

Section A: Scheme Summary

Name of Scheme:	Supporting Local Business Pledge Development Programme
Location of Scheme:	West Yorkshire
Applicable Funding Stream(s) – Grant or Loan:	Single Investment Fund
Growth Fund Priority Area (if applicable):	Not applicable
Combined Authority approvals to date:	Combined Authority decision at meeting 29 July 2021 to agree in principle £500,000 from the Single investment Fund to support this scheme.
Forecasted Full Approval Date (Decision Point 4):	3 November 2021 (Please note - this scheme is entering the assurance process at decision point 2 (Strategic Outline Case), but it is the intention to also seek decision point 4 (full business case) approval at the same time so work can commence on activity 5 (delivery).
Forecasted Completion Date (Decision Point 5):	N/A
Total Scheme Cost for the preferred way forward (£):	£500,000
WYCA Funding (£):	£500,000
Total other public sector investment (£):	Nil
Total other private sector investment (£):	Nil

Is this a standalone Project?	No
Is this a Programme?	Yes
Is this Project part of an agreed Programme?	No

A.1	Scheme Description
<p>The scheme will develop a new programme pipeline, focussing on new activities to support businesses, which will complement the existing business support offered by the Combined Authority and local partners. The pipeline developed will be especially linked to the needs of businesses in economic recovery, in line with the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS)</p> <p>The pipeline developed under this scheme proposes to include:</p>	

- The design, development, and piloting of new activities to support businesses to recover, by improving their productivity and resilience. Activities are likely to include support around strategic planning, investment, exporting and delivering good / fair work.
- Development of a Mayoral Challenge competition and empowering the West Yorkshire Innovation Network's work to stimulate further entrepreneurial innovation and new support activities.
- Developing a regional approach to working with sectors on key agendas, for example boosting productivity. This will include delivering the West Yorkshire Manufacturing Task Force, to represent manufacturing businesses and produce recommendations on the sector's future needs.
- The scheme will fund two new dedicated Combined Authority posts. The Programme Development Lead and Policy Officer will work between policy and delivery teams, to manage the pipeline development, engagement with partners and other stakeholders and to explore future funding options to deliver the pipeline programmes identified.
- Work will also take place to identify new activities to support the growth of co-operative, social enterprise, and worker-owned businesses.
- The scheme will commission work from external organisations when additional resource and / or expertise is required.

The scheme will fund the development of the programme pipeline only. Additional funding will need to be secured to deliver any new programmes identified.

A.2 Business Case Summary

Strategic Case

The scheme aims to support the Mayor of West Yorkshire's pledge to 'Support local businesses and be champion for our regional economy'. The scheme also supports the 2021 West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan, the Combined Authority's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and links to the "Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses (including entrepreneurialism) investment priority within the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS).

To assist the economic recovery, support is required to help businesses to return to a more competitive state and to build future resilience. Improving West Yorkshire's productivity, which already lagged behind the UK average before the COVID-19 pandemic, is a key route to support the region's economic recovery, as outlined in the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan and Investment Strategy

The scheme will also address the following Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) Priorities:

- Boosting Productivity – by developing a pipeline of initiatives, giving access to specialist advice, and building an evidence base
- Enabling Inclusive Growth – by developing interventions to support parts of the businesses base that has not traditionally been supported by the current Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub
- Securing Money and Powers – building a pipeline of programmes and activities and an evidence base, which will support bids for funding

The scheme has strong alignment with the Government's Plan for Growth – in which national policy looks to support high growth potential businesses in innovation to improve productivity.

Economic Case

The scheme only considered a short list of four options, as this type of scheme has limited delivery options. The short list appraisal included discussion with the Economic Recovery Board, Business Innovation and Growth Panel and Heads of Economic Policy at the West Yorkshire local authorities.

Value for money will be established by benchmarking costs of projects and initiatives against previous schemes and with partners.

Projects brought forward as part of the pipeline developed through this scheme will draw on the experience of the Combined Authority in delivering value for money on business support activities.

Commercial Case

The scheme is proposed to be delivered mainly by the Combined Authority which will allow it to adopt a co-ordinated approach by aligning this scheme with its existing Leeds City Region Growth Hub programme and build on existing relationships with partners.

Development of the pipeline will draw extensively on the existing engagement with businesses on their support needs – including evidence from the Leeds City Region business survey which highlighted productivity as the number one priority for businesses for the next financial year.

Some elements of the scheme will be delivered by external organisations and engagement with the Combined Authority's procurement team will commence in October 2021 to develop the procurement strategy.

The work carried out by this scheme will provide an evidence base which will be used to support funding bids.

Financial Case

The total scheme cost estimate is £500,000 and is to be solely funded by the Combined Authority from the Single Investment Fund.

This funding has been approved in principle by the Combined Authority to support scheme development relating to business support in the delivery of Mayoral Pledge on Supporting Local Business. To fully realise the ambitious plans, additional funding will need to be secured to deliver the pipeline programmes identified through this scheme.

The scheme cost includes two new temporary posts, Programme Development Lead Officer and Policy Officer, an allocated budget for research and piloting activity for the development of the pipeline, and a contingency budget of 5%.

Management Case

The scheme will be delivered by the Combined Authority. The Programme Development Lead will manage and deliver the scheme, with support from a Policy Officer. The two new postholders will report to meetings of the local authority Heads of Economic Policy and Development and Business Support leads.

The programme pipeline will be developed in consultation with a range of partners across the region, including local authority economic development and business support leads. The Business, Economy and Innovation Committee will provide strategic oversight and guidance for programme delivery, with the Mayoral Combined Authority Board reviewing project performance, risk, and progress.

Stakeholder engagement has been carried out with the Economic Recovery Board, Business Innovation and Growth Panel and Heads of Economic Policy at the West Yorkshire local authorities.

The Combined Authority has extensive experience of delivering schemes of this type.