

York, North Yorkshire & East Riding
Local Enterprise Partnership

Bio-economy Growth Fund

Application process
September 2016



Content

- Overview
- Guidance and criteria for applicants
- When to apply
- How to apply
- Compliance – the small print
- Contacts

Overview

The York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership has made available part of its Local Growth Funding through the Governments Local Growth Deal, to support the development and growth of the bio-economy sector across the LEP area.

The Bio-economy Growth Fund is a competitive, capital fund which will provide investment to give a significant boost to the bio-economy in York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding.

The Fund will make a small number of large (£1m+) capital investments.

The Fund has the following objective:

To stimulate new business activity, through investment in innovation and infrastructure, which help grow the bio-economy in the York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding.

The bio-economy includes sectors that produce bio-based products, for example forestry, agriculture, horticulture, food & drinks, water utilities, Industrial Biotechnology and bio-energy.

Criteria

What is the Fund for?

We are intentionally not setting out a large range of criteria as we are looking for innovative capital projects that can clearly demonstrate:

- The benefit the project will have on growing the bio-economy and helping to achieve the area's Strategic Economic Plan priority of becoming a ['Global leader in agri-food and bio-economy sector'](#);
- How the project will directly create jobs; and
- The difference the funding will make to the project, in particular why the project can not be delivered without the LEP funding and that all potential other sources of funding have been explored.

The Fund will make a small number of large (£1m+) capital investments. **This fund is available for capital projects only.**

Investments will be made in activity which is of major significance to the area's bio-economy. This will involve investments in:

- a) **infrastructure which will enhance local bio-economy capacity, supply chains or clusters; or**
- b) **major commercial innovations which will enhance the areas reputation, stimulate cluster effects and lead to the development of related supply chains.**

Who can apply?

This Fund is open to public and private sector applications. Additional criteria apply:

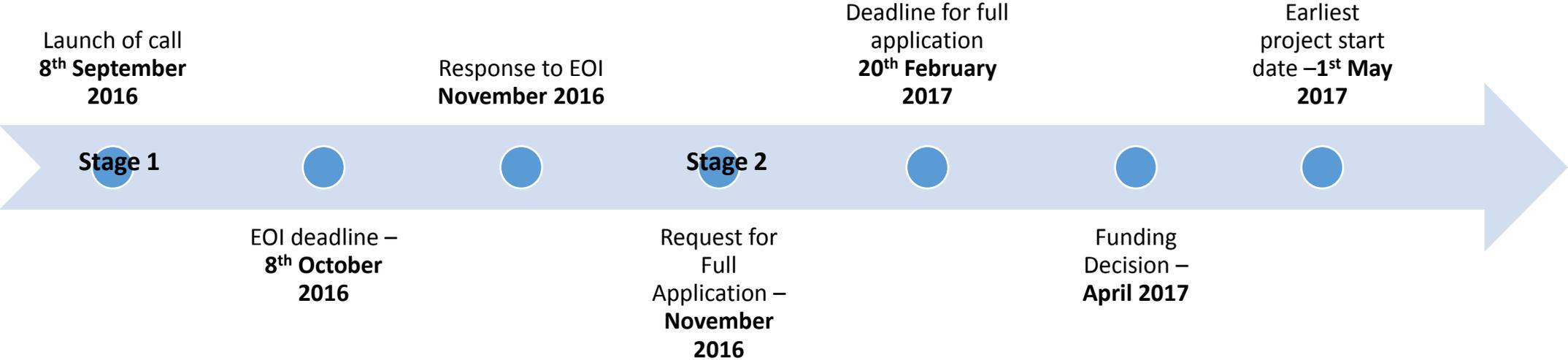
- Applications must be industry-led and evidence industry demand.
- Investment can only be made in projects that are located within the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership area. This area comprises the local authority areas of North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.
- Applications from organisations outside the LEP area will be considered if these clearly demonstrate that the impact of the project generates significant benefits to businesses in the LEP area.

When to Apply?

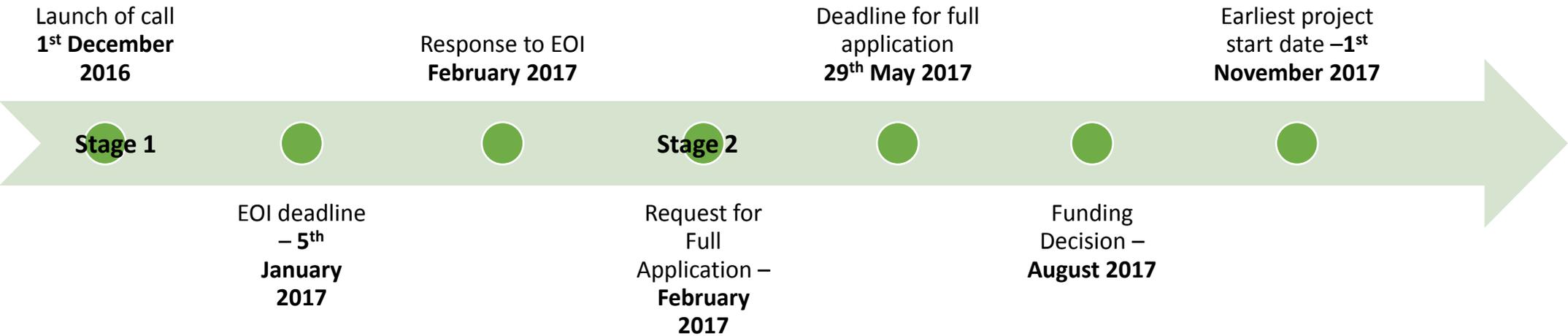
The Fund is operated under a two-stage process under two Rounds. There are limited funds available so the second Round is subject to change depending on the level of funds available after Round one.

The timelines for each of these Rounds are set out below. Other Rounds maybe opened at other times but this would be dependent on further funds becoming available.

Round 1



Round 2



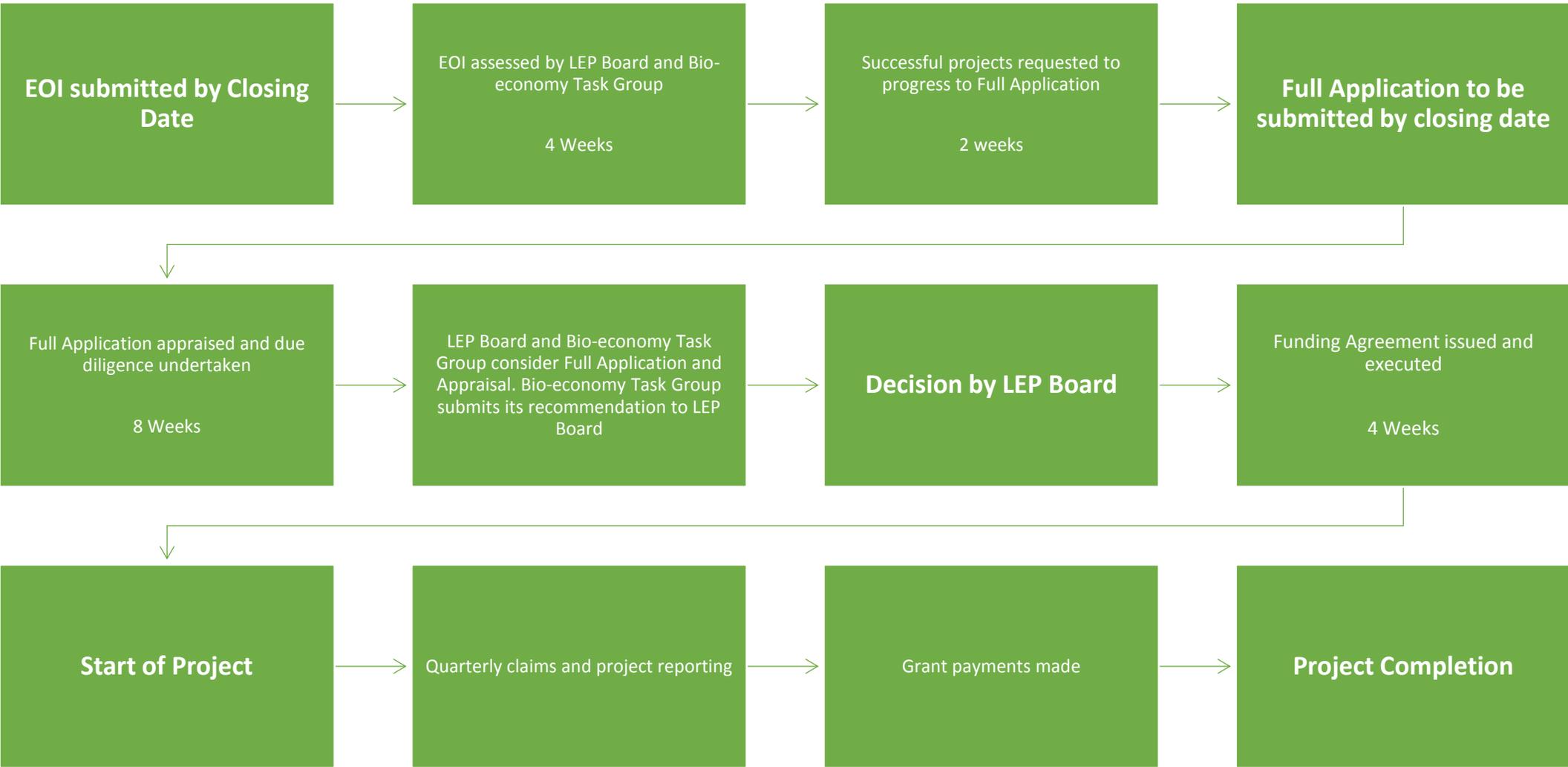
How to Apply?

All applicants must fully complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form.

This EOI will be assessed by the Local Enterprise Partnership Board which will consider recommendations made by the LEP's Bio-economy Task Group.

Once a project has been agreed by the LEP Board a Full Application and full business case will be required.

The following sets out the key stages of the application process and the estimated timeframe for these stages.



Compliance – the Small Print

Applicants will need to demonstrate clear added value from the receipt of public sector investment. This will include demonstrating that the proposal would not come forward at all without investment, or within a timely manner or at a similar scale.

Applicants must provide match funding and demonstrate that all other potential sources of funding have been investigated. In-kind contributions are not eligible as match funding. The intervention rate is up to 40%, i.e. a £2,500,000 project will receive a maximum grant of £1,000,000.

Investments must be compatible with State Aid rules. Applicants must obtain specialist State Aid legal advice to ensure their project is eligible.

Approval at Expression of Interest (EOI) stage is not a guarantee that funding will be agreed at the full application stage. A full HM Treasury Green Book appraisal (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government>) as well as legal and financial due diligence will be undertaken on all full applications. Details of what is required through the full application stage can be found in the LEPs Assurance Framework document (<http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/corpdocs/lep-assurance-framework/>). This also includes a draft funding agreement and details of the appraisal process.

Grants will be paid against defrayed expenditure through claims setting out evidence of expenditure and proof of payment.

All projects must be fully completed with all grant aid claimed by end March 2021.

Contact

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