



THE BUSINESS BOARD

BUSINESS BOARD	AGENDA ITEM No: 3.1
DATE OF MEETING 28/01/2019	PUBLIC REPORT <i>This report has confidential appendices</i>

GROWTH DEAL PROJECT PROPOSALS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. The Business Board is responsible for allocating the Growth Fund (Schedule 5 Para 3.3) subject to ratification by the CA Board with the objective of creating new jobs and boosting productivity.
- 1.2. The Board are asked in this report to consider and make recommendations against new applications that have been submitted for these funds, based upon the independent external assessment undertaken.

Please note that the supporting papers for these applications contain exempt information under paragraph 3, Schedule 12a Local Government Act 1972

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Chair of Business Board
Lead Officer:	John T Hill, Director, Business & Skills
Forward Plan Ref: 2019/005	Key Decision: Yes
<p>The Business Board is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Consider the reports by external assessors of projects submitted for Growth Deal Funds. (b) To recommend those schemes which are suitable to the Combined Authority Board for approval (c) Note the summary of Small Grants approved under delegated powers. 	<p>Voting arrangements</p> <p>Simple majority of all Members</p>

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Growth Deal and Growing Places funding is provided by Government to local areas to invest in projects that will create new jobs, increase productivity, and stimulate economic growth. A total of £158m has been provided to this area, with around £57m remaining to allocate.
- 2.2. The Business Board approved the Growth Prospectus in September 2018 as a call for new project proposals against this remaining funding; <http://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/Business-Board-Growth-Prospectus-201819-F.pdf>. Expressions of interest were submitted to the Combined Authority in October and feedback provided to inform full applications. This prospectus made clear that the new opportunity for this round of bids to the Business Board aligned with the Combined Authority behind a single growth strategy for the area.
- 2.3. Following initial internal assessments for suitability, six of the 23 applications received were requested to submit full applications (business plans) for external appraisal against a clear set of criteria for Growth Deal Funds. The remainder were advised on appropriate next steps and may subsequently submit revised applications for future consideration.
- 2.4. The first new project proposals that have completed the independent external assessment are brought to the Business Board for consideration and, if agreed, recommendation to the Combined Authority Board for approval.
- 2.5. An internal Officer summary of the two projects applying for funding is attached as a confidential exempt summary **Appendix A** of this report.
- 2.6.
 - a) Applicant 1; extension to a roundabout within an existing EZ to facilitate growth = £460K
 - b) Applicant 2; Equity investment with future return into Genomics start-ups as part of a proven structured Accelerator programme = £3M
- 2.7. Applications and Evaluations for these two bids are attached as confidential exempt **Appendices B** and **C** of this report.

Small Grant Scheme

- 2.7 Small grant applications are being processed separately from project proposals under delegated authority given at the Business Board meeting on the 26th of November 2018 and ratified by the Combined Authority Business Board on the 28th of November 2018. Delegated authority was given to the Director of Business & Skills to approve small grants to SMEs between £2,000 and £20,000. This is subject to Section 151 Officer approval and regular reporting to the Business Board.
- 2.8 These assessments are made in accordance with the Growth Deal outcomes of new job creating at the rate of at least £10,000 of grant per new job, increased

GVA from improvements in productivity or capacity and increased potential to export where possible, and alignment with priority growth sectors.

- 2.9 Over the period since the last Board meeting 2 small grants have been approved under this delegated responsibility, these were:
Details of small grants approved w/c 14th January:

- (a) Company A approved for £2,000 for purchase of commercial vehicle
- (b) Company B approved for £2,721.66 for purchase of new IT equipment, server and computers

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The applicants will be notified of their success. However, the funds will only be paid on submission of a properly documented claim and after Government has released Growth Fund monies.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Loans or grants awarded are likely to fall under the General Block Exemption Regulations so are de-minimis Regulation compliant. As such, there are unlikely to be any State Aid implications.

5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None

6.0 APPENDICES – Exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a Local Government Act 1972

- 6.1. Appendix A – Summary of two applications to be considered by Board
- 6.2. Appendix B – Reports by external assessors, and application (B.1) – Bid A
- 6.3. Appendix C – Reports by external assessors, and application (C.1) – Bid B
- 6.4. Appendix D – Delegated Decision Record Company A
- 6.5. Appendix E – Delegated Decision Record Company B

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
Background papers: None	Not applicable