November. Preferred platform provider selected and being finalised.
- ✓ **Low Carbon Challenge Fund - Phase 2** - Business Case approved by Business and Skills Directors. Business Case to be submitted to CEOs on 7th January.
- ✓ **Small Business Resilience Grant** - Business Case to be submitted to CEOs on 7th January
- ✓ **Digital Skills Investment Programme** - Call for phase 1 (Basic Skills) issued w/c 7th December. Call for Phase 2 (Medium - High level) to be issued by mid January.
- ✓ **High Streets Renewal - Catalyst Fund** - good engagement across the UA's helping to set parameters and expectations going forward. A number of pilot proposals have been developed. Short term vs Medium term.
- ✓ **Cultural & Creative Support Programme** - budget has been increased to £1m. £0.5m had been ringfenced to support Culture & Creative as part of the Small Business Grant Scheme has been moved between projects to ensure a consistent approach

Business recovery support take-up

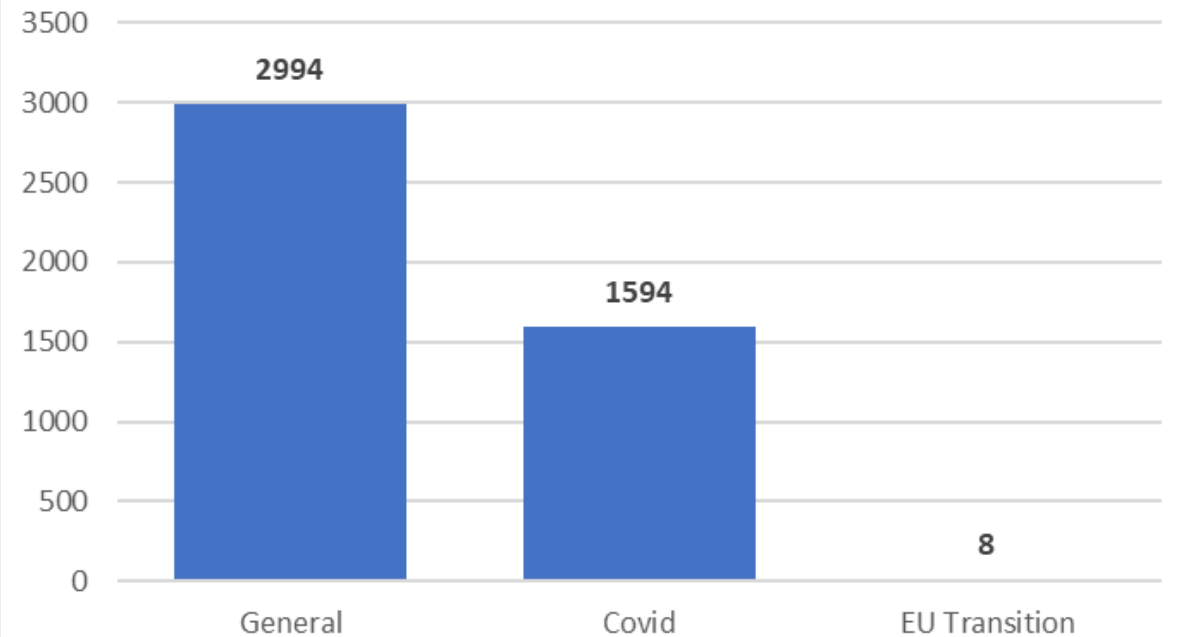
- Top Support sectors*
- *Creative Industries*
 - *Professional services*
 - *Retail*
 - *Hospitality*

Enterprise Team Growth Hub interactions and businesses supported - March 2020 to date

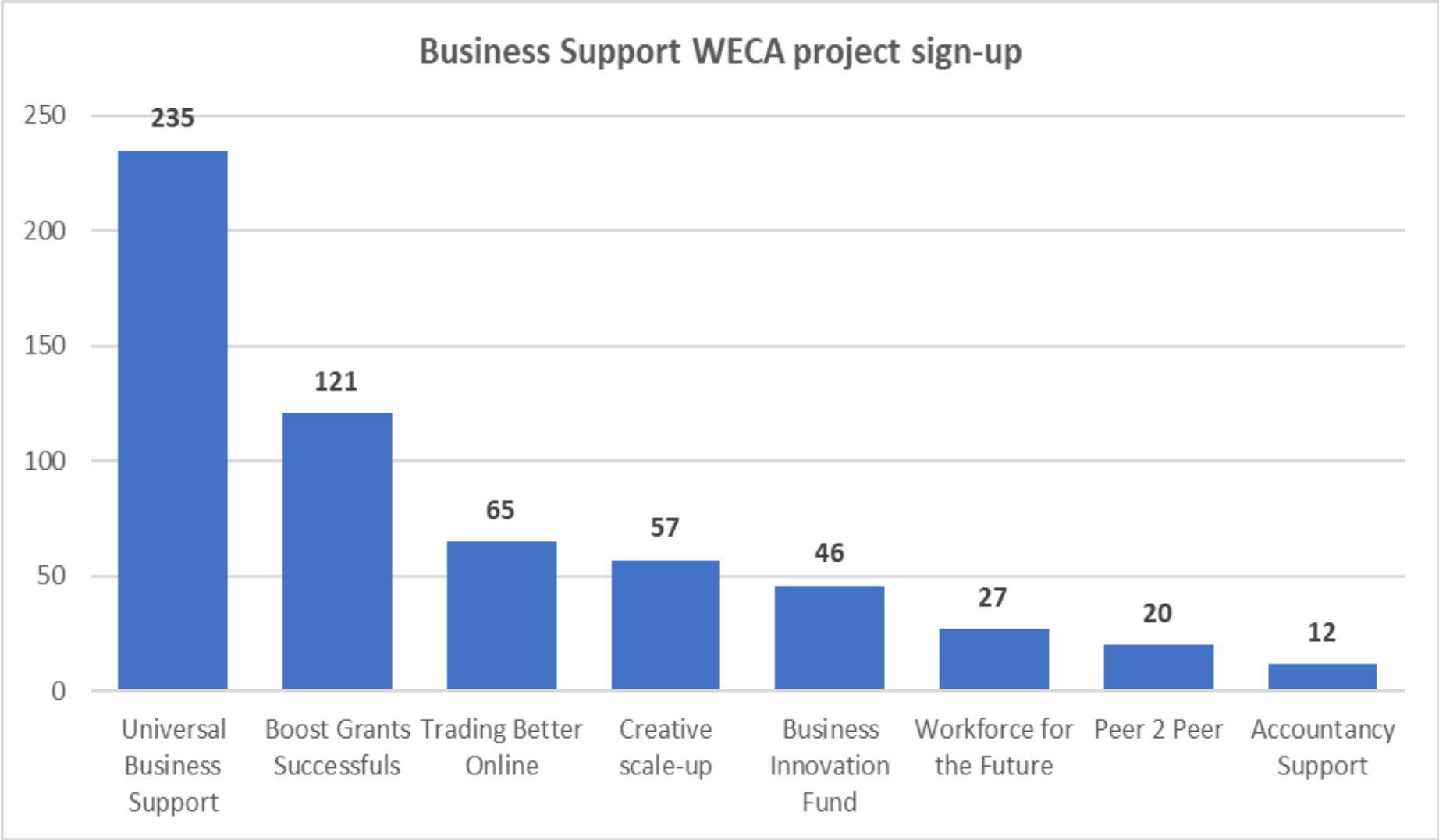


'Received 80,414 visits to the Growth Hub Website, including 18,471 to the COVID-19 pages'

Businesses interactions by type of support
March 2020 to date



Business recovery support take-up

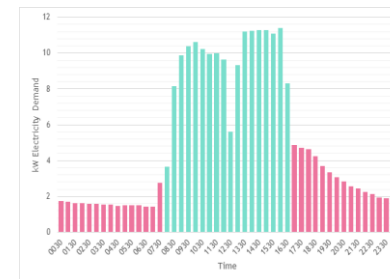




Low Carbon Challenge Fund - extension

	Green Business Grants (capital)	Local Energy Scheme (capital)	Innovative Housing Retrofit (capital)
ERDF only	£1m 129 SMEs	£500k 1 project <i>(wind turbine project, Avonmouth)</i>	£200k 36 homes
ERDF + Recovery Fund	£1.7m 190-240 SMEs <i>(40%-80% grant rates, up to £15k per business)</i>	£1.3m 5-6 projects	£200k 36 homes

Plus 440 extra free carbon surveys for
small businesses



Green Skills & Capacity Building

- **Climate Emergency Action Plan** sets strategic approach
- West of England **Green Skills analysis** commissioned
- BEIS funded local **Green Homes Grant** skills training for installers from January 2021
- South West Energy Hub support for the development of a **Decarbonisation Academy** - local training for retrofit advisors
- South West Energy Hub **Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery** - includes supply chain capacity building with local authorities over the next year
- Opportunity to tailor regional skills provision e.g. Adult Education Budget...etc and other activity e.g. inward investment

Regional Skills Support

- **Rapid Response to Redundancies Group** including Talent Retention Platform
- **Workforce for the Future** SME skills brokerage service now live, includes new Regional Apprenticeship Service. Phase 2 call Jan 2021 - sector based
- **Kickstart:** regional co-ordination of ‘gateway organisations’ - pipeline of 430 placements across West of England
- **Future Bright** expansion - 954 participants this year, 285 with C-19 impact
- **Adult Education Budget** (15,000 learners each year) with new investment in:
 - Sector Based Work Academies - pre-employment training, work experience placement and a guaranteed job interview
 - WECA recruitment pipeline - focussed on high vacancies e.g. public sector, health, care, digital & financial skills
 - Targeting unemployed and insecure employment
 - Digital Skills Investment Programme (Recovery Fund)
 - Government’s ‘lifetime skills guarantee’ - Level 3 entitlement via MCAs
- Building regional **Employment and Skills Opportunity Portal**
- ...amounts to circa **£30m** investment in skills



Digital Skills Investment Programme

£2m investment to:

- **Stimulate Digital Demand:** measures to actively engage with and encourage disadvantaged residents to undertake learning to improve digital confidence and basic digital skills
- **Improve Digital Access:** supporting residents negatively impacted by the pandemic with the equipment and tools they need to undertake learning remotely whilst access to traditional classroom-based learning is limited
- **Improve Digital Confidence:** equipping residents negatively impacted by the pandemic with the skills they need in order to make effective use of the equipment provided in support of further learning
- **Boost medium to high end skills:** provide training for specific sectors with identified digital skills requirements in an enhanced or highly specialised way. It will help regional employers address their digital skills needs through new innovative, bespoke training that can be quickly implemented and have immediate impact.

Digital Pathway

Step 0: Pre-engagement

Life skills provision

Most basic level of pre-engagement for those without any current access

Funded by DWP and accessed via referral from job coaches. Also supported by AEB Community Learning

Equipment & access

Step 1: Basic IT training

Statutory entitlement funded to level 2

Outreach by providers

Funded by AEB existing budget. Accessed via providers.

Equipment & access

Step 2: Intermediate training

Continuation learning from basic statutory entitlement to level 3 for generic sector applicability

Existing AEB funding, including the Targeted L3 Entitlement from April 2021

Step 3: Enhanced training

IT training for sectors with digital skills needs

Existing AEB funding, including the Targeted L3 Entitlement from April 2021

Enhanced level/bite sized training to enable transition to new sectors/skills transfer or to progress into higher level training.

Step 4: Enhanced and/or highly specialised

IT training for specific sectors

Enhanced level/bite sized training to enable transition to specific sectors with identified skills requirements.

Talent Retention Platform

- Develop a bespoke regional **'B2B' Talent Retention Platform** to enable individuals who have been made redundant through job matching/brokerage service
- To be developed as part of the wider ambition for **Employment and Skills Portal** for regional vacancies, careers advice and coaching, retraining and upskilling
- The platform will provide:
 - facility for employers to advertise a range of employment and work related opportunities
 - support for employees at risk of, or in the process of being made redundant, to develop a profile to understand/articulate their employment prospects across sectors
 - automated job matching service, linking them to relevant job roles
- It will provide a targeted, high performing, web based platform, that can be used as a tool by the partners in **Response to Redundancy Group** and others
- Requirements setting will commence Jan 2021 with stakeholders including WECA, UAs, providers and business
- Development and trialling will be undertaken through Feb & March, with a full 'Go Live' date of 5th April to coincide with end of furlough scheme

Questions for Taskforce

- Do we need to prioritise and/or tailor particular interventions given impact of lockdown and the tiers?
- In relation to take-up of existing projects and government support, how can the Taskforce further raise awareness to promote opportunities and access, including for those sectors and cohorts with greatest need?
- Looking ahead to further national policy changes on the horizon, including end of the Furlough scheme - what additional things could we be putting in place to maximise responsiveness?