

<b>Title of Report: DEVISE Project</b>	<b>Officer presenting: Head of Business</b> <b>Author: Business Development Manager</b>
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

1.1 To advise members of funding secured through Interreg Europe re. DEVISE Project.

## **2 Background**

2.1 DEVISE aims to respond to the current challenge that 10 European regions are facing to unlock and exploit the potential that digital tech SMEs have as enablers for the competitiveness of other SMEs.

2.2 Project partners include: DCSDC (UK); ERNACT (Ireland); Northern and Western Regional Assembly (Ireland); Regional Development Agency of West Region (Romania); Regional Government of Cantabria (Spain); Formento San Sebastian (Spain); Business Agency Association (Bulgaria); Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (Finland); Laval Mayenne Technopole (France); Voka - Chamber of Commerce West Flanders (Belgium).

2.3 The aim of the project is to:

- Increase by 15% the number of digital tech SMEs enabling competitiveness in other regional strategic sectors through improved supporting policy instruments by 2021

2.4 Specific objectives include:

- Design and implement supporting instruments focused on the growth of digital SMEs as providers of innovative solutions that allow other sectors to become more competitive
- Establish digital transformation enabling environments in the 10 European regions co-operating together.

- Facilitate increased collaboration between SMEs of the digital sector and those belonging to other regional smart specialisation sectors.

### **3 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR and Other Implications**

- 3.1 The total value of the DEVISE Programme is €1,386,850 across 10 partners. DCSDC budget is €129,995 with a funding allocation of €110,495 (85%) and match funding contribution of €19,500 (15%) over the next 4 years. Match funding will be facilitated through Business Development budget lines.
- 3.2 The DEVISE project will run to November 2022

### **4 Recommendations**

- 4.1 Members note content of report.