

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BUSINESS INVESTMENT PANEL
HELD ON FRIDAY, 12 JULY 2019 AT COMMITTEE ROOM A -
WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS**

Present:

Councillor Judith Blake CBE (Chair)	Leeds City Council
Simon Wright (Deputy Chair)	Yorkshire Bank
Councillor Darren Byford	Wakefield Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Michael Allen	NatWest Bank
Colin Glass OBE	WGN
Jonathan King	Medusa Holdings Ltd

In attendance:

Zoe Davidson	Deloitte
Henry Rigg	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Vincent McCabe	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Kate Thompson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Phil Cole	Leeds City Council
Lorna Holroyd	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Neill Fishman	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Chris Brunold	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alexander Clarke	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Lauren Thomas	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Megan Hemingway	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pandor, Councillor Swift, Councillor Ross-Shaw, Marcus Mills and Gareth Yates.

2. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. Exempt information - Exclusion of the press and public

Resolved: That in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Appendix 1 of Item 6; Appendix 1 of Item 7;

Appendices 2 and 3 of Item 8 and Appendix 1 of Item 9 on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information and for the reasons set out in the report that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Business Investment Panel held on 4 June 2019

Resolved: That the minutes of the Business Investment Panel held on 4 June 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Governance Arrangements

The Panel was presented a report detailing the new governance arrangements and confirming the West Yorkshire and York Investment Committee's appointment of the Business Investment Panel as an advisory sub-committee of itself.

Members noted that the Terms of Reference and quorum proposed remained unchanged from the last municipal year. Dates of meetings were also noted; members confirmed that they had received calendar invitations for all forthcoming meetings.

Resolved: That the Business Investment Panel noted the governance arrangements further to the meeting of the West Yorkshire and York Investment Panel on 11 July 2019.

6. Future Plans, Grants and Loans

The Panel was updated on work to develop a new dedicated commercial investment team within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to deliver new and existing business investment processes.

Members were informed that a procurement exercise and tendering process had taken place to commission an external partner to support this work. The partner had been appointed last week and aimed to deliver initial findings at the end of July. Then a second phase was planned to complete by the end of September 2019.

Resolved: That the Panel noted the progress made to date and provided feedback on the work proposed with the appointed partner.

7. Strategic Inward Investment Fund

The Panel considered a report which outlined the current position regards progress in committing grants through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Strategic Inward Investment Fund (SIIF).

An update was provided on previously approved projects to date, as detailed

in the **exempt Appendix 1**.

It was noted that there were no new grant applications for consideration at this meeting.

The Chair made members aware that Leeds City Council was launching a real living wage campaign for the Leeds area businesses to sign up to.

Resolved: That the Panel notes the progress of the Strategic Inward Investment Fund (SIIF).

8. Business Grants Programme

The Panel considered a report which outlined the current position regarding progress in committing grants through the Leeds City Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Business Grants Programme (BGP).

Members were updated on the Productivity Pilot as outlined in section 3 and **Appendix 1**. It was noted that there is a demand for this type of product, particularly from the manufacturing sector. A challenge is finding a way of measuring productivity at a programme level, as businesses measure productivity in different ways.

Panel Members also considered the application outlined in 4.1 and detailed in exempt **Appendices 2 and 3**.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Panel noted the progress report.
- (ii) That the Panel noted the update on the Productivity Pilot.
- (iii) That the Panel considered the application outlined in 4.1 and recommended the project be approved.

9. Growing Places Fund Loans

The Panel considered a report which provided an update on the progress in committing loans through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Growing Places Fund (GPF).

The Panel was updated on the progress of live projects and their current risks, attached at exempt **Appendix 1**.

Resolved:

- (i) That the update on progress on the Growing Places Fund be noted.
- (ii) That the information provided in exempt **Appendix 1** on progress of live loans through the Growing Places Fund programme and risks be noted and feedback given.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is 2 August 2019 at 2pm in Committee Room A, Wellington House Leeds.