

# Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Board Report Export Growth Grant (EGG) Update

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Report from Andrew Finch, Trade Partnerships Manager (DBT)

9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## **1. Summary and Recommendation**

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the UKSPF-funded Export Growth Grant (EGG) programme and requests that the Board notes and agrees upon a preferred option in terms of the potential re-allocation of project funds to support additional export growth grants.

## **2. Export Growth Grant (EGG) Programme Update**

- 2.1. HEY LEP is delivering the EGG programme on behalf of Hull City Council, providing match-funded grants to enable Hull-based SMEs to exhibit at an international trade show. The programme runs from April 2023 for two years.
- 2.2. The programme has a total budget of £99,440 (£34,640 staff costs and £64,800 grant monies).
- 2.3. Staff costs totalling £17,320 will have been claimed by the end of March 2024, with a further £17,320 allocated against staff costs for the April 2024-March 2025 period.
- 3.4 Whilst DBT is match-funding the EGG programme in terms of the Trade Partnerships Manager's overall programme management on behalf of HEY LEP, the programme's administration is delivered by HEY Growth Hub colleagues, whose roles are funded through the Growing Places Fund project.
- 3.4 Project outputs include a target of 12 enterprises receiving grants. A total of 13 grants have already been allocated to companies across a range of sectors.

## **3. Options to re-allocate staff costs in the 2024/25 financial year**

- 4.1 Noting that HEY Growth Hub colleagues will continue to administer the EGG programme from April 2024 onwards, once their roles are embedded within Hull City Council, the following options are available in relation to the 2024/25 staff cost element.

Option 1 - The remaining £17,320 staff costs to be transferred to HEY LEP staffing resources for the remainder of the programme (April 2024-March 2025), as originally planned.

Option 2 - The remaining allocated staff costs to be converted into grant monies, which will enable HEY LEP to offer grants to a further three\* companies looking to exhibit at a trade show from April 2024 onwards. \*Assuming each company applies for the max £5,400 grant.

- 4.2 Option 2 is the preferred option in that the additional grants would be much welcomed by SMEs, especially in light of there being no alternative funding currently available from other sources, including DBT, throughout the 2024 year period.