
Report to: Business Investment Panel

Date: 12 July 2019

Subject: **Growing Places Fund Loans**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Panel on progress in committing loans through the Growing Places Fund (GPF).
- 1.2 To update the Panel on a summary of the GPF live loan status and risks.

2. Information

Growing Places Fund update

- 2.1 The Growing Places Fund (GPF) began in 2012 offering loans to support projects that required additional capital funding to deliver jobs and economic growth and to unlock stalled developments post-recession, within a timescale of five years or less. The fund was open to all businesses and organisations of any size based in or looking to invest in the Leeds City Region. Any future loans are currently on hold pending the launch of a renewed fund aimed at the needs of the current lending environment and SMEs.
- 2.2 The total original GPF allocation from Government was £35.5 million of which £4.007 million remains unallocated (following the re-credit of compound interest for one existing loan). The Fund typically sought private sector leverage on the basis of 1:3.
- 2.3 Loan repayments are held separately and can be reinvested into any future fund. The LEP Board has approved the principal of a proportion of the returned capital being reinvested in the future.
- 2.4 The programme has currently enabled the sustainment or creation of 843 jobs and the building of 785 homes of which 106 (13.8%) are affordable.

GPF Capital Position

- 2.5 The capital repaid by GPF loans offered through the programme to 31 March 2019 is £16.5 million.
- 2.6 The capital anticipated in the 2019/20 financial year is £638,775. There is, as always, with GPF loans a risk that projects may not pay to the agreed repayment schedule.
- 2.7 The capital anticipated in 2020/21 is a further £2.656 million.
- 2.8 The total capital expected beyond 31 March 2021 is £4,982,775.

GPF Programme Status of Live Loans and Risk

- 2.9 A view of the overall GPF Programme in terms of progress with live projects and current risks has been prepared. Detail is provided for information in **Exempt Appendix 1**.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The financial implications associated with the reports at para 2.9 and para 2.10 are set out in **Exempt Appendix 1**.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The information contained in **Appendix 1** 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 appendices as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as publication could prejudice current and future decision making.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

6. External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the update on progress in committing loans through the GPF be noted.
- 7.2 That the information provided in **Exempt Appendix 1** on progress of live loans through the GPF programme and risks be noted and feedback given.

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

Exempt Appendix 1 – GPF Programme status of live loans and risk