

**Report to:** Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Subject:** Growing Places Fund

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	3
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress in committing loans through the Growing Places Fund (GPF).

## 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. The Fund typically sought private sector leverage on the basis of 1:3.
- 2.2 The remaining capital funding allocation for investment into future GPF/activity is £1.988 million.
- 2.3 Loan repayments are held separately and the LEP Board has approved £21.65 million of returned capital to be reinvested into the new Business Accelerator Fund, managed by the Economic Services directorate.

### GPF Capital Position

- 2.4 The capital repaid by GPF loans to 31 March 2022 is £20,498,249.
- 2.5 The GPF balance at 31 March 2022 is £22,486, 249 from remaining capital allocation (para 2.2) and returned capital (para 2.4) and this will be invested in the SME Investment Fund.
- 2.6 The capital anticipated to be repaid in 2022/23 is a further £1,286,812.
- 2.7 There are four live loans remaining. The total capital expected beyond 31 March 2023 is £3,021,685. All capital is currently anticipated to be repaid by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2027.

### GPF Projects with Changed Circumstances

- 2.8 The Committee is requested to note that one GPF project has changed circumstances in relation to the repayment of the loan.

Project Ref	Total Loan	Recommendation
209, New Bolton Woods	£248,000	To note

- 2.9 Details can be found in **Exempt Appendix 1**.

## **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

## **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 New Bolton Woods will be a new sustainable urban village that will provide new employment opportunities, key social amenities and over 1000 new homes for local residents.

## **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 As detailed in para 4.1.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The financial implications are detailed in the body of the report and in **Exempt Appendix 1**.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 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.

7.2 Legal implications are detailed in **Exempt Appendix 1**.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the update on GPF repayments and changes to GPF Loan 209 be noted.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

12.1 **Exempt Appendix 1 – Commercial Update**