

Item No. 7	Classification: Open	Date: 19 April 2023	Meeting: Education & Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Local Access Programme	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Cllr Martin Seaton, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Business and Town Centres	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Education & Local Economy Scrutiny Commission note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In recognition of the good work that took place during the development of the initial Southwark Pioneers Fund (SPF) in 2018/19, the council was invited to submit a proposal for a £33m programme (the Local Access Programme (LAP)) of enterprise support and blended social investment for charities and social enterprises, to run over 10 years. Southwark was one of 12 places across the UK invited to apply by Access - The Foundation for Social Investment (Access Foundation) and Big Society Capital (BSC), who are jointly funding the programme.
3. The proposal was co-designed alongside a wide range of partners¹ and submitted in October 2019. This set out our vision for the LAP and our social economy / enterprise support plans.
4. The partners jointly agreed the LAP Vision Statement: *A collaborative, sustainable and diverse social economy, which delivers positive social impact and a better future for all Southwark's residents.*
5. The collective vision and ambition for the LAP is to:
 - a) Build capacity, skills, community, connections and support across our social ecosystem
 - b) Tackle entrenched social issues in Southwark
 - c) Widen the diversity of those who own, start up, and are employed by social enterprises and charities in Southwark

¹ Tree Shepherd, Business Launchpad, Big Local Works, Hatch Enterprise, Community Southwark, The School for Social Entrepreneurs, Renaisi, Social Investment Business, United St Saviours, Peabody, CAN, Sustainable Ventures, UAL, Ernst Young, Young Foundation.

6. In January 2020, Southwark was notified that it had been chosen as one of only six places to progress to the final stage of the process and had been provisionally allocated funds of £5.375m, as set out below:
 - Enterprise support £900k
 - Investment £4.4m (£2.625m repayable capital, £1.85m grant capital)
7. While the council were the driving force in putting together the successful proposal, Renaisi is now the Accountable Body and coordinator for the LAP, bringing the partners together to develop a final plan setting out how the partnership will use the funds from Access Foundation and BSC. This responded to a very clear steer by Access Foundation that the programme should not be led by local authorities.
8. The Access Foundation formally approved the LAP Enterprise Support Plan in October 2022. This means that the £900k funding is available to start delivering an enterprise support programme for social enterprises.
9. An IDM was approved in December 2022 agreeing to make a grant award of £500k of SPF to the Southwark LAP (via Renaisi as the Accountable body) to support businesses in the social economy.
10. The £500k from SPF match-funds the £900k from Access, bringing the total budget for the enterprise support element of the programme to £1.4m.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

11. The budget of £1.4m will be used to support approximately 110 Southwark-based social and community enterprises through a mix of enterprise support and grant packages over a three-year period.
12. Support will be available across four stages, referred to as packages. These will support enterprises from start-ups through to significant growth stage.
13. The LAP is currently in the process of recruiting a new Programme Co-ordinator to drive the programme forward and lead on the commissioning of enterprise support providers.
14. Support for start-ups will be the first service commissioned via the LAP and it is anticipated that support will be available from late summer 2023.
15. In addition to the delivery of the Enterprise Support Plan, the LAP is developing proposals in relation to an Asset Trust model to ensure that the funding from BSC delivers the most appropriate long-term investment solution for Southwark's social economy.

Policy framework implications

16. The establishment of the SPF was originally driven by the 2018-22 Council Plan commitment to “establish an Innovation Fund to invest in

Southwark's entrepreneurs of the future".

17. The Council Delivery Plan 2022-26 has a commitment to "Back Southwark residents to start more businesses, co-operatives and social enterprises". Outputs and outcomes from the LAP programme directly delivers against this commitment.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

18. Not required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Approval of Southwark Pioneers Fund Social and Community Programme	virtual	n/a
https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7783		

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Danny Edwards, Head of Economy	
Report Author	Matt Little, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	4 April 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
List other officers here		
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team / Scrutiny Team	6 April 2023	