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Economic Services  
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**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 14 December 2017

**Subject:** Project Beta

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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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12a, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1	

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform WYCA of the situation relating to Project Beta and propose support to the future provision of grant funding of up to £3 million.

## 2 Information

- 2.1 Project Beta relates to an application from a company seeking support to establish a new UK-based drug manufacturing facility. Subject to regulatory approval these drugs could treat a wide range of difficult to treat human conditions, particularly in children. The Leeds Enterprise Zone was put forward as a location for this company and detailed dialogue has taken place with Leeds City Council and the LEP about funding to help to support the project. The scale of investment required will require funding which may involve both the LEP and Government alongside any private investment to secure the development. The company is expected to make a final decision shortly about their preferred location in the UK. The plant could create significant growth each year for the city region.
- 2.2 At the meeting of WYCA on 2 February 2017, Project Beta was accepted as a good strategic fit with the Strategic Economic Plan and it was accepted into the pipeline and approved to continue to Activity 4 (full business case) of the Assurance Framework in order to define the amount of funding required and the details of the project.
- 2.3 The project has been the subject of close communication between WYCA Officers, Leeds City Council (LCC) officers and the company throughout 2016 and 2017 and the nature of the support requested has changed through negotiations with the company. The company now requests a £3m grant, which is seen as an important part of a wider regional offer to the applicant to enable the company to commit to

locating the facility in Leeds City Region. WYCA's support for the £3m grant request is now sought, the request was considered by Investment Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> November and recommended for approval. This report seeks support in principle only, the project will proceed through WYCA's formal Assurance Process in due course in line with the Assurance Framework.

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 That allowance is made within WYCA's Strategic Inward Investment Fund for a grant of up to £3 million Project Beta. Continued support and approval of this grant will be subject to applications progression through the WYCA Assurance Process.

### **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 WYCA has signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement with the company.

### **5 Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 None.

### **6 External Consultees**

- 6.1 WYCA officers continue to work closely with Project Beta and Leeds City Council (LCC) on this project.

### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 That support in principle is given by WYCA to the provision of grant funding of up to £3million to Project Beta subject to the scheme's progression through WYCA's Assurance Process.

### **8 Background Documents**

- 8.1 None.