

20 MARCH 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) ONE FRONT DOOR FUNDING PROGRAMME

Purpose

To consider changes to schemes within the current funding programme including a new business case for the Watershed development phase 1.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

Local Growth Fund (LGF):

- The total West of England Growth Deal capital funding allocation across rounds 1-3 is £202.1m; the current profile of Local Growth Fund (LGF) schemes within the programme is shown in Figure 1. There is an expectation that all LGF projects are substantially completed by 31 March 2021 (which is the end of the LGF funding period) and a requirement that all grant funds are spent by this date. Over-programming (currently standing at £12.1m) has been used to help manage this requirement.
- Recommended changes to schemes included in the LGF programme are set out at Appendix 2.

Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF):

- **Watershed development phase 1:** A Full Business Case has been submitted seeking the award of £500k from the RIF towards the £1.522m Watershed phase 1 development (see Appendix 1 for business case assessment summary). This will see the redevelopment of E Shed to create a new ground floor 36 seat capacity cinema and a new café with covered outdoor seating.
- Recommended changes to schemes included with the RIF and the Economic Development Fund programmes are set out at Appendix 3.

West of England Healthy Ageing Trailblazer - Forever Homes: WECA is leading a consortium of partners in an ambitious project to help older adults live in the place they choose to live. The vision is to create better homes for older adults through innovative user-centred designs, products, technology and care. An Expression of Interest has been submitted to Innovate UK which is progressing to 'interview' stage. Subject to a successful outcome, the report recommends the delegation of the use of funds received and the submission of the Stage 1 business case to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives.

Workforce for the Future: This is an £8m programme funded through the WECA Investment Fund and the European Social Fund. The programme opened on 10 February to received bid submissions against the first call by 6 April, with a further 2 calls expected across the duration of the project. The report recommends the delegation of grant giving for Workforce for the Future to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives. This will be informed by detailed bid assessments undertaken by the Skills Advisory Panel in advance of any delegated decisions.

Recommendations

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to:

1. Note the submission of the Healthy Ageing Challenge Fund Expression of Interest, and, should the outcome be successful, delegate the use of funds received and the submission of the Stage 1 business case to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives.
2. Delegate grant giving for Workforce for the Future to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives.
3. Approve the change requests for schemes within the Local Growth Fund programme as set out in Appendix 2.
4. Approve the Watershed development phase 1 and award of £500k subject to Bristol City Council confirming arrangements for repayment, securing all match funding and finalising the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.
5. Approve the change requests for schemes within the Economic Development Fund (EDF) and Revolving Infrastructure Fund programmes as set out in Appendix 3.

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