
Report to: Business Investment Panel

Date: 6 November 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 (17/10/18)
Direct jobs	4,100	2,848	2,229	n/a	5,077	3,242
Safeguarded jobs	n/a	152	0	1,541	1,693	1,682
Number of grant awards	765	37	548	63	648	556
Total investment	£168,500,000	£150,244,164	£158,940,511	£12,793,515	£321,978,190	£244,146,368
Programme Spend	£38,963,000	£8,791,174	£18,959,801	£2,860,375	£30,611,350	£25,566,520
Cost per job	n/a	£3,087	£8,508	n/a	£6,030	£7,887

Performance indicator	Target	Big scheme committed	Small scheme committed	Flood grants committed	Total commitments	Actual outputs (17/10/18)
Cost per job (including safeguarded jobs)	n/a	£2,930	n/a	£1,856	£4,522	£5,193

- 2.2 To date commitments of £27.75 million have been made through a combination of the big and small schemes. Six applications to the small scheme, with a combined grant value of £332,094, have been approved under sub-delegations since the last Panel meeting on 5 October 2018.
- 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 Of a total of 66 projects approved, three have been withdrawn, 57 are complete and £145,528 is left to pay to six businesses whose projects are still live.
- 2.5 All grant awards are listed in summary form on the LEP website and updated quarterly.¹

New large programme applications

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

Multiple applications & wider business engagement

- 2.7 At Business Investment Panel on 31 August 2018 Members were informed of the proposal to change the maximum level of grant support an individual business can receive within a three year period from £500,000 to £250,000. Additionally, businesses will be able to submit a maximum of three successful applications within a three year period. These proposals were implemented as from 1 October 2018.
- 2.8 The proposals were implemented for the following reasons:
- The budget for the programme is limited and may be fully committed in 2019/20;
 - To encourage businesses to adopt a more strategic approach to business planning, including future capital investments;
 - To make the programme accessible to as wide a range of SMEs across the City Region as possible.
- 2.9 At Business Investment Panel on 31 August 2018, Members asked for information on how the programme will be marketed to raise awareness and widen take-up across the City Region. This is outlined in **Appendix 1**.

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

3. Financial implications

3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

4. Legal implications

4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5. Staffing implications

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

6. External consultees

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the Panel notes the progress report.

8. Background documents

None.

9. Appendices

9.1 **Appendix 1** – Wider promotion of BGP.