

## Explore the creation of business hubs to reduce commuting

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. As more people are encouraged to work from home or work flexibly, business hubs can add value through offering opportunities for networking, collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- 1.2. There is a strong case for encouraging working hubs for the private and public sector as well as for self-employed individuals to reduce commuting.
- 1.3. Hubs have been identified as having the potential to play a role in removing or reducing the need for travel and commuting, in certain circumstances. Hubs also have the potential to improve work/home balance, wellbeing and engagement for the workforce.
- 1.4. Additional hubs located out of town and maybe near residential areas could also be encouraged to support and enable flexible and remote working.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Raise the profile of existing business hubs for example the Eagle Lab in Douglas <https://labs.uk.barclays/locations/isle-of-man>, the Engine House in Castletown <https://eng.im/> and the Mountain View Innovation Centre in the North <https://www.mvic.im/>
- 2.2. Incentivise the development of new hubs using existing schemes to fill gaps, for example, there is potentially a geographical gap for a hub in the west of the Island.
- 2.3. Consider the feasibility of integrating business hubs into public transport routes to promote active travel.
- 2.4. Encourage flexible, remote, home and local working to stagger or reduce commuting.
- 2.5. Review employment legislation if necessary to enable and encourage this approach.
- 2.6. Review provision of the necessary digital and IT infrastructure, equipment and training to enable home and remote working.
- 2.7. Consider using publicly owned spaces as working hubs, for example, libraries, hospitals.
- 2.8. Encourage the use of energy efficient buildings, where possible, to role model best practice. Re-engineering parts of buildings which could otherwise be dormant may make sense.