

Leicester

#	Question Area	Feedback	Minimum Information	Essential Criteria
1	Current Situation: How would you describe the current state of your local social economy?	Good and clear picture of the state of the local social economy, including evidence of the size and types of organisations currently within Leicester as well as their focus areas. You may want to consider further how the Local Access programme could align with other initiatives that are ongoing within Leicester.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This information should be used to set the scene and help inform decisions. - It might be that research needs to be undertaken to get a better understanding of the social economy in your place. 	
2	Partnerships: Which organisations are likely to be part of a local partnership, to ensure all views are incorporated when designing a place-based programme?	We are encouraged by the involvement of sector membership bodies as well as local council and enterprise and the stated open approach to the partnership, with the potential for other organisations (anchor institutions / front-line enterprises / commissioners) to join in the future. For the next stage, you may want to consider how the partnership will be governed and how decision-making processes will be designed to ensure a range of views are considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which organisations (and individuals) are involved in the partnership and why? - What does each partner bring, what delivery role might each have, and what would each want to get out of the programme? - How has the partnership been brought together? - Number of partners, governance and how this might evolve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad-based partnership - Strong charity/social enterprise sector involvement and some public sector involvement/endorsement - Strong approach to wider engagement and co-design, reaching frontline charities and social enterprises
3	Vision for Change: What is the vision for your place, and how will this programme help achieve that vision?	High-level vision and early stages, which is fine given where we are in the process. The list of potential focus areas is a good starting point for conversations with the wider city that could be developed throughout Stage 2. We would encourage you to ensure this process is designed in a way that is inclusive and accessible to a range of partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What the partnership is hoping to grow/develop/ change, and where would you want to be in 5-10 years time? - How would you want to define your place (geographically), and why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The vision must reference the development of local social enterprise and the social economy, as well as the social impact aims - The programme must be working in a defined place - Must demonstrate at least in part that it targets areas of disadvantage/deprivation (this may be defined in ways other than IMD) - Support to, and investment in, organisations will be subject to our requirements (our funding can be used to support all charities, CICs, Community Benefit Societies, but other types of organisation only if they meet these requirements)

4	Enterprise Support: What types of enterprise support activity do you envision would be useful and relevant?	High-level overview of the current support options available and potential gaps is fine for this stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What elements of support (grants, incentives, training, advice etc.) would you look to put in place with our investment? - How much of Access's £8m grant facility for enterprise support would you approximately need? (Reminder this would have to be shared between around 5 places) - What do you hope this activity will achieve during and beyond the life of the programme? - Who would you expect to manage any grant payments to individual charities and social enterprises? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of activities which demonstrably build social enterprise behaviour and thinking in organisations - A clear articulation of how growing social enterprises and other aspects of the social economy could contribute to the collaborative vision for the place - Identification of activity which builds local capability to offer enterprise support – (networks or local infrastructure etc.) - An understanding of the demand from local charities and social enterprises for these activities
5	Blended Finance Funding: What types of social investment (repayable blended finance) do you feel is most needed and how do you think these would be delivered?	Still in early stages, which is absolutely fine - carry on exploring the different opportunities you have outlined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Process of identifying the organisation to manage the social investment / who you expect to manage it? - What types and sizes of investment you anticipate building into your investment proposal, and how you think you would blend the elements of grant and repayable investment from us to create financial products that you think local organisations will be interested in and able to access - An initial idea of how much investment would be required? (Remember for social investment, there is £10m Access grant funding and around £15m Big Society Capital funding to be shared between around 5 places) - What other matching investment or existing funds could be applied alongside our funding in order to increase its size, breadth of products, or length of deployment/ability to recycle funds? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An understanding and vision for how social investment could help achieve your vision and support the enterprises in your place - Demonstration that this fund aims to meet unmet or latent demand in the place. <p>We will be interested to see how proposals will develop finance which can reach charities and social enterprises who traditionally would be excluded from or is interested in social investment, rather than just providing more finance for those organisations that have accessed it in the past</p>
6	Funding sources: In addition to the money provided by Access and Big Society Capital, are there any other local sources of funding that could potentially contribute to this project?	Early stage conversations is fine and a good start, to be developed further.		

7	FEEDBACK SUMMARY	<p>The conversations are heading in the right direction and explore the type of questions we had anticipated. We were encouraged by the depth of detail with understanding the state of the current local social economy, as a clearer understanding of the current market will enable more accurate estimates regarding demand for products developed. In addition, the commitment to involving a range of front-line organisations is very much aligned with the place-based approach we envisage for Local Access. As the vision develops it will be helpful to understand the decision-making process if the focus of the programme narrows and specific themes are selected.</p> <p>Understanding the rationale for the choices made will better enable us to understand how the final proposal has been considered in relation to the needs of the local VCSE sector.</p>	
8	SHORT SUMMARY TO SHARE WITH ALL PLACES	<p>Setting a new direction for the local economy by using social investment to address entrenched socio-economic issues.</p>	