

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Decision Title: Business Innovation Fund grants (round four recommendations)

Decision reference number: 03.01.23

Decision date: 30 January 2023

Background / reason for decision:

Delegated authority has been granted to the West of England Combined Authority Chief Executive to take decisions on the award of Business Innovation Fund grants in consultation with the Chief Executives of the West of England councils.

The Business Innovation Fund is a support programme open to West of England based Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) seeking to progress research and development (R&D) activity, at experimental development stage, that will lead to the creation of new products, process and/or services.

The West of England Combined Authority secured £1.45m of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) towards a £3.23m total project cost to deliver the first phase of this programme. The Combined Authority has also made a further £1.89m available towards a total project of £3.14m to deliver the second phase of this programme.

Round four grant applications were submitted and assessed against eligibility / scoring criteria. The Economic Development Managers and Business & Skills Directors of the West of England councils were consulted on the recommendations that emerged from this assessment process.

The Chief Executives of the West of England councils were consulted on the proposals and were in agreement with the recommendations to approve/decline funding.

Options considered:

Not applicable in relation to this specific decision, i.e. this was the option considered.

Decision:

Approval given for the following grant allocations:

Project ID	Applicant Name(s)	Grant value (£)
BIF0209	Bomobility Ltd	47,240
BIF0214	AGM Technologies Ltd	49,900
BIF0215	Propflo Ltd	34,687
BIF0219	Hydrate for Health Ltd	50,000
BIF0221	PyTerra Ltd	45,730
BIF0222	Ceryx Medical Limited	38,994

	Total	818,441
BIF0248	Zori Tex Ltd	37,530
BIF0243	Gritty Talent Group Ltd	30,720
BIF0242	HBXL Group Limited	47,923
BIF0241	Spatial Cortex Technology Ltd	36,000
BIF0240	Milbotix Ltd	48,774
BIF0239	Active Focus Ltd	35,000
BIF0238	Future Joinery Systems Ltd	23,500
BIF0236	Move Technologies Group Ltd	50,000
BIF0235	Black Laboratory Ltd	24,000
BIF0233	Transdermal Diagnostics Ltd	36,224
BIF0229	Fresh Works	49,000
BIF0228	Momentum Scooters Ltd	37,152
BIF0227	Smartlight.ai Ltd	50,000
BIF0226	Rosa Biotech Ltd	46,067

Consultation:

The Chief Executives of the West of England councils were consulted on this proposal under written procedure.

Officer making decision: Richard Ennis

Position: Interim Acting Chief Executive Officer – West of England Combined Authority

Report / appendices / background documents:

None