
Report West Yorkshire and York Investment Committee

Date 16 June 2017

Subject ESIF Sustainable Urban Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To ask the Investment Committee to consider the draft SUD Call, and subject to any comments, to recommend it to WYCA for approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 8 March 2017, the Investment Committee considered and noted the roles and responsibilities relating to Intermediate Body status delegated to West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) in order to deliver the SUD Strategy, part of the ESIF Programme. At this meeting the Committee also provided advice on the outline shape of the SUD Call.
- 2.2 The outline shape of the SUD Call was subsequently agreed by WYCA at the 6 April 2017 meeting, who agreed for officers to develop the full Call with the Managing Authority (MA) i.e. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
- 2.3 The full Call has now been produced in draft form and is attached to this report as Exempt Appendix B together with a covering note (Exempt Appendix A). Investment Committee is requested to consider the content of the draft Call with particular focus on section 3.2 which describes the local development needs within the SUD area (West Yorkshire and York), within the national template. Investment Committee is further requested to provide feedback and comment (which will be considered in negotiation with DCLG) with a view to recommending this to WYCA for approval at its meeting on 29 June prior to formal publication by the DCLG – expected July 2017.

3. Risks

- 3.1 The risks of non-compliance with regard to the delegated function of WYCA as an Intermediate Body were previously outlined at the meeting in March 2017. At this stage the main risk relates to whether there is sufficient interest from stakeholders/bidders to apply for the funds in response to the published Call, the funding remains unspent and potentially could be lost to the City Region.

4. Benefits

- 4.1 This report represents decision making powers over part of the ESIF programme under SUD which will provide project grant funding of €19.5m (£15.5 - £17m dependant on exchange rate). This funding will be available for partners including WYCA to bid for to support key projects to support the delivery of the ESIF Strategy and the Strategic Economic Plan.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 DCLG, as MA for the funds, are responsible for the issuing of Funding Agreements, paying projects and general contract management. The funding within the Strategy (€19.95m) is a notional budget and is part of the ESIF ERDF programme. All finances go directly through DCLGs accounts not the WYCA's.
- 5.2 If WYCA choose to bid themselves for the funds there will be implications for the WYCA in respect of providing match to the value of 50% of any project costs, either by themselves or in partnership with others.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The information contained in Appendices A and B 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.
- 6.2 DCLG issued the legal agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding to WYCA on the 6 February 2017. This has now been signed on the basis of the previously outlined operating protocol.

7. Staffing Implications

- 7.1 Staffing is already in place to undertake the work required under SUD as part of the development and implementation of the wider ESIF Programme. Should WYCA choose to bid for the funds itself staff resources may be required in order to complete the application(s).

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Investment Committee considers the draft Call and subject to any comments recommends it for approval to WYCA.