
Minutes of the meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held in High House Production Park Vellacott Close, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1RJ on Friday, 16 September 2016

Present:

Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Council
Cllr Mark Dance	Kent County Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex Council
Cllr John Lamb	Southend Borough Council
Angela O'Donoghue	FE & Skills (FEDEC)
Myroulla West	Higher Education (HEIs)
Amy Beckett	SELEP
Suzanne Bennett	Essex County Council
Adam Bryan	SELEP
Chris Burr	Southend Borough Council
Kim Cole	Essex County Council
Dominic Collins	Essex County Council
Richard Dawson	East Sussex County Council
Stephen Gasche	Kent County Council
Steve Hewlett	Medway Council
Stephanie Mitchener	Essex County Council Accountable Body
Cllr Gagan Mohindra	Epping Forest District Council
Rhiannon Mort	SELEP
Mark Nickalls	East Sussex District Council
Lorna Norris	Essex County Council
Sarah Nurden	Kent and Medway Economic Partnership
Andrew Osborne	Ashford Borough Council
Tim Rignall	Thurrock Council
John Shaw	Sea Change Sussex
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr Geoff Miles, Cllr Keith Glazier who was substituted by Councillor Rupert Simmons and Councillor Paul Carter who was substituted by Councillor Mark Dance. Apologies also received from Councillor Rob Gledhill.

2 Minutes

Councillor Lamb pointed out that the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 24

June 2016 incorrectly stated that he represented Thurrock Council rather than Southend Borough Council. It was confirmed that they would be amended accordingly but were otherwise agreed as a correct record and signed on behalf of the Chairman

3 Business Case Approvals including Independent Technical Evaluation

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment of business cases for schemes having been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable funding to be devolved to scheme sponsors (county and unitary councils) as part of the capital programme management.

The Board received clarification of the situation regarding the assessment of value for money assessment in respect of each of the two cases. Clarification was also provided regarding Eurostar service delivery which would be affected by the Ashford International scheme.

Resolved:

1. To **approve** the business case for the following scheme which has been assessed as presenting high value for money and demonstrates medium to high certainty of achieving this:
 - A127 Bridge & Highway Maintenance (£1,000,000)
2. To **approve** of the business case for the following scheme which has been assessed as presenting high value for money, but demonstrates low to medium certainty of achieving this:
 - Ashford International Rail Connectivity (£5,627,000)
3. To **approve** the increase in Local Growth Fund (LGF) allocation to Ashford International Rail Connectivity (Ashford Spurs) project from £5,000,000 to £5,627,000.

4 Capital Programme Management

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort which updated the Board on the latest position of the Local Growth Deal Capital Programme

The Board sought details of the underspend and discussed the risks and mitigation put in place.

Resolved:

1. To **note** the updated spend forecast for 2016/17 and future years of the LGF programme;
2. To **note** the forecast requirement for re-profiling of LGF spend between 2016/17 and future years of the LGF programme;
3. To **note** the LGF projects that have incurred changes under the 10% tolerance; and
4. To **note** the project deliverability and risk assessment.

5 Skills Capital Fund Approval

The Board received a report from Adam Bryan which presented recommendations regarding three projects submitted under the auspices of the Skills Capital

Building Projects and Equipment fund. As requested by board members at the special Accountability Board on 24th June 2016, two projects were resubmitted for consideration. A third project, erroneously overlooked during the last bidding round, has also been subject to assessment.

Members had a lengthy debate in respect of the funding request relating to Canterbury College, Swale Campus Construction Extension as this involved funding at 90% of the total cost of the project. Reservations were expressed by some Members due to the level of funding involved but it was also pointed out that the project would have an enormous positive impact on the local area. There followed a show of hands with 4 Members voting in favour of approving the request and 1 member abstaining. Thereafter it was

Resolved:

1. To **approve** the allocation of £116,783 from the fund to the Harlow College, E-Hub - for supporting Enterprise and Entrepreneurship.
2. To **approve** the allocation of £223,798 from the fund to Canterbury College, Swale Campus Construction Extension – to meet local and regional skills needs around the construction sector; subject to an acceptable outcome from the completion of an independent technical/financial appraisal of the project.
3. To **note that in considering 1 and 2 above** The bid does not meet the match funding requirement of 50% as it is requesting funding at 90% of the total cost; and
4. To **note that in considering 1 and 2 above** The bid does not meet the minimum score required for a compelling case of 130/144 with a score of 82.
5. To **agree** that any overspend arising from an over-allocation of the Skills Capital pot is funded by headroom in the broader Local Growth Fund programme and managed as part of the overall approach to LGF capital programme management. It should be noted that an approval of 2.1.2 to the amount requested will result in an over-allocation of the fund of £14,661.
6. To **decline** the application for funding of £112,159 by the Creative Skills, Touring Technical Theatre Masterclasses on the basis of it not meeting the minimum scoring threshold for funding of 72, with a score of only 18 out of 144.

It was also **agreed** that representatives from Canterbury College be asked attend a forthcoming meeting of the Board to provide reassurance regarding it receiving a 90% funding contribution and to provide an update concerning project deliverability.

6 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Enterprise Zones

The Board received a report from Adam Bryan which informed the Board of the requirement for Local Authorities, LEPs and central Government to agree a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for North Kent Innovation Zone by the end of September 2016, and to seek approval for the Managing Director of the SELEP to approve the final MOU.

Resolved:

1. To **note** the requirement for Local Authorities, LEPs and central Government to agree a North Kent Innovation Zone MOU by 26th September 2016;
2. To **recommend** that SELEP, via the Accountable Body enter into the North Kent Innovation Zone MOU; and
3. To **agree** to delegate to the SELEP Managing Director authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the final MOU for North Kent Innovation Zone, which will commit SELEP to support and assist development and delivery of the Enterprise Zone
4. To **agree** to delegate authority to the SELEP Managing Director and Accountable Body authority to sign the MOU once a final MOU has been prepared and agreed by all parties.

7 Dates of Future Meetings

Members noted that the date of future meetings of the Board

- 18 November
- 20 January 2017

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 10.57 am

Chairman