

08 April 2022

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) & INVEST BRISTOL AND BATH (IBB) FORECASTED BUDGET OUTTURN, APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022

Purpose

To present the forecasted revenue outturn for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2021/22 based on data for the period April 2021 to February 2022. The report covers the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Invest in Bristol and Bath (IBB) revenue budgets.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

- Appendix 1 details the LEP forecasted revenue out-turn for the 2021/22 financial year based on information to the end of February 2022 which shows spend of £9.8m against an original budget of £6.0m. The difference of £3.8m is mainly due to the receipt of additional grant funding, (including Green Homes Grants), into the South West Energy Hub;
- Overall, the LEP and IBB revenue budgets are forecasted to balance at the end of the financial year;
- Total grants secured across the three-year period from 2021/22 – 2023/2024 is £22m. The authority has recently reviewed and updated the anticipated timing of spend against these grants and re-profiled the income accordingly as set out in Figure 1;
- The original 2021/22 budget for external grants was £4.7m. For the Growth Hub, (South West) Energy and Careers Hub, the authority has been successful, during the year, in significantly increasing the overall funding available. Estimated out-turn compared with the original budget for the 2021/22 financial year is set out in Figure 2;
- Accounting for approved committee drawdowns, the uncommitted balance of the LEP General Reserve currently stands at £693k;
- A Full Business Case has been submitted by B&NES for the acquisition of a site in central Bath. This will be funded by the repayable Revolving Infrastructure Fund and in line with the principles agreed at the Joint Committee in December repayment will be underwritten by the Council.
- Change requests for Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund projects are detailed for committee approval in Appendix 2 and change requests for Economic Development Fund projects and Revolving Infrastructure Fund programmes are detailed in Appendix 3.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are:

There is a potential impact on future year revenue budgets as activity is re-prioritised and focused on supporting economic recovery. Activity, and corresponding budgets, will be kept under regular review over the coming months.

Recommendations

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to:

- a) Notes the Revised Analysis of LEP External Grants as at the end of February 2022 as set out in Figure 1;
- b) Notes the LEP revenue outturn as set out in Appendix 1;
- c) Approve the Full Business Case for the acquisition of property in Milsom Quarter, Bath for the Fashion Museum and the award of funding in line with the Red Book valuation and able to be accommodated within the headroom in the Revolving Infrastructure Fund programme;
- d) Approve the change requests for schemes in the Local Growth and Getting Building Fund programme as set out in Appendix 2;
- e) Approve the change requests for schemes in the Economic Development and Revolving Infrastructure Fund programmes as set out in Appendix 3;

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