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**Decision Session – Executive Leader  
(incorporating Policy, Strategy and  
Partnerships)**

**18 September 2019**

Report of the Head of Economic Growth

**Establishing the York Inclusive Growth Programme**

**Summary**

1. Full Council has reallocated £300k of LCR Business Rates Pool funding from the City Narrative project to support inclusive growth. The Council proposes to use this fund to establish an Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund, which will support one-off pieces of work.
2. This report outlines potential projects for the fund, and these fall under the five core themes:
  - Strengthening our approach to child poverty;
  - Greening the high street;
  - Promoting lifelong learning;
  - Working with small businesses to build community links; and,
  - Driving inclusive growth.
3. We are seeking approval from the Executive Leader to develop the list of potential projects into full project briefs, which will be presented to a further decision session of the Leader, once proposals have been fully developed.

**Recommendations**

4. The Executive Leader is asked to:
  - 1) Agree that Officers develop the list of proposed inclusive growth projects into full project briefs, as part of the Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund.

Reason: So that the Council develops a pipeline of projects that

positively addresses inclusive growth in the City of York.

## Background

5. Full Council, through its emergency budget, reallocated £300k of LCR Business Rates Pool funding from the City Narrative project to support inclusive growth. Officers propose using the funding to establish an Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund, which will support one-off pieces of work to support inclusive growth across the city. The intention here is that these projects could either be subsumed into mainstream budgets or become self-sustaining.
6. The budget report set out three core themes for projects. These were:
  - Strengthening our approach to child poverty;
  - Greening the high street; and,
  - Promoting lifelong learning.
7. Subsequent consultation with the Executive Leader and the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning, and discussions with Council officers, has seen two further themes emerge that would be suitable for the Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund, these are:
  - Working with small businesses to build community links; and,
  - Driving inclusive growth.
8. Eight projects have been developed that fall under these themes. These are as follows:
  - Establishing a York Poverty Commission – bringing together individuals who have direct experience of living in poverty with key decision makers to build a shared understanding of how we can take practical steps in York;
  - Community hubs as drivers of growth – building on the community hubs model to give a sharper focus on local economic development and financial inclusion;
  - Greening our retail estate – surveying the Council's commercial tenants and the buildings they occupy to establish some workable options which would reduce both energy and occupancy costs;

- Community jobs fairs – funding to continue the community-based jobs fairs delivered in Chapelfields and Burnholme, alongside the central jobs fair at the Railway Institute;
- 14+ vocational training and work experience at York High School – supporting non-academic routes for young people at risk of becoming NEET;
- Independent retail growth fund – establishing a fund for trader-led projects through local traders associations;
- Mental health, wellbeing and employment – supporting the Good Help Programme in York which focuses on mental health and wellbeing and community engagement;
- York Economic Partnership – develop an inclusive, strategic economic partnership and work with that partnership to draft a new economic strategy for York.

9. A full description of projects, associated themes and proposed budget can be found in Annex A. These project proposals have been informed by consultation with the Executive Leader and the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning, and developed through discussions with Council officers.

## **Consultation**

10. Consultation on potential projects for the Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund has taken place with the Executive Leader and the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning. A draft of this report, and the list of potential inclusive growth projects, was taken to CMT to ask for further suggestions for projects from Directorates and for comments on the project proposals.

## **Options**

11. Option 1 - The Leader confirms that he is happy with the list of potential projects for the Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund and recommends that Officers develop the list of projects into full project briefs, in order to bring back at a future decision session.
12. The Executive Leader may wish to suggest alternative or additional activities, which is Option 2.

## Analysis

13. Option 1 will allow Officers to progress work to develop a range of projects that will address inclusive growth in York.
14. The Executive may wish to suggest alternative or additional activities, which is Option 2.

## Council Plan

15. The new Council plan, currently under consultation, will have outcomes which reflect a good quality of life in York. The projects proposed under the Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund will address the following outcomes:
  - Good health and wellbeing;
  - Well-paid and an inclusive economy;
  - A better start for children and young people;
  - A greener and cleaner city; and,
  - Safe communities and culture for all.

## Implications

- **Financial** – no new financial commitments. Previous commitments within the body of the report;
- **Human Resources (HR)** – no implications;
- **One Planet Council / Equalities** – the proposed project to green the Council's retail estate will help address the Council's climate change challenge. A number of the proposed projects will positively support the Council's equalities objectives;
- **Legal** – no implications;
- **Crime and Disorder** – no implications;
- **Information Technology (IT)** – no implications;
- **Property** – depending on the findings of the survey, the proposed project to green the Council's retail estate will have property implications. Any measures taken to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's commercial stock will need to balance commercial viability with environmental benefits.

## Risk Management

There are no specific risks identified in respect of the recommendations.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

**Neil Ferris**  
**Corporate Director - Economy & Place**

**Report**  **Date** 10 September 2019  
**Approved**

### Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

Full Council Budget report

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=331&MIId=11333&Ver=4>

### Annexes

Annex A – List of Inclusive Growth Projects

Annex B - Inclusive growth evidence base

### List of Abbreviations Used in this Report

CMT – Corporate Management Team

LCR – Leeds City Region

NEET – not in employment, education or training