

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). Since July 2020 the fund has revolved on an evergreen basis and now has the ability to be used for revenue schemes. The capital continues to be re-invested in new schemes with the interest being part of the income for the LEP.

There are fourteen schemes within the Growing Places programme, at differing stages of delivery:

- Ten schemes have been delivered and repaid
- One scheme is still delivering
- Three schemes have been approved and going through the due diligence process

Schemes in the pipeline have not been progressed as the future direction of the Growing Places scheme is under discussion.

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 on the only live scheme is progressing well with two elements completed and work now concentrating on one site. Housing units are being built and demand is strong. The board is currently considering a request to widen the scope of the Facility Agreement to include commercial development.

Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Actuals as at 31/03/21
Private sector investment	£103,766,853
Jobs Created	2,135
Space developed	213,394 sqm.
Housing Units	731
Original Fund Amount	£19,378,944
Capital Loaned	£36,530,491
Capital Repaid	£35,459,691
Interest Received from loans	£2,132,427
Capital to Invest*	£18,307,944

*This figure is the difference between capital loaned and repaid, minus the original fund amount and loans committed.

Programme Review

The programme review of this programme has now been completed by the LEP Investment Programme Manager, in consultation with both the Growing Places programme lead and the LEP CEO. A summary of the findings were included in the report to the 23 March 2021 board. Implementation of the review recommendations is progressing, with a further update to be provided at the next set of reporting.

RISKS

The Single Portfolio Risk Register for the combined programmes is attached to the main report.