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Report to: Green Economy Panel
Date: 14 September 2017
Subject: Resource Efficiency Fund Update

1 Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on the Resource Efficiency Fund and future opportunities.

2 Information

2.1 The Resource Efficiency Fund (REF) offers free expert advice and business support to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them to implement energy and water efficiency and waste reduction measures. This is supported by a 50% capital grant of up to £10,000. The REF is funded through the Local Growth Fund and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020 programme.

2.2 The REF has been operational since November 2016, with the formal public launch being February 2017. To date, over 200 businesses have been in contact with the REF and 20 have applied for grants. This item will provide a more substantive update on progress.

2.3 A further c£2m of ERDF for SME resource efficiency may be available in the Leeds City Region. Calls are expected later in 2017/18. Possible responses to the expected calls will be presented to the Panel.

2.4 Vincent McCabe, WYCA's Programme Manager for Resource Efficiency, will be at the meeting to give a presentation and take questions from members.

3 Recommendations

3.1 That the update on the Resource Efficiency Fund be noted and feedback given on potential future opportunities.