

Enterprise M3 Programme Management Group

17th January 2019

New Expressions of Interest for capital funding - Item 6

Programme Management Group members are asked to:

AGREE that in line with the PMG authority levels, all projects ranked as category 'A' are approved and proceed immediately to due diligence.

Current status

- 1.1 Following feedback from PMG members at the October meeting, it was acknowledged that some projects may struggle to achieve 50% matched funding and whilst a 50% level of matched funding should be encouraged, it should not be a barrier to consideration of projects. On this basis, two revised Expression of Interests have been received. These are
 - EOI 31 - Innovation South Virtual Campus
 - EOI 33 – Sparsholt Animal Health & Welfare Research Facility
- 1.2 EOI 31 – Innovation South Virtual Campus. Originally, the project was requesting £300k of Enterprise M3 funding to match against the Ufi Charitable Trust VocTech Impact 2018 fund. This bid was not successful and the Innovation South Virtual Campus Steering Group have revisited the EOI and are requesting £490,000 of funding to undertake the project. This funding will enable an online platform to be developed providing skills development rather than just qualifications – see project detail. This is a category A project for Enterprise M3. It supports skills development in line with business requirements, utilises previously funded facilities and supports their use of digital technology and provides learners with sector specific skills to help drive productivity improvements.
- 1.3 EOI 33 – Sparsholt Animal Health & Welfare Research Facility. This project is to modernise and extend an Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre at Sparsholt. Originally, this was a category B project as there were less than 50% matched funding available and construction costs appeared disproportionately high compared to refurbishment costs. The project has now been reworked based on our feedback alongside providing an opportunity for an increase in scale. The project will provide 2.5 times more space for a project cost of £1.95 million (originally £1.5 m). Detailed costings have been provided which provide reassurance on allocations between refurbishment and new build. This is a category A project for Enterprise M3. It will support additional apprenticeships and higher-level university learners in the Enterprise M3 key sector of animal health.

1.4 Further detail on the two EOIs is provided below

EOI
31

Project name – Innovation South Virtual Campus (ISVC)
Applicant – Brooklands College
Location – Enterprise M3 wide. The project will be delivered through all the Enterprise M3 colleges using their facilities funded through a previous Enterprise M3 project.

This project has been developed by Universities and FE Colleges in EM3 following endorsement from businesses. Colleges and Universities who are spearheading this initiative on behalf of the wider FE College and University network include Brooklands, Basingstoke and Sparsholt FE Colleges, Royal Holloway University, working with colleagues from East Surrey College and Chichester University.

The project will develop an online platform that will deliver blended vocational online learning to employees. Having identified that businesses do not always want qualifications but rather staff with skills which will enable their business to be more productive and efficient, this project will develop a range of short programs of skills giving individuals the opportunity to learn a new skill and become an expert in a narrow field without the need to take a whole qualification at every level. The offer will also support those who need a basket of skills at a variety of levels which are currently not offered by one organisation. It will be populated by FE colleges and Universities with units of learning.

The EOI is requesting £490,000 of grant funding to develop the ICT infrastructure to support the content. There is no match but all organisations involved will be giving time in kind. It is planned that following proof of concept, further development of the platform and materials will be supported by business investment. The Group are also in discussion with Coast to Capital for similar support to make this a cross LEP project.

The project will start with units in cyber security and digital skills & communications, recognising that this is an area of high need in the EM3 area as supporting key sectors for the LEP. The future plan will be to develop an offer in other areas of need which could respond to LIS developments.

The work to develop has been underway for some months. The platform will be purchased by May 2019 followed by design, personalisation and testing leading to a formal launch by January 2020.

Anticipated learner levels

	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
2019/20	0	50	30	0
2020/21	200	250	80	30
2021/22	500	400	150	40
2022/23	800	500	300	50
2023/24	1000	600	400	60

EOI33	<p>Project name – Sparsholt Animal Health & Welfare Research Facility Applicant – Sparsholt College Location – Sparsholt College</p> <p>Grant funding of £1.15 million from Enterprise M3 (60% of total) is requested to pay for the refurbishment of existing and building of new college facilities. Sparsholt will contribute £809k matched funding which includes a payment from University of Surrey of £84k to cover their student usage and £75k employer contribution to apprenticeships. The project will repurpose 971sqm of space and build an additional 825qm. The additional floorspace will fully meet the needs of learners rather than the partial solution (original EOI submitted) which was limited by affordability. The project will provide the facilities to allow teaching, learning through research and optimal conditions that will disseminate best practice across the animal welfare, nursing and animal welfare care sector.</p> <p>The project will be deliverable in 2019 with student provision commencing in 2020.</p> <p>Sparsholt have indicated that the project will provide for a minimum of 250 apprentices and 600 Level 4 – Level 7 learners over a 5-year period as well as facilitating a new agreement with the University of Surrey to provide practical experience for over 350 of their students. Digital technologies involved in animal health will be integrated through links with the University of Surrey and their School of Veterinary Medicine and their vhive Centre. The facility will also provide services to local employers including Vets4Pets, RSPCA and Endells who have workforce training needs that are currently unmet but will be satisfied with this development. Ongoing work with the Pirbright Institute will be further developed through these new facilities.</p> <p>Due diligence will need to probe the efficacy of the apprenticeship numbers.</p>
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Deborah Wyatt
10 January 2019