
Report to: Business Investment Panel

Date: 5 December 2018

Subject: **Growing Places Fund Loans**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Panel on progress in committing loans through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP) Growing Places Fund (GPF).
- 1.2 To update the Panel on one project with changed circumstances.

2. Information

Growing Places Fund update

- 2.1 The Growing Places Fund (GPF) has operated since 2012 offering loans to support projects that require additional capital funding to deliver jobs and economic growth and unlock stalled developments post-recession, within a timescale of five years or less. The fund is open to all businesses and organisations of any size based in or looking to invest in the Leeds City Region. Applications from small and medium-sized enterprises, employing up to 250 staff, are particularly welcome.
- 2.2 The total original GPF allocation from Government was £35.5 million of which approximately £4.0 million currently remains unallocated. The Fund typically seeks private sector leverage on the basis of 1:3.
- 2.3 Loan repayments are also held separately and can be reinvested in the future.

GPF Capital Position

- 2.4 The capital repaid by GPF loans offered through the programme to 31 October 2018 is £8.9 million.

- 2.5 The capital anticipated in the remainder of the 2018/19 financial year is £1.296 million. There is, as always, with GPF loans a risk that projects may not pay to the agreed repayment schedule.
- 2.6 The capital anticipated in 2019/20 is a further £3.288 million.
- 2.7 The total capital expected beyond 31 March 2020 is £10.717 million.

GPF Projects with Changed Circumstances

- 2.8 One GPF project has changed circumstances as shown below. Detail is provided for information and as this is confidential it is included in **Exempt Appendix 1**.

Project Ref	Total Loan	Proposed Jobs/Homes	Recommendation
315	£800,000	24	Discuss

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The financial implications associated with the project with changed circumstances detailed in para 2.8 is set out in **Appendix 1**.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 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.

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 update on progress in committing loans through the GPF be noted.
- 7.2 That the information provided in **Appendix 1** be noted and feedback given.

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

Exempt Appendix 1 – Project 315 - changed circumstances