

Item 11 A&F Subgroup summary

Report of **Audit & Finance Subgroup Chair** in relation to the meeting of:

1st February 2023

For: (I) Information (R) Ratification (D) Discussion and decision

Key agenda items discussed:

- Risk Register
- Growth Hub Update
- Q3 22-23 SSLEP Finance Dashboard

Notable changes, successes or risks

Risk Register

- GBF Project Drakelow Park deallocated £5.05 funding, reallocation Open Process ends 17th February 2023.
- Drakelow Park to now be removed as a risk
- The overall GBF programme to be move to Amber from Green to mirror the SSLEP finance dashboard. (Attached Appendix X)

Growth Hub Update

- A presentation on the current 22-23 SSLEPs Growth Hub budget was discussed at A&F.

Q3 22-23 LEP Finance Dashboard

- GBF – The £5.050m GBF Grant award to D2N2 LEP for the Drakelow Park scheme has been returned to SSLEP who are now obliged to reallocate this GBF Grant sum to other projects by the 31st March 23 with all grant payments made by the 30th June 23 (i.e., at the end of Q1 23-24).
- An ‘Open Call’ for the relocation of the GBF Grant went live on the SSLEP website on the 20th January 23 with a closing date for business case bids set for midnight 17th February 23.
- Independent technical advisors (likely to be Hatch) are to be appointed by SSLEP to oversee and support the final GBF Grant assessment & selection process to reallocate this GBF Grant balance.
- City Deal – The District Heat Network has profiled its 22-23 CD grant spend at £0.438m and has, to date, spent £0.299m. If the 22-23 profiled grant spend is met this year, there will remain a further £7.147m of CD Grant to be invested in this significant infrastructure scheme by Q1 24-25.
- I54 EZ – All borrowings are ‘on course’ to be paid back in 24-25.
- Total i54 business rates are currently estimated at £4.9m. Of which, SSLEP will receive a 50% share (£2.45m pa) to reinvest in the local economy.
- GPF – The Funding Agreement for the 1 outstanding approved loan has now been signed and the £0.180m grant payment is due to be paid to the applicant during February 23.
- Further GPF Loan ‘Open Calls’ currently remain on hold. A GPF paper will be going to today’s Exec Board (16th February 23) outlining future options to utilise available GPF funding.
- All ESIF commitments; grant spend, and match funding claimed to date figures remain as of June 22. SSLEP are currently awaiting the 2nd ESIF Performance report from Gov’t which was expected in late January 23.

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- DIT Internalisation Fund - of the revised £0.659m total grant allocation, £0.356m has been awarded and £0.064m of grant has been further committed, as of November 22, leaving £0.239m of grant to be allocated by June 23.
- Early indications are that the DIT Internationalisation Fund will not be fully committed and spent by June 23, so it is highly likely that c£0.15m - £0.2m of the revised grant allocation will be retained by Government on completion of the Programme.
- All LEP Revenue Grants are 'on course' to be fully spent by 31st March 23.
- Estimated LEP 'Unrestricted' Reserves are c£1.77m as @ 31st March 23.

Decisions and/or Ratifications

1. Approval of the Q3 22-23 LEP Finance dashboard.

Appendices

1. Q3 22-23 DRAFT LEP Finance Dashboard
2. Risk Register

Full details of the meeting including agenda pack, presentations and minutes can be requested from john.broad@staffordshire.gov.uk