



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

20 January 2015

Report title	External Funding Update	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Place	
Originating service	City Economy	
Accountable employee(s)	Heather Clark Tel Email	Strategic Projects and Funding Manager 01902 555614 Heather.clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Enter into service level agreements with delivery organisations of the Neighbourhood Employment Skills Service project.
2. Agree to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Big Lottery on behalf of the Black Country in order to attract match funding to employment and social inclusion priorities funded through the European Social Fund.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on external funding opportunities and pipeline projects and seek necessary approvals.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Cabinet (Resources) Panel received a report on 21 October 2014 giving an update on bidding activity and progress on externally funded projects. The intention is to provide ongoing quarterly funding updates, rather than reporting separately on each individual external funding opportunity. This report provides an update for the third quarter of the 2014/5 financial year. The report is organised around the themes in the Council's new Corporate Plan Framework.

3.0 External Funding Update

- 3.1 Wolverhampton City Council bidding activities has resulted in the attraction of £1.5 million to the city with a further £9.086 million bids submitted awaiting results.

3.2 Stronger Economy and Place

The following external funding bids have been supported by the City Council under the "Stronger Economy and Place" corporate priority:

Funding source	Description of Project(s) to be funded	Funding	Status
Marketing Birmingham's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investing in the city region project	The following proposals have led by the City Economy Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attracting investment into the Black Country focussing on growth of the city's priority sectors, particularly within the city's three major regeneration areas (Junction 2, City centre and Bilston Urban Village)Research and development activities to create, enter and test new trading markets in niche business conferencing, exhibitions, rehearsal and performance space, potential for offering new types on entertainment, indoor cultural, leisure and sporting events	£70,000	Funding secured subject to spend

<p>Energy Catalyst</p>	<p>The following proposal has been led by Encraft, supported by the City Economy Service.</p> <p>The project aims to optimise regional clusters of smart electricity networks to investigate the feasibility of a distributed control solution for electricity networks at locality level. The project aims to benefit Wolverhampton residents and businesses, however there is interest to roll out across the Black Country. The project will act as a pilot to inform the pipeline of low carbon projects.</p> <p>Note: no match funding is required from Wolverhampton City Council apart from staff time and it is possible to claim back up to £30,000.</p>	<p>£226,000</p>	<p>Funding secured</p>
<p>Arts Council of England's Museum Resilience Funds (jointly with University of Wolverhampton)</p>	<p>The following proposal has been developed jointly by the City Council (City Economy Service) and University of Wolverhampton:</p> <p>An 18 month project to explore ways of working more closely with the University of Wolverhampton contributing to the sustainability of Wolverhampton's Museums, Galleries and Archives. There are several collections and community engagement posts included, which will support the project. The project will start from the first of April 2015 and will finish end of September 2016. There would be £28,000 of in kind support met from existing resources</p>	<p>£166,910</p>	<p>Bid submitted in November. Decision expected 2 March 2015</p>
<p>Local Growth Fund round 2 (via Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal)</p>	<p>The following projects are on the project pipeline for round 2 of the local growth fund:</p> <p>Led by City Economy Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land at Cable Street (remediation of 20 acre site) • Tower and Fort Works: to enable residential development opportunity 	<p>£8.32 m £600,000</p>	<p>Projects submitted under round 2 of Local Growth Fund</p>

	<p>Led by Wolverhampton City College, with facilitation by the City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of Wolverhampton City College <p>In addition, the following 'game changers' were presented on behalf of the Black Country for further consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre of excellence in construction and the built environment on the former Springfield Brewery • Enterprise Zone extension • Transport improvements around Junction 2 and links to the city centre including public transport • WCC also supported a funding application by Marston's brewery for £900K for re-development of their site at Chapel Ash 	£35.2m	
Regional Growth Fund (RGF) Grants Programme for SMEs	<p>Wolverhampton City Council is acting as the accountable body for the Growth Hub business support model.</p> <p>As part of this role, WCC administers the grants scheme worth £1.6 million to SMEs in the Black Country.</p> <p>Six businesses will contract with WCC/Growth Hub to draw down grants for growth activity and job creation between December 2014 and June 2015.</p> <p>Cabinet approved WCC acting as accountable body status and to agree business grants on 14 May 2014.</p>	£1.6M	Funding secured from RGF. Contracting phase underway.

3.3 Stronger People and Communities

The following external funding bids have been supported by the City Council under the "Stronger People and Communities" corporate priority:

Funding source	Description of Project(s) to be funded	Funding	Progress
European Regional Development Fund	The following proposal has been led by the City Economy Service:	£503,000 additional funds	Funding secured to increase and extend the

	<p>Extension of Neighbourhood Employment Skills Service (NESS) project delivered by a voluntary community sector partnerships including original partners YMCA, Bilston Resource Centre and TLC and new partners Access to Business, Job Change, Gloucester Street Community Centre and Topps.</p> <p>Note: Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 10 January 2012 agreed for Wolverhampton City Council to act as accountable body for the Neighbourhood Employment Support Service (NESS) on behalf of a the Learning Platform, a partnership of voluntary community sector organisations. Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 29 July 2014 approved the extension of the project and delegated authority relating to the distribution of the grant to delivery partners.</p>		<p>project. Approvals required to enter into service level agreements with delivery partners.</p>
<p>Transformational Challenge Award 2015-16</p>	<p>The following project has been led by Children's, Young People and Families:</p> <p>Pathway to support: addressing looked after children through redesigning the way adult service providers access support for children who are secondary to the service provided to the adult in the household</p> <p>Note: Details of this initiative were outlined in the Cabinet (Resources) Panel Report on 21 October 2014.</p>	<p>£789,000</p>	<p>Funding secured</p>

3.4 The **Black Country European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy:** developed on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership, outlines the Black Country's priorities for allocating European funding between 2014 and 2020. As part of its delivery, the Big Lottery has agreed to provide new match funding for employment and social inclusion priorities, therefore doubling the funding available for activities, amounting in total to over £40 million over the lifetime of the programme. Black Country priorities include employment support for over 25's, family poverty including troubled families, targeted community support, financial and digital inclusion. As part of the next stage of the process, the Black Country must enter into a memorandum of understanding

between the Big Lottery fund and LEP Area Partnership ESIF sub-committee. The social inclusion strand of the Black Country European Investment Strategy and negotiations with the Big Lottery are being led by Wolverhampton City Council on behalf of the Black Country.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 Wolverhampton City Council is due to receive an additional £70,000 of funded activity through Marketing Birmingham's Investing in the City Region with match already identified from existing Place revenue budgets.
- 4.2 The Growth Hub funding is secured from RGF with match funding from the businesses themselves. This project is covered in reports to Councillor and the grants programme details will be covered in further reports to Councillors.
- 4.3 Additional grants to delivery partners, for which Wolverhampton City Council is accountable body, enabled through the extension and expansion of NESS are set out below. Match funding is being provided by the delivery partners.

Delivery Partner	Grant
Bilston Resource Centre (BRC)	£103,246.75
Jobchange	£103,246.75
Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)	£103,246.75
The Learning College (TLC)	£103,246.75
Gloucester Street Community Centre (GSCC)	£34,415.58
Topps	£30,974.03
Access to Business	£51,623.38
Totals	£530,000.00

- 4.4 The Local Growth Fund projects would be subject to separate individual reports setting out full financial implications if they progress to later stages.

[MF/09012015/L]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Service level agreement (SLA's) are required for the ERDF funded Neighbourhood Employment Skills Service project to ensure that the voluntary community sector providers adhere to European rules and regulations as set out in the ERDF funding agreements and therefore minimise risk to the Council as accountable body.
- 5.2 The memorandum of understanding between the Big Lottery fund and the LEP Area Partnership ESIF sub-committee sets out the relationship between and responsibilities for delivering the employment and social inclusion priorities of the Black Country European Investment Strategy.

- 5.4 The terms and conditions attached to the SLA's and the Memorandum of Understanding will comprise a robust, fair and reasonable approach to the distribution of the various funds.

[RB/31122014/D]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 External funded projects must evidence positive equalities implications as part of the bidding process. In addition, particular funded projects such as Neighbourhood Employment Skills Service (NESS) centres have positive equalities implications since they are working with some of our most vulnerable residents to move them towards and into employment.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 External funded projects must evidence positive sustainability implications. Particular funded projects, such as the project looking at smart electricity networks will have a positive impact on the environment.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications to this report.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications to this report.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

- Cabinet (Resources) Panel 21 October 2014 Update on external funding
- Cabinet (Resources) Panel 10 January 2012 Neighbourhood Employment Skills Service