

Council – 4 December 2018

**Recommendation from Cabinet
27 November 2018**

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 27 November 2018

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor A Khan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor F Abbott
Councillor K Caan
Councillor K Maton
Councillor J Mutton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor E Ruane
Councillor P Seaman

Non-Voting Opposition Members: Councillor R Bailey (Substitute for Councillor Andrews)
Councillor G Ridley

Other Members: Councillor Clifford
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor B Kaur
Councillor M Mutton

Employees (by Directorate):

People G Quinton (Deputy Chief Executive (People)), D Ashmore,
J Gregg, N Hart

Place M Yardley (Deputy Chief Executive (Place)), M Andrews,
S Elliott, B Hastie, N Johal, Clayton, P Jennings, R Moon,
J Newman, D Nuttall, M Salmon

Apologies: Councillor R Ali
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor A Andrews
Councillor J Innes
Councillor T Skipper

RECOMMENDATION

79. **European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 – Coventry Second Round Applications**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) that would also be considered at the meeting of the Council on 4th December 2018, which set out proposals for the Council to act as accountable body and guarantor for applications under the 2014-2020 European Structural Investment Fund.

The 2014-2020 European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Programme was launched in March 2015. The Programme would run until 2023 and in the first round, funding for projects running from January 2016 to December 2018, the Council was successful in acquiring £19.75m of funds to manage programmes under the Research and Innovation, Small Medium Enterprises (SME) Competitiveness, Low Carbon and Technical Assistance and Inclusive Labour Market themes.

These had added to the Council's strong track record in securing European funds in recent years and had secured in excess of £65m from the European Structural Funds since 2007.

However, the current EU funded Programmes were due to come to an end in December 2018 and the Council had submitted bids for Phase 2 programmes which run from January 2019 – December 2021 under the Research and Innovation, Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Competitiveness, Low Carbon and Technical assistance themes. Across all the bids the amount being bid for in the Phase 2 round was £10.03m, 39% of the £26m funding made available in this round of Calls.

The Council had already taken a leadership role in bringing partners together from across the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP area to develop projects and programmes that would lead to greater economic growth across the City and the sub region. The Council had an outstanding track record of securing, managing and delivering EU-funded programmes.

The report provided information on each of the bids and requested approval for the Council to act as accountable body and guarantor for these funding programmes.

The Cabinet agreed to recommend that Council:

- 1) Approves (if successful) the drawdown of the grant funding, totalling £10.03m from ESIF to be utilised in delivering the City's priorities as set out in the report.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the City Solicitor, and following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, to negotiate final terms and approve entry into:

- (a) the grant funding agreement to secure the ESIF funding with the City Council acting as the Accountable Body for the funding: and
 - (b) a back to back funding agreement with such delivery partners as is deemed necessary to deliver the City's priorities as set out in the report.
- 3) Subject to the terms of any agreement with ESIF and the delivery partners being approved by the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in accordance with the delegation above, authorises the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) to administer the grant agreement with ESIF and the agreements with the delivery partners in accordance with their terms.

RESOLVED that the Council is requested to:

- 1) **Approve (if successful) the drawdown of the grant funding, totalling £10.03m from ESIF to be utilised in delivering the City's priorities as set out in the report.**
- 2) **Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the City Solicitor, and following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration, to negotiate final terms and approve entry into:**
 - (a) **the grant funding agreement to secure the ESIF funding with the City Council acting as the Accountable Body for the funding: and**
 - (b) **back to back funding agreement with such delivery partners as deemed necessary to deliver the City's priorities as set out in this report**
- 3) **Subject to the terms of any agreement with ESIF and the delivery partners being approved by the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in accordance with the delegation above, authorises the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) to administer the grant agreements with ESIF and the agreements with the delivery partners in accordance with their terms.**

(Meeting closed at 3.00 pm)

