



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

Private and Confidential: NO

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Eden North - Project Development Funding

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Executive Summary

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and local stakeholders including Lancaster University, Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council are working with Eden International to progress the potential Eden North initiative.

Eden North will be a transformational project which will re-imagine Morecambe as a seaside resort for the 21st century, providing a catalyst to drive the regeneration and transformation of the local and regional economy.

This report requests that the LEP Board approves £250,000 from its annual Operational Budget for 2018/19 to enable Eden International to develop the next phase of the business case for the Eden North initiative which will include a funding strategy, architectural and content designs and a stakeholder engagement and communications strategy for the project.

The Board is advised that Lancaster University, Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council have also been requested to contribute £250,000 each towards the £1m commission. Eden International will fully match the £1m commission.

Lancaster University will act in a co-ordinating capacity to ensure local stakeholder funding is managed in line with the requirements of the commission and a funding agreement to protect the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's interests will be entered into with the funding partners and Eden International

Recommendation

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board is recommended to:

- (i) Approve £250,000 from the LEP's annual Operational Budget for 2018/19 to enable the next phase of business case development for the Eden North initiative subject to contributions of £250,000 each being secured from Lancaster University, Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council.



- (ii) Receive a report on the findings from the next phase of the business case development at a future meeting of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board.

Background and Advice

Since 2017, Eden International has been working with local stakeholders including Lancaster University, Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to explore the feasibility of establishing the Eden North initiative. Eden North would complement the Eden Project in Cornwall and will be a major tourist attraction, community resource and global brand in the North of England.

Eden North will re-imagine Morecambe as a seaside resort for the 21st century, providing a catalyst to drive the regeneration and transformation of the local and regional economy. It has been inspired by the natural environment of Morecambe Bay focussed on natural and human health and well-being whilst also enabling cutting edge real life research, linking into world class research and the Health Innovation Campus.

The LEP has previously invested £150,000 towards the first phase business case development which was focussed on developing the initial strategic, commercial and financial elements of the project. The findings from this work confirm that Eden North could operate successfully once built and that it could attract 750,000 visitors to Morecambe, its proposed site, within the first few years of operation. Based on these numbers, Eden North would become one of the most important destinations in the UK, attracting visitors from both home and abroad.

This first phase of work has been presented to local partners, Jake Berry MP Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth and Lords Price, Inglewood and Henley.

The second phase of the development of the business case will focus on establishing a funding strategy, architectural and content designs and a stakeholder engagement and communications strategy for the project

It is anticipated that work will commence in early 2019, subject to funding support of £1m being secured from Lancaster University, Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. Eden International will fully match the £1m commission.

Lancaster University will act in a co-ordinating capacity to ensure local stakeholder funding is managed in line with the requirements of the commission.

The Board is advised that in the Chancellor's Autumn Budget Statement, £100,000 was announced to support the production of a Treasury Green Book Appraisal for



Eden North. Colleagues in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are currently preparing a business case to release the funding to the LEP.

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A