**Assessing the Impact of Local Entrepreneurial Ecosystems on UK Female Entrepreneurship**

Qualitative Interview Protocol

(Ethics/ERGO ID no: XXXXXX)

*Any information you supply will be treated in strictest confidence and will only be used anonymously.*

**The Enterprise**

1. Please tell me about your current business; the products and business model?
2. Why did you choose the sector / product you did?
3. Please tell me about historical key milestones (or turning points) in your business.
4. What is the current ownership structure and has that changed since you started the business?
5. Do you have any employees or contractors?
6. What proportion of your customer base is local?

**Motivation**

1. What motivated you to start the business?
2. What are you aspirations when you started and what are they now? (If this has changed, why has it changed?)
3. Are you aiming for a particular growth / scale?
4. What are the opportunities in scaling up your business?
5. What are the challenges in scaling up your business?

**Family and Household**

1. Please tell me if you have any children.
2. How does managing a family impact on your business? (Time and space constraints)
3. How do you think family commitments will affect the future of your business?
4. Please tell me how your family household is managed.
5. Does this impact your business?

**Local Institutions**

1. When you started your business, what resources did you access to complete the start up process?
2. Did you feel supported by any local institutions (government and finance)?
3. Do you feel supported by any local institutions now? How?
4. Are there ways in which local institutions impact your business negatively? How?
5. What could local institutions do to provide better support for your business?

**Local Environment / Family & Friends**

1. Did you find that your journey to starting the business was supported and seen as positive by your social environment outside your immediate family?
2. Do you feel now that your business is supported and seen as positive by your social environment outside your immediate family? (If this has changed, how?)
3. Did you know any family or friends who were business owners before you started you business? If yes, what was their impact on you? Where are they located?
4. Do you know many business owners now? If yes, what is their impact on you? Where are they located?
5. Do you consider that you have any mentors? If yes, how have they helped you and where are they located? If no, is this something that would be valuable to you, how do you think it would help you?

**Local Networks**

1. Are you a member of any networks? Please tell me about them?
2. How do these networks support your business?
3. What is the gender mix of these networks?
4. Are there any networks you find difficult / inaccessible? If you had easy access, how would they impact your business?
5. Outside your household and family arena, what would have helped make the decision and process to start a business easier?
6. Outside from household and family arena, what has helped support the operation your business and what has not?

**Local Connections**

1. In what ways is your business connected to your local environment?
2. Could/ would you relocate your business? What would change this?
3. How does your location impact the way you do business?
4. Does this location impact your aspirations for the business?
5. How important is your current environment to you?
6. Have you noticed any changes in the local business environment since you started your business?

**Family and Relationships**

1. How do family relations impact on your ability to be an entrepreneur? Could you explain (positive or negative impact?)
2. Have family relations improved/deteriorated since you started your own business?
3. How does motherhood impact on your ability to be an entrepreneur? (positive or negative impact?)
4. How do you reconcile the challenges of motherhood, family and business demands?
5. Is there a trade-offs between family/business demands and your personal aspirations/ambitions? How do you reconcile these (if possible)?
6. Have family/business demands and your personal/ambitions evolved since you have started your own business? In which way (i.e. please provide examples?) And how has this evolution impacted on your well-being as a ‘female entrepreneur’ and on ‘the enterprise’?

**Female Entrepreneurship in General**

1. Why do you think only 20% of entrepreneurs are female?
2. If you could change one thing to better support your business, what would it be?

**Personal Details**

Age: 16-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

Children: (1) 0-2 3-4 5-11 12-18

Children: (2) 0-2 3-4 5-11 12-18

Children: (3) 0-2 3-4 5-11 12-18

Children: (4) 0-2 3-4 5-11 12-18

Highest educational qualification:

Location of business:

Home working:

Household income: Dual Single

Nationality:

Ethnicity:

Mode of working: Full Time: Part time:

Last position held in employment:

**Thank you so much for your participation**.