



DECISION RECORD

Service Reference Number	MR/008/2025
Decision Maker	
Councillor Ross – Leader of the Council	
Delegated Authority	
Leader exercising delegated powers pursuant to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation.	
Decision:	
To delegate to the Executive Director for Regeneration and Partnerships Directorate the authority on behalf of Hull City Council to authorise loan payments for the Hull City Council Business Loan Scheme over the value of £249,999.00 up to a maximum value of £1,000,000.00.	
Reasons for the Decision:	
<p>In July 2023, Cabinet agreed to accept up to £20m of LUP funding for several predefined projects. One of these projects, with a capital allocation of £1m, was the creation of a small business loan scheme. The Business Loan Scheme will be aimed at small and medium sized businesses in Hull. The fund will support capital development projects, from building acquisition, machinery purchases, interior refurbishment, and landscaping through to infrastructure.</p> <p>This is a new scheme designed to support businesses located within the Hull City Council boundary, the loan scheme is able to support the development of Capital Projects and will lend either stand alone or in syndication with other business lenders with a FCA accredited lender. The scheme is flexible regarding rates, term and security and has been designed to help bridge any risk gaps the primary lender may face in supporting local businesses. The minimum loan we can offer is €72,000 which equates to a minimum loan of £60,260, initial maximum loan size is £250,000 however higher loans can be considered. The scheme has been advertised with a maximum seven-year repayment term.</p> <p>The all applications are sent for consideration by the Hull and East Yorkshire Business Growth and Skills Hub Investment Panel.</p>	
Nature of Decision:	
Key	
If this is a key decision, please include the decision's Forward Plan number	
Exemptions	

Is the accompanying formal report (or other documentation where applicable) exempt? No	
Background and Supporting Information:	
See attached report.	
Equalities Impact Information:	
Does the decision have relevance to equality or affect any group with protected characteristics?	NO
Contact Officer: Andy Bradley / Emma Tozer	
Chief Officer Comments	
<u>Comments of the Director of Legal Services and Partnerships (Monitoring Officer)</u>	
<p>The Levelling Up Partnership Loan Scheme was originally approved with the idea of awarding loans with a value between £60,200 - £150,000 and on a syndicated basis with high street lenders. The Council has not received enough applications to use the funding, and the end date for the use of the funding is 31 March 2025. The widening of the scope of the loans will enable the Council to spend the allocated amount before the end of the grant period.</p> <p>The Council has the powers under the Localism Act 2011 to enter into loan agreements with businesses. All loan applications are scrutinised by officers of the Council, including finance and legal before being approved or rejected by a panel. (PG)</p>	
<u>Comments of the Director of Finance and Transformation (Section 151 Officer)</u>	
<p>The Director of Finance and Transformation notes the report.</p> <p>There are significant time constraints in relation to approval of these loans with loans needing to be agreed no later than 31st of March 2025 in order to be compliant with the terms of the levelling of partnership funding, and whilst we originally expected that there will be no loans in excess of £250,000 this has not proven to be the case. Allowing this flexibility would allow loans to be agreed and not to lose the funding.</p> <p>Each individual loan will be subject to its own separate approval process through a decision record. (GS)</p>	
<u>Comments of the Assistant Director of Organisation Development & Human Resources and compliance with the equality act</u>	
There are no staffing or equality issues arising for the council from this decision. KH	
<u>Comments of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration & Housing</u>	
It's important that the Business Loan Fund has enough flexibility in its terms of reference to allow it to adapt to fluctuations in market interest. I support the recommendation now being made which will allow considerations of loans above the initial £250k limit to a maximum of £1	

<p>million. This will help with the defrayment of funds before the upcoming 31st March 2025 deadline set by the government.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny Comments</u></p> <p>This decision has not been subject to pre-decision scrutiny. (Sc8610 – AS)</p>	
<p>Exceptional Circumstances</p>	
<p>Is the decision record currently exempt from publication at the point of decision?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If yes, what date can the decision record be made public?</p>	
<p>Reason the decision record is exempt from publication at the point of decision:</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>Signature of Decision Maker:</p> <p>Signed: Signature Confirmed</p>	
<p>Date signed: 25.3.25</p>	
<p>FOR COMPLETION BY THE SCRUTINY OFFICE:</p>	
<p>Date published on CMIS:</p>	<p>.....28.03.25</p>
<p>Can the decision be called in?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Date decision comes into force:</p>	<p>.....07.04.25</p>