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**Report to:** Business Investment Panel

**Date:** 5 October 2018

**Subject:** **Business Grants Programme**

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**1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To outline the current position regarding progress in committing grants through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Business Grants Programme (BGP).

**2. Information**

- 2.1 Spend and outputs for the grant schemes funded through the Local Growth Fund (LGF) are detailed below. Achievements against these targets can be made through the three capital grants schemes which make up the BGP; the big scheme, the small scheme and the Business Flood Recovery Fund. The big scheme is for grants over £100,000, the small scheme grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 and the Business Flood Recovery Fund grants of £10,000 to £100,000 for businesses affected by the Boxing Day Floods of 2015 (note that this programme is now closed to new applications).

Performance indicator	Target	Big scheme committed	Small scheme committed	Flood grants committed	Total commitments	Actual outputs (17/09/18)
Direct jobs	4,100	2,848	2,182	n/a	5,030	3,229
Safeguarded jobs	n/a	152	0	1,541	1,693	1,682
Number of grant awards	765	37	540	63	640	545
Total investment	£168,500,000	£144,759,164	£154,834,549	£12,793,515	£312,387,228	£242,106,670
Programme Spend	£38,963,000	£8,791,174	£18,453,498	£2,860,375	£30,105,047	£25,072,857
Cost per job	n/a	£3,087	£8,459	n/a	£5,986	£7,766

Performance indicator	Target	Big scheme committed	Small scheme committed	Flood grants committed	Total commitments	Actual outputs (17/09/18)
Cost per job (including safeguarded jobs)	n/a	£2,930	n/a	£1,856	£4,478	£5,106

\*It should be noted that 1,400 of committed jobs under the Big Programme relate to one major project within the Wakefield District. Initial monitoring of the project has now been completed and a total of 290 new jobs have been created to date.

- 2.2 To date commitments of £27.24 million have been made through a combination of the big and small schemes.
- 2.3 As outlined in previous Business Investment Panel papers, grants are now funded through a combination of the Business Growth Programme and Access to Capital Grants, both of which are funded through the LGF.
- 2.4 Commitments through the Business Flood Recovery Fund currently stand at £2.86 million. Of a total of 66 projects approved, three have been withdrawn, 52 are complete and £185,000 is left to pay to 11 businesses whose projects are still live.
- 2.5 All grant awards are listed in summary form on the LEP website and updated quarterly.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. New large programme applications

- 3.1 There are no new applications for consideration on today's agenda.

### 4. Update on previously approved applications

- 4.1 A grant of £125,000 recommended for approval at Business Investment Panel on 9 August 2018 to Project Ref: 1098371, a Bradford based business, has now been formally approved by the Combined Authority's Managing Director and a funding agreement issued.

### 5. Multiple applications

- 5.1 Proposals to limit the number of applications a business can submit were considered at Business Investment Panel on 31 August 2018.
- 5.2 These proposals were agreed by the Business, Innovation and Growth Panel on 13 October 2018, and will be adopted from 1 October 2018.
- 5.3 The maximum level of grant support a business can receive within a three year period has been reduced from £500,000 to £250,000. Additionally, businesses

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.the-lep.com/about/governance-and-funding/grants-for-business/>

will only be able to submit a maximum of three successful applications within a three year period.

- 5.4 At Business Investment Panel on 31 August 2018, Members asked for information on how the programme is marketed to raise awareness and widen take-up across the City Region. A paper will be provided at the next meeting on 6 November 2018.

**6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

**7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

**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 Panel notes the progress report.

**11. Background documents**

None.

**12. Appendices**

None.