

Proposal to Scottish Government

**PROJECT CONCEPT FORM**

<b>Project Title</b>	Supporting and maximising the potential of the business sector in Scotland during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.
<b>Purpose</b>	This document outlines key strategic problems affecting the optimum stewardship of the SME sector across Scotland. It matches solutions to those problems, identifies their benefits and argues for data-driven decision-making to secure the opportunity to emerge with a post-crisis economic competitive advantage.
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Scottish Business Resilience Centre, Oracle, Blackness Road, Springfield, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7LR <a href="https://www.sbrcentre.co.uk/">https://www.sbrcentre.co.uk/</a> jude.mccorry@sbrcentre.co.uk
<b>What benefits will this project deliver?</b>	<p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase business confidence through the operation of an appropriate risk and continuity tool</li> <li>• increase the likelihood that businesses will make informed and balanced decisions throughout the crisis</li> <li>• Harness the skills and experience of Scotland’s most distinguished and experienced business leaders to guide and support businesses of all types and sizes through the use of best practice and a managed delivery structure</li> <li>• Enable Data-driven decision making</li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide an objective and defensible basis from which to make difficult decisions on investment</li><li>• Enable optimum distribution, profile and sequencing of investment decisions</li><li>• Provide the opportunity to target investment towards achieving the realisation of a <i>business as usual plus</i> model, whereby the Scottish economic structure has been enhanced to realise a national competitive advantage in the post-crisis phase.</li><li>• Provide assessed intelligence to Scottish Government and other stakeholders to inform policy and practical actions in the business environment.</li><li>• Maximise potential for restarting the economy and quickly exploiting competitive advantage in domestic and international markets.</li><li>• Deliver prompt advice that is clear and practical and will maximise the potential for businesses to survive, retain and enhance the skills of the workforce and have capacity for growth when more favourable conditions return. This applies to businesses of all sizes and all sectors.</li><li>• Provide the single conduit for critical communications, enhancing business confidence and optimising timely action while enabling Scottish Government to set the agenda.</li><li>• Maintain focus and effort in mitigating criminal activity that would further undermine the wellbeing of businesses, communities and individuals.</li><li>• Provide an intermediary to facilitate communication between government and the business community to enable focus in core public health and safety responsibilities.</li><li>• Create a senior advisory board</li><li>• Provide a tangible product/service to complement Scottish Enterprise Covid-19 Helpline:</li><li>• Provide a designated single point of contact to help SMEs access expert information/support</li><li>• Deliver a mobile platform /app for communications and online access to resilience advice for all businesses in Scotland</li><li>• Deliver [moderated] business resilience wiki as part of or parallel to a learning/support platform</li></ul> |
|--|--|

<p><b>Background</b></p>	<p>The SBRC has extensive experience of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business continuity and crisis response in the business and critical national infrastructure domains</li> <li>• establishing and operating multi-sector partnership projects designed to improve security and resilience</li> <li>• delivering projects and services on behalf of the Scottish Government, and reporting performance accordingly</li> <li>• facilitating critically important communications between the business sector, the Scottish Government and Scotland’s public services</li> </ul> <p>This project will engage senior business leaders – who have already pledged their services - with current or recent experience in the successful delivery of recovery and strategic management at this level of scale and complexity.</p> <p>The SBRC will use its extensive network of contacts across the business landscape to provide subject matter experts who will deliver coaching, mentoring and direct training to businesses across Scotland.</p>				
<p><b>Risks</b></p>	<p>At a strategic level, the risks of not delivering this project are arguably greater than doing so, given its relatively modest scale and the expectations of the Scottish business community. The primary risks include a catastrophic breakdown in the infrastructure of the Internet, as the principal means of delivery – unlikely given the assurances as to resilience and systems redundancy on the part of the principal operators; or that Scotland cannot deliver the appropriate number of subject matter experts, analysts and – also unlikely as the SBRC has a track record of co-ordinating different entities to deliver projects, and has secured in-principle support to this proposal from a broad range of business leaders and partner companies.</p>				
<p><b>Cost</b> <i>What is the <b>TOTAL</b> cost of the Project</i></p>	<p>FY19/20</p>	<p>£ 700k</p>	<p>Y1 covers set-up and launch costs during the next week, as detailed in the accompanying proposal. Y2 is dependent on take-up and the extent to which the Scottish Government is willing to allocate domestic funds, and any further emergency funding from HM Treasury. Assuming just under 350k businesses operating in Scotland.</p>	<p>FY 21/22</p>	<p>£</p>
<p>FY 20/21</p>	<p>£ 200k</p>	<p>FY 22/23</p>		<p>£</p>	