



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD	AGENDA ITEM No: 6.4
29 JANUARY 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

EASTERN AGRI-TECH GROWTH INITIATIVE FUNDING REVIEW

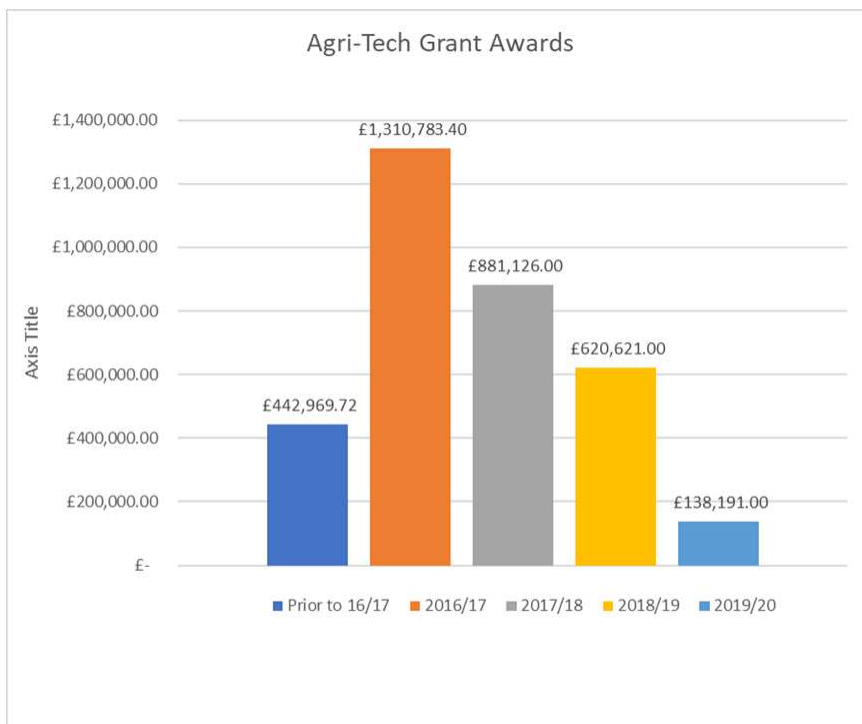
1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. At its meeting on 25 November 2019 the Business Board agreed a reduction in the amount of Local Growth Funding for the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative for the remaining period of the spending period up to 31 March 2021.
- 1.2. The programme has been reviewed on spend performance over last 5 years and it is on this evidence basis that Officers requested the Business Board to recommend a reduction in the allocated funds.
- 1.3. The purpose of this paper is to provide the programme position and the rationale for the decision to recommend reducing the total pot of funding in this programme.
- 1.4. The Combined Authority Board is asked to approve reduction in funding of £3.5million currently allocated from Local Growth Fund to the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	James Palmer, Mayor
Lead Officer:	John T Hill, Director for Business & Skills
Forward Plan Ref: 2020/016	Key Decision: Yes
The Combined Authority Board is recommended to: (a) Approve a reduction in the Local Growth Fund allocated to the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative scheme of £3.5m	Voting arrangements Simple majority of all Members

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative supports small and medium enterprises (SME) in the Agri-Tech sector with growth projects or Research & Development projects. From the commencement of the Initiative in late 2013 to August 2019, a total of 99 SMEs have been supported and the Innovation Hub created. The Combined Authority has awarded to date £4.17million through this programme. There are a total of 18 live projects across Business Board /New Anglia (NALEP) geography, which are on track to complete to their planned schedules.
- 2.2 NALEP has contributed another £1million to this last phase of the Initiative and the first tranche of £500,000 has been received by the Combined Authority, The second tranche of £500,000 is to be received imminently.
- 2.3 The programme has re-procured its project appraisal/due diligence support service across both the Combined Authority area and Norfolk and Suffolk.
- 2.4 The Board is also asked to note that whilst there is a pipeline of interested projects for this initiative the projected spend and delivery by the end of March 2021 is highly unlikely to utilise the full £5.17m of current funding still to be committed. The table below sets out a breakdown of the last 5 years funding take-up. At its meeting on 25 November 2019 the Business Board approved a reduction in the Local Growth Fund allocated to the Initiative of £3.5million which would leave a new balance of £1.67m in this Initiative to deploy before end March 2021. This would enable £3.5m to be allocated to other priorities as set out in section 8 in the November Business Board paper which is at Appendix 1 with this paper.



3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. Reallocation of the £3.5million reduction in the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative will increase the funding available to support the Local Growth Fund projects application pipeline.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. No direct legal implications.

5.0 OTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1. Appendix 1 – Business Board paper November 2019 – 3.2 Local Growth Fund Update

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
Business Board minutes November 2019 meeting	25-11-19-Draft Business Board minutes