

Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Property Investment Programme
Directorate	Economy
Service Area	P&R East Team
Type	New/Proposed Policy
EA Summary	Property Investment Programme is a capital grant programme which will operate in Birmingham. Providing grants for capital works to eligible SMEs within the Birmingham area. This report will assess EA issues in relation to this grant programme.
Reference Number	EA001049
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Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

Overall Purpose

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

Relevant Protected Characteristics

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

1 Activity Type

The activity has been identified as a New/Proposed Policy.

2 Overall Purpose

2.1 What the Activity is for

What is the purpose of this Policy and expected outcomes?	The Property Investment Programme is a discretionary grant scheme available to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) area to part-fund capital works to industrial and business premises; the programme will be offered on a permanent open call basis. Total eligible grant offer will be subject to De Minimis limit, 200,000 (Euros). Total grant offered will be capped at 40% of eligible costs and will be determined in line with current EU De Minimis State Aid guidelines.
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For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Public Service Excellence	No
A Fair City	No
A Prosperous City	Yes
A Democratic City	No

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	No
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	No
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes

2.3 Analysis on Initial Assessment

Provide a clear analysis of what the relevant data tells you about the likely impact of your decision.

1. Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership will benefit from this programme; the direct beneficiaries will be eligible existing businesses across the LEP area, demonstrating growth potential that can create new job opportunities and add value to the local economy with an increase in GVA per head. The programme will be open to all businesses meeting the eligible criteria. It will seek to engage with all sections of the community opening up the opportunity to access the support available. The benefits will extend to businesses owned and managed by under represented sub groups, women, youth and those from BME communities. A key outcome of the project is to bring about a lasting change in the culture and approach by business and to stimulate enterprise, encourage investment, aid business growth, create new jobs and safeguard existing jobs across the region.

2. The policy will have a positive impact on service users and the wider community because it will provide tangible support to local SME businesses and many of these are owned and run by BME groups, women and young people. These are part of the business support target groups and they will be actively engaged and encouraged to access support services. The programme will be promoted to as wide an audience as possible across the LEP area in order to maximise the potential impact.

3. No new data is available at this time to ascertain the full potential impact of the programme. The GBSLEP partners have been fully consulted on the development of this proposal, have agreed to be partners and fully endorse the application. Letters of support have been received, and the programme will engage with as many local providers as possible. Partners will attend events targeting these groups to promote the project to a wider audience and make the link between opportunities, economic need and economic growth. During mobilisation and implementation monitoring procedures will be put in place to capture and record engagement data. The programme will be subject to on-going monitoring and evaluation, all participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the recruitment, delivery and impact of their programme participation.

4. A full options appraisal has been carried out as part of the process of applying for ERDF funding. This appraisal

included the do nothing option leaving businesses to find their own support in the market place, and one that did not engage fully with all partners thereby removing full access to local knowledge and experience for business engagement across all communities and sectors.

5. The policy relates to services that will have an impact on stakeholders, partners, service users, SME businesses and the wider community. It has been developed from the experience of delivering previous successful project activity in Birmingham funded through ERDF and the evaluation and output results generated from this activity. The programme aims to provide an impetus for more businesses to develop and to encourage more entrepreneurship and foster business growth over the longer term. A major benefit will be to bring about a lasting contribution to counter the decline in the regions economic standing and improve GVA compared to the national average as well as creating new jobs across the LEP to help improve the areas economy

3 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

In conclusion, PiP will not have a disproportionate impact on any protected group from the City and the wider GBSLEP area. There is a robust 'Risks Register' and we will ensure sufficient resources are in place to mitigate all known risks.

There will be on-going monitoring of the programme; this will include output monitoring and especially jobs created. All beneficiary companies will complete an 'Equalities Monitoring' form for all jobs created as a result of grant intervention - this will ensure continuous monitoring of PiP outputs.

There will be an external end of programme evaluation, this will include monitoring of all outputs and impact of the programme.

4 Review Date

24/02/16

5 Action Plan

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.