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**Report to:** Business Investment Panel

**Date:** 5 February 2019

**Subject:** **Business Grants Programme**

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**1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To outline the current position regarding progress in committing grants through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Business Grants Programme (BGP).

**2. Information**

- 2.1 Spend and outputs for the grant schemes funded through the Local Growth Fund (LGF) are detailed below. Achievements against these targets can be made through the three capital grants schemes which make up the BGP; the big scheme, the small scheme and the Business Flood Recovery Fund. The big scheme is for grants over £100,000, the small scheme is grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 and the Business Flood Recovery Fund is grants of £10,000 to £100,000 for businesses affected by the Boxing Day Floods of 2015 (note that this programme is now closed to new applications).

Performance indicator	Target	Big scheme committed	Small scheme committed	Flood grants committed	Total commitments	Actual outputs (16/01/19)
Direct jobs	4,100	2,873	2,307	n/a	5,180	3,556
Safeguarded jobs	n/a	152	0	1,541	1,693	1,682
Number of grant awards	765	38	570	63	671	586
Total investment	£168,500,000	£154,214,164	£163,611,478	£12,793,515	£330,619,157	£260,079,521
Programme Spend	£44,316,000	£8,916,174	£19,479,042	£2,860,375	£31,255,591	£27,276,756
Cost per job	n/a	£3,103	£8,445	n/a	£6,034	£7,670

Performance indicator	Target	Big scheme committed	Small scheme committed	Flood grants committed	Total commitments	Actual outputs (16/01/19)
Cost per job (including safeguarded jobs)	n/a	£2,947	n/a	£1,856	£4,548	£5,207

- 2.2 To date commitments of £28.39 million have been made through a combination of the big and small schemes. Seven applications to the small scheme, with a combined grant value of £204,934, were approved under sub-delegations in December 2018.
- 2.3 As outlined in previous Business Investment Panel papers, grants are now funded through a combination of the Business Growth Programme and Access to Capital Grants, both of which are funded through the LGF.
- 2.4 Commitments through the Business Flood Recovery Fund currently stand at £2.86 million. Of a total of 66 projects approved, three have been withdrawn, 58 are complete and £119,528 is left to pay to five businesses whose projects are still live.
- 2.5 All grant awards are listed in summary form on the LEP website and updated quarterly.<sup>1</sup>

### 3 New large programme application

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the following application. The grant applications and appraisal is attached as detailed.

Project Ref	District	Total Investment £	Grant Requested £	Proposed New Jobs	Appendices
1098634	Wakefield	1,836,000	200,000 euros	22	1 and 2
		<b>1,836,000</b>	<b>200,000*euros</b>	<b>22</b>	

\*Equivalent to £180,546 as at 16 January 2019. However, this may fluctuate up or down, with the actual amount determined by the exchange rate on the date the funding agreement is issued.

### 4 Update on large programme application considered at Panel on 11 December 2018

- 4.1 At Panel on 11 December 2018 members considered an application (project reference 1100964) from a business looking to make an inward investment in to the Wakefield District. It was agreed in principle that the application should be supported, but at a level to be negotiated with the company by officers and

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.the-lep.com/about/governance-and-funding/grants-for-business/>

with certain caveats. The application was formally approved for £125,000 on 11 January 2019 by the Combined Authority's Managing Director. More detailed information can be found at exempt Appendix 3.

## **5 Financial implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

## **6 Legal implications**

6.1 The information contained in **Appendices 1, 2 and 3** is exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the content of the appendix as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as publication could prejudice current and future decision making.

## **7 Staffing implications**

7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **8 External consultees**

8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **9 Recommendations**

9.1 That the Panel notes the progress report.

9.2 That the Panel considers the grant application detailed at 3.1 and attached at exempt Appendices 1 and 2 and notes the update at exempt Appendix 3.

## **10 Background documents**

10.1 None.

## **11 Appendices**

**Exempt Appendix 1** - application form for project reference 1098634.

**Exempt Appendix 2** - appraisal for project reference 1098634.

**Exempt Appendix 3** - update on application (project reference 1100964) considered at Panel on 11 December 2018.