

Feasibility Grant Guidance Note

Greater Lincolnshire LEP has launched a second round of its Feasibility Grant Fund. Applications will be required to outline how they will accelerate the delivery of economic growth and investment, and address the cross-cutting priorities of the GLLEP and its [Strategic Economic Plan](#).

In general, funding will only be considered for schemes which have already progressed beyond the initial concept, scoping and selection phases. The feasibility stage should, therefore, focus on the more detailed and technical aspects of delivery, including surveys, plans, legal issues and business and financial planning. Pilot studies which address an identified gap in existing provision may be considered where the Board considers that they will significantly progress the priorities identified in the SEP or are a response to exceptional economic circumstances.

The total amount of funding available is £160,000

The following criteria will apply:

- The fund is open to public, private and voluntary sector applicants
- The maximum amount of funding available to applicants for individual projects is £50,000
- All applicants seeking funding must demonstrate that at least 50% of total feasibility costs are either secured or expended to date as match funding
- The funding **will not be available** to undertake feasibility where projects are at a very early stage of the development/concept stage. Projects must be advanced to a stage where there is certainty and prospects for delivery. This is required to mitigate the risks that the LEP pay for feasibility reports and then ultimately the project does not proceed
- Pilot schemes would be considered only where they significantly contribute towards achieving SEP priorities and where there is an identified gap in existing provision
- Applicants seeking funding must be able to demonstrate previous investment made in the project in terms of overall development and progress made to date
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that LEP funding sought is the last resort and all other means to secure funding to meet the costs of the required feasibility have been exhausted
- In order to ensure value for money and to justify the amounts requested, the GLLEP will expect applicants to secure 3 quotes for the feasibility work for which the resources are requested, including at least one quote from a company/contractor/consultancy based within the GLLEP area where possible.

Eligible Costs

Costs which would be considered for funding by the LEP are identified as follows:

- Professional fees relating to undertaking/completing detailed design
- Activity which pilots innovative services
- Studies and surveys required to discharge planning conditions
- A contribution towards costs of preparing detailed planning applications including professional and Planning Authority fees
- Funding of some onsite investigations and surveys to be considered, provided that these will enable final feasibility and due diligence to be completed by the applicant
- Other potential feasibility fees and costs may be considered on a project by project basis.

Application Process

An open call will be launched at Business Live on 21st October. Applicants will be required to complete a one-stage application form available from the GLLEP website. The application form must be submitted electronically to cathy.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk by 21st November 2016. Detailed information will be required to identify for what purpose the funding is required. As a minimum this should include detail of all surveys/studies, timescales for undertaking and associated costs. Quotations should be provided wherever possible as supporting information.

Match funding and costs already expended by applicants should be identified. The applicant should demonstrate through the application process that with any investment from the LEP all feasibility will be completed and the scheme will be in a position to move to implementation stage, with any conditions or other issues to be addressed clearly identified. Applicants will also be required to provide a clear programme for delivery and progressing projects through the feasibility, design and through to implementation. All costs must be evidenced and justified and in sufficient detail to enable consideration to be given by the appraisal team.

Assessment and approval of individual applications will be delegated to officers within the LEP and Accountable Body, subject to formal endorsement by the Investment Board.

If your application is successful

Successful applicants will be notified by the GLLEP and will be required to enter into a contractual agreement with Lincolnshire County Council, as the accountable body for GLLEP funds. Copies of all completed feasibility reports and studies are to be provided to the LEP upon completion.

State Aid

Grant funding will be awarded under the De Minimus Regulation. Applicants will, therefore, be required to demonstrate that the grant requested will not result in the company having received more than €200,000 in state support over a 3 year rolling period.

Feasibility Fund Criteria

Timetable

Call for projects open for 1 month	Launch 21st October 2016
Closing date for applications	21st November 2016
Application scoring panel	Dec 5-9 2016
Investment Board meeting	27 January 2017
Notification to applicants	By end January 2017