

LEP Growing Places – Lead Sue Roberts

Background

The government provided £19.3m in 2012 for a Growing Places Fund. The fund is for capital developments to unlock stalled sites in Lancashire with an ambition that the fund should become evergreen (a recycling loan fund). The fund has achieved this and moving forward the capital continues to be re-invested in new schemes with the interest becoming part of the income for the LEP.

There are currently eleven schemes in receipt of growing places funds, eight been delivered and repaid. There are three live schemes, two schemes have been delivered and one is still in development on three sites. One site has sold a number of housing units in the quarter repaying a significant portion of their loan. However, it has been re-drawn as per the terms of their Facility Agreement, which allows for a repetitive draw on repayment to continue with the next development phase; therefore their facility remains fully drawn.

There are currently two schemes in the pipeline in active that are being active progression. One is linked to a major global inward investment enquiry (£1.5m) and the other is the regeneration and conversion of a Grade II listed building in West Lancashire. (The LEP Board will be considering this decision at the December 2020 Board meeting.

Performance

As this is a loan fund, there are no specific targets, as such no RAG rating has been applied to the KPIs. However included in the KPI table below, are the economic outputs reported by the recipients of the loans.

Development is progressing well on one scheme that is split into three sites. Housing units are being built and demand is strong. Sales have been completing and it has enabled one site to revolve the funds and continue developing out the site.

Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Actuals as at 24/08/20
Private sector investment	£103,136,991
Jobs Created	2,130
Space developed	210,769 sqm.
Housing Units	686
Original Fund Amount	£19,378,944
Capital Loaned	£31,926,046
Capital Repaid	£24,339,618
Interest Received from loans	£1,784,584
Capital to Invest *	£11,792,516

*This figure is the difference between capital loaned and repaid, taken from the original fund amount.

Risks

A new Single Portfolio Risk Register for the combined programmes has been created, which can be found at Appendix M to the main report.