**Project Development Funding**

The Marches LEP Board has agreed to commit up to £300k of LEP funds to support project development activity that meets one or more of the priorities within the:

* Marches European Structural and Investment (ESIF) Strategy
* Marches Strategic Economic Plan (consultation draft 2018)
* Marches Freight Strategy
* Marches Energy Strategy

N.B. All of the above documents can be found in the downloads section on the Marches LEP website

<https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/downloads>

The Marches LEP Board has agreed to support the following activity:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Maximum available per project** | **%** | **Match Funding required** | **Examples of activity that can be supported.** |
| Feasibility Study | £20,000 | 80% | 20% (cash contribution) | Feasibility around specific sites and projects. |
| Project Development Costs | £30,000 | 80% | 20% (cash contribution) | Surveys, design and plans.  |
| Business Support Projects | £25,000 | N/A | N/A | Business support projects that will expand or sustain the range of products that the Marches Growth Hub can deliver to Marches SMEs. |

*Please note: If requesting development funds for projects that will be applying for European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) and European Social Funds (ESF), support will only be provided for work towards the full application.*

Projects need to support economic growth and help in achieving the following outputs:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description**  | **Definition (MHCLG - Growth Deal Guidance - Version 3. August 2018)** |
| **Employment** |
| Jobs Created/Safeguarded | The total number of newly created and safeguarded permanent full-time equivalent jobs as a direct result of the intervention at predetermined employment sites. Employment sites include: • Occupied newly developed commercial premises,• the premises of supported enterprises, • FE space directly improved or constructed by the intervention. Created and safeguarded jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g. construction). A job is deemed as permanent if it lasts at least a year. |
| Apprenticeships | Number of apprenticeship positions created as a direct result of the intervention. |
| **Housing** |
| Housing Units Completed | At the impact site, the number of completed housing units.Complete refers to physical completion of the individual unit, or, in the case of flats, on physical completion of the block. Housing unit refers to one discrete housing unit (e.g. house, flat, live/work), regardless of size. |
| **Transport** |
| Length of Road Resurfaced this Period | Length of road for which maintenance works have been completed this quarter (km). |
| Length of Newly Built Road this period | Length of road for which works have been completed and now open for public use (this quarter) (km). |
| **Skills and Education** |
| Number of New Learners Assisted (in courses leading to a full qualification) | The number of new learners assisted as a direct result of the intervention, in courses leading to a full qualification. |
| **Business and Enterprise** |
| Number of enterprises receiving grant support | Number of SMEs receiving grant funding support with the intention of improving performance (i.e. reduce costs, increase turnover/profit, innovation, exporting). To be counted where the support is at least £1,000. |
| Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants  | Number of SMEs receiving funding support in the form of equity or repayable loan instruments with the intention of improving performance (i.e. reduce costs, increase turnover/profit, innovation, exporting). Counted where amount of support is at least £1,000. |
| Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support | Number of SMEs receiving support (inc. advice and training) with the intention of improving performance (i.e. reduce costs, increase turnover/profit, innovation, exporting). Value of the support should be a minimum of £1,000, calculated at Gross Grant Equivalent (see ERDF guidance) or a minimum of 2 days of consulting advice. |

***N.B For feasibility study and project development applications for funding we will be seeking an indication of the types and potential levels of the outputs to be delivered whereas for Business Support Project proposals we will require details of the actual outputs that will be delivered.***

**Bidding criteria for applicants**

The funds are available for organisations that have a track record in delivering economic development projects and initiatives, including local authorities, colleges, training providers, universities, charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Requests for support must be for specific costs relating to procured activity, including surveys, impact assessments, designs, specifications and research activities. Staff salaries and other internal costs incurred by applicants will not be eligible.

The contracts let through this scheme should follow public procurement rules for contracting authorities and national rules for non-contracting authorities.

The costs associated with the project feasibility studies or project development costs must be substantiated by providing 3 quotes, enabling the LEP to determine a Value for Money exercise has been undertaken.

The first deadline for submission of bid proposals will be **31 January 2019.**

**Assessment of the bids**

This will be undertaken by a small panel comprising the LEP Director, members of the LEP Team and the ERDF and ESF Technical Assistance staff**.**

The project appraisal criteria reflect those identified in the LEP’s Accountability and Assurance framework. These include:

* Delivery of SEP strategic priorities and other LEP strategies’ priorities as appropriate.
* Economic growth potential (including jobs, housing and private sector leverage).
* Project delivery options and timescales for delivery of the project and an assessment of value for money.

You can access the Marches LEP Accountability and Assurance Framework via the Marches LEP website downloads section <https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/downloads>.

As it is a competitive process, the assessment criteria and scoring will be based the following:

* Delivery against the priorities in the strategies listed above (Yes/No)
* Economic growth potential (including jobs, housing and private sector leverage) (45%)
* Project delivery options (15%)
* Timescales for delivery (15%)
* Assessment of value for money (25%)

**All activity must be completed and paid for by the end of July 2019.**

If you would like to chat through any of your proposals, then please use the contacts below:

Nick Alamanos (Marches LEP Programme Manager) - 01743 462026 / nicholas.alamanos@marcheslep.org.uk

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