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**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 10 November 2009  
**Subject:** Economic Participation Programme (2009/10 Capital Programme)  
**Report of:** Cllr Ken Matthews, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Regeneration  
**Summary:** The report seek Executive approval to proceed with the externally East of England Development Agency funded capital programme for 2009/10

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**Advising Officer:** Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities  
**Contact Officer:** Liz Wade , Assistant Director, Economic Growth & Regeneration  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Executive  
**Key Decision** Yes  
**Reason for urgency/ exemption from call-in (if appropriate)** N/A

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

Economic Participation is regional programme commissioned by the East of England Development Agency it contributes to

- Manage growth effectively
- Educate protect and provide opportunities for children and young people

The Economic Participation Capital Programme for Central Bedfordshire is designed to increase prosperity by providing opportunity to raise levels of economic activity. The programme directly contributes to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan for the priority estates of Tithe Farm, Parkside and Downside, recently adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership.

The programme also contributes to several of our Local Area Agreement priority indicators through the Delivery Plans for NI 152 ( helping people back to work) NI 163 (increasing % of workforce with level 2 qualifications) and NI 171 ( business start ups) ensuring all people are able to participate fully in the economy by offering additional support and opportunities to those who need extra help.

**Financial:**

Approval is being sought for this fully externally funded programme to be included in the Councils capital programme. The Economic Participation Capital programme for Central Bedfordshire in 2009/10 is worth in total £674,493 capital grant from EEDA towards the delivery of the EP Investment Strategy which was approved by the Shadow Executive and the Local Strategic Partnership in March 2009.

The Council has a Funding Agreement with the East of England Development Agency confirming the allocation of £674,493 capital grant to Central Bedfordshire Council as the Accountable Body. The programme provides good value for money attracting additional leverage from partner organisations totalling £410,000.

The Programme Initiation Documents for each capital project are attached in Appendix A totalling £595,000 expenditure from the Economic Participation Capital programme.

**Legal:**

The Economic Participation programme is delivered under the Local Government Act 2000 which provides local authorities with wellbeing powers to deliver activity which promotes environmental, economic and social wellbeing in their areas.

Any legal implications will be covered through the Service Level Agreement (SLA) to be established with each of the project providers. Property Services, Legal and Financial Services will be advising on the content of the SLA's

**Risk Management:**

External fund management is included in both the Economic Growth Service Risk Management Plan and Business Continuity Plan.

Risk is assessed through the open and competitive project tendering process , appraisal process and mitigated through the Service Level Agreement and monthly project monitoring.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

The costs of additional staff (part time administrator) are included in the delivery of the Economic Participation Programme.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

The capital projects submitted for approval make a clear and positive contribution to equality by providing access to opportunities for economically inactive individuals in urban and rural areas where there are lower levels of economic participation, educational underperformance lower levels of skills and resultant higher levels of deprivation

**Community Safety:**

Approval of the capital projects submitted will have a positive effect on community safety through providing more opportunity for overcoming barriers to economic participation in deprived areas and bringing buildings or under used space into community use.

**Sustainability:**

The capital projects submitted for approval were required to address Sustainable Development principles as part of the tendering process. The property based projects have confirmed they will seek to meet BREAM Good / Excellent standards and high levels of energy efficiency and minimal levels of carbon emission.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1. that the Executive approves the expenditure in 2009/10 of £595,000 capital funding from the EEDA Economic Participation Programme allocated to Central Bedfordshire Council for the seven projects set out in the Project Initiation Documents attached in the Appendix A .**
- 2. that the Executive delegates to the Director of Sustainable Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Regeneration authority to approve the remaining unallocated capital of £79,493 for 2009/10**

*Reason for Recommendation(s): To take advantage of the external funding made available by EEDA to assist in the delivery of Council and Local Strategic priorities and ensure delivery by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 or the funding may be withdrawn.*

**Background to Economic Participation Programme**

1. The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) is providing £674,493 capital grant to Central Bedfordshire Council, in 2009–10 towards the delivery of activity described in the Programme Initiation Documents (PID's) attached in Appendix A.
2. Central Bedfordshire Council is accountable for the delivery of the Economic Participation Programme and as part of this agreement undertakes to maintain appropriate systems of internal financial and procedural controls.
3. The Economic Participation programme for Central Bedfordshire is designed to increase prosperity particularly in deprived urban and rural communities by raising levels of economic participation and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in the economy. The Economic Participation Capital Project described in the PID's have been approved by both the Local Strategic Partnership's Economy and Environment Thematic Partnership and EEDA. The projects have been brought forward through correct procurement methods using guidelines set out by the Procurement Process Rules 2009.

## **Community Benefit**

4. The Economic Participation Capital programme will deliver the following outcomes

- 50 people assisted in skills development
- 40 people assisted to get a job
- 25 clients on out of work benefits supported through transport
- 40 people assisted to get a job through travel planning
- 23 individuals supported to start a business
- 10 businesses created
- £410,00.00 public investment levered
- 1200 sq m converted

## **Economic Participation programme 2010/11**

5. A further report will be presented to the Executive in December 2009 to approve the Investment Strategy for the 2010 /11 Economic Participation Programme.

## **Appendices:**

### Appendix A – Project Initiation Documents

A1 Central Bedfordshire Council : Kingsland Skills and Enterprise Centre Design and Development brief £40,000

A2 Dunstable College : Kingsland Skills and Enterprise centre ‘Initiating Dreams’ £20,000

A3 Dunstable College : Kingsland Skills and Enterprise Centre ‘Avante Garde’ £45,000

A4 Greensand Trust : Working Woodlands project £45,000

A5 Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Ridgmont Station ‘Back on Track’ Development £50,000

A6 Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Access to Employment ‘Wheels to Work’ Scheme £45,000

A7 Aldwyck Housing Association Community Enterprise/Skills Hub – £350,000

## **Background Papers:** (open to public inspection)

EEDA Funding Agreement

Economic Participation Investment Strategy

Economic Participation Tender Prospectus

Economic Participation Commissioning Prospectus

**Location of papers:** Borough Hall, Bedford