
Report to: Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

Date: 23 January 2019

Subject: **Enterprise Zones**

Director: Kate Thompson, Enterprise Zone SRO

Author(s): Kate Thompson

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider a new delivery option to facilitate acceleration of the Enterprise Zone programme as detailed in exempt Appendices 1 and 2.

2. Information

- 2.1 The Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone programme includes two Enterprise Zone (EZ) designations, comprising ten sites as follows:

- a) Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone Phase One - Leeds, including Newmarket Lane, Thornes Farm, Logic Leeds and Gateway 45/Temple Green
- b) Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone Phase Two - multi-site: Gain Lane, Parry Lane and Staithgate Lane (Bradford), Clifton Business Park (Calderdale), Lindley Moor East, Lindley Moor West and Moor Park, Mirfield (Kirklees), Lanthwaite Business Park Extension and South Kirkby Business Park (Wakefield).

- 2.2 The Leeds City Region Enterprise Zones Strategy and Implementation Plan was endorsed by the LEP Board in April 2017. This set out the vision and overarching objectives for delivery and the basis for the investment strategy as:

- Unlocking, enabling and accelerating site development
- Delivering high quality business and job growth
- Maximising the efficient use of sites and delivering high quality development

In addition the EZ programme has the ability to raise business rates through new commercial space which can be reinvested into other core economic activity within the City Region.

- 2.3 Currently the EZ programme has an indicative capital funding approval of £45.044m to be invested in accelerating delivery on the phase 2 sites as well as enhancing power supply on phase 1. The funding comprises £20m Local

Growth Fund (LGF) and £24.939m from over-programming against LGF. Due to the time window set by central Government for delivery and spend of Growth Deal objectives, this funding is only available for draw down until 31 March 2021. In addition the occupier incentives that come with EZ designation are only applicable for new businesses entering the phase 2 EZ sites by 31 March 2020. For the Phase 2 sites the incentives include up to 100% Business Rate Discount of up to £275,000 over a five year period.

- 2.4 The EZ programme team is currently reviewing options to bring forward sites at pace so that strategic objectives can be achieved within the funding window. Details can be found in **Exempt Appendices 1 and 2**.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Indicative financial implications are detailed in para 2.3 above and in Exempt Appendix 2.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The information contained in Appendices 1 and 2 is exempt under paragraph 3, Part 1 Section B of the Access to Information Annex to the LEP Board Procedure Rules as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the LEP, the Combined Authority or any other local authority). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the content of the appendices as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as publication at this time could prejudice current and future decision making.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 The EZ programme has a dedicated programme management team comprising one Development Manager and one Project Manager, together with a part-time Senior Responsible Officer.

6. External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the LEP Board consider the recommendations relating to a new delivery option to facilitate acceleration of the Enterprise Zone programme as set out at paras 3.1 and 3.2 of Exempt Appendix 1.

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

Exempt Appendices 1 & 2 – Enterprise Zone Acceleration