

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BUSINESS INVESTMENT PANEL  
HELD REMOTELY ON WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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**Present:**

Councillor James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Councillor Peter McBride	Kirklees Council
Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw	Bradford Council
Councillor Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Colin Glass OBE	WGN
Jonathan King	Pavers Shoes
Gareth Yates	Amazon

**In attendance:**

Elizabeth Courtney	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Neill Fishman	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Henry Rigg	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Julia Radianec	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**1. Apologies for absence**

In the absence of Councillor Judith Blake, Councillor Jane Scullion chaired the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Judith Blake, Councillor Shabir Pandor, Councillor Darren Byford, Councillor Graham Swift. Michael Allen Simon Wright and Marcus Mills.

**2. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests**

There were no items of pecuniary interests declared at the meeting.

**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 and 2 to Agenda Item 5 and 1 of Agenda item 6 on the grounds that they are 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 11 March 2020**

That the minutes of the Business Investment Panel held on 11 March 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **5. Business Growth Programme**

The Panel considered a report to outline the current position regarding progress in committing grants through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Business Growth Programme (BGP) and was asked to note the updates at paragraph 4.1, 5.1, 6.1 and 7.1.

The Panel was asked to consider the new grant application outlined in paragraph 3.1 and detailed in exempt appendices 1 and 2.

##### **Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the updates in paragraph 4.1, 5.1, 6.1 and 7.1 be noted.
- (iii) That the grant application outlined in paragraph 3.1 and detailed in exempt Appendices 1 and 2 be recommended for approval.

#### **6. Growing Places Fund**

The Panel considered a report to update on progress in committing loans through the Growing Places Fund (GPF).

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. The Fund typically sought private sector leverage on the basis of 1:3. Any future loans are currently on hold pending the launch of a new investment strategy which is expected later in 2020.

The Panel was asked to note the progress of the Growing Places Fund and the information provided in Exempt Appendix 1.

##### **Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.

(ii) That the information provided in Exempt Appendix 1 be noted.

**7. Date of next meeting 6 October 2020**