

Report of Cover Report for Delegated Decision Notice

Report to Chief Officer - Economy and Regeneration Tom Bridges

Date: 15/06/17

Subject The Ad:Venture Business Support Programme Delegated Decision Notice

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. To authorise the signing of a Partnership Agreement related to the European Structural Funds (ESIF) Ad:Venture Business Support Programme (project number – 20R15P00636). The agreement formalises local authority match funding contributions and shares responsibility for the current ESIF funding agreement across nine local authorities in the city region.
2. To Authorise the signing of 10 Delivery agreements, one for each partner in the consortium delivering activity on behalf of the partnership. This will ensure that the obligations within the ESIF funding Agreement are appropriately shared with each delivery partner.
3. Authorisation to enter into the Ad:Venture project and the associated legal agreements was approved at Executive Board on the 9th March 2016 (see minute 146)

Recommendations

To approve entering into the Partnership Agreement and associated Delivery Agreements for the Ad:Venture Business Support Programme (project No – 20R15P00636)

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek authorisation from the Chief Officer Economy and Regeneration to proceed with a Partnership Agreement related to the Ad:Venture Business Support Programme.
- 1.2 To seek authorisation to proceed with 10 delivery agreements, one for each delivery partner in the Ad:Venture consortium.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Ad: Venture is a business support programme that will deliver a range of services across the Leeds City Region. The programme provides a range of support to new and young business (up to 3 years old) and is delivered by a consortium of nine city region local authorities, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the West & North Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce, a Community Development Finance Institution - the Business Enterprise Fund, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Trinity University, Bradford University and the Princes Trust. Project partners have a variety of roles with some directly involved with delivery and some providing match funding.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The proposed Partnership Agreement formalises local authority match funding , shares responsibility for the current ESIF funding agreement across nine local authorities in the city region.
- 3.2 The proposed Delivery Agreements ensure that existing ESIF obligations are appropriately shared with each delivery partner. The agreements also provide a mechanism to manage performance, and risk with individual delivery partners.

4. Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1 The application was developed by a wide consortium of organisations from across the city region, and therefore subject to extensive consultation during the development phase. The project has also been subject to consultation as part of the original approval to enter into the Ad:Venture Funding Agreement in March 2016.

5. Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.1 Consideration of equality and diversity was integral to the development of the Ad: Venture programme, it was also an important part of the ERDF appraisal process. The programme has set out a number of measures to ensure support is open to all, and the participation of protected groups will be monitored as part of the project evaluation.

6. Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 6.1 Council policy and Best Council principles were considered during the development of the programme.

7. Resources and value for money

7.1 The programme is worth a total of £12,322,168. The local authority core contribution is £1,153,703 which includes a contribution of £345,302 from Leeds City Council.

7.2 The return on local authority investment is estimated to be £9 for every £1 invested in the project.

8.0 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

The decision is not subject to Call-in, the programme is subject to freedom of information and data protection legislation. The decision will involve Leeds City Council entering into a legal contract as set out above.

9.0 Risk Management

A risk log was completed as part of the ESIF Application , and risk mitigation is considered as part of the existing project governance processes.

Conclusions

The legal agreements are key document which enable the commitments and obligations of projects partners to be formalised .

Recommendations

A Delegated Decision Notice has been prepared alongside this covering report. It is recommended that the respective DDN is signed by the Chief Officer – Economy and Regeneration thus authorising the Council’s Section 151 officer to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Council.

Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council’s website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.