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**Minutes of the meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held in High House Production Park Vellacott Close, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1RJ on Friday, 24 February 2017**

**Present:**

Geoff Miles	Chairman
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Cllr Paul Carter	Kent County Council
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr John Lamb	Southend Borough Council
Angela O'Donoghue	FE & Skills (FEDEC)
Myroulla West	Higher Education representative

**ALSO PRESENT****Having signed the attendance book**

Louise Aitken	SELEP
Amy Beckett	SELEP
Suzanne Bennett	ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
Steven Bishop	Steer Davies Gleave
Lee Burchill	Kent County Council
Adam Bryan	SELEP
Jake Cartmell	Steer Davies Gleave
Kim Cole	Essex County Council
Dominic Collins	Essex County Council
Emma Cooney	Southend Borough Council
Richard Dawson	East Sussex County Council
Helen Dyer	Medway Council
Steve Hewlett	Medway Council
Ben Hook	East Sussex County Council
David Hughes	Kent County Council
Tim Ingleton	Dover District Council
Stephanie Mitchener	Essex County Council
Rhiannon Mort	SELEP
Lorna Norris	Essex County Council
Ann Osola	Thurrock Council
Shaun Pottage	Port of Dover
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council
Paul Watkins	Dover District Council

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Rob Gledhill.

**3 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

None were made.

**4 A20 Junction Improvements, as part of Dover Western Docks Revival - LGF Funding Decision**

The Accountability Board (the Board) received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave (SDG), the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for A20 Junction Improvements (the Project) Business Case which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable funding to be devolved for the Project.

The Board were made aware that the project Business Case had been assessed by SDG as presenting high value for money with a medium to high certainty of achieving this.

The Board discussed the additionality gained by the early delivery of the Marina Pier from Stage 2 of the Dover Western Docks Revival Programme. The Board were informed that there is no definition of 'additionality' from by Government. SDG noted that no quantitative assessment has been completed to assess the benefits of the Marina Pier works.

Rhiannon advised that since the papers were sent out a Memorandum of Understanding in the form of a letter has been drafted by the Port of Dover for consideration, within which confirms the intention for the marina pier to be delivered as part of Stage 1 which is anticipated to be complete by 30 June 2019. In the event that the Port of Dover does not deliver the marina pier within this period (or a mutually agreed extended timeframe), the Port of Dover undertakes to fully reimburse the funds granted to it from the Local Growth Fund.

**Resolved:**

1. The Board **Considered** the additionality gained by the early delivery of the Marina Pier from stage 2 of the Dover Western Docks Revival Programme; and
2. **To approve** the allocation of £5m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to A20 Junction Improvements to support the delivery of the project as identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as achieving high value for money with medium to high certainty of achieving this.

**5 LGF Funding Approval M20 Junction 10a**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort the purpose of which was to seek Board approval for the award of Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the M20 Junction 10a project (the Project) in Ashford, Kent.

Board members spoke in support of this project and Councillor Bentley stressed that this and all schemes should be considered by the Board in terms of how they in fact improve the lives of local residents.

Councillor Carter also spoke in support of the project.

**Resolved**

1. **To Approve** the award of £8.3m LGF funding to the Project to support the Development Phase, based on the Highways England assurances

2. **To Approve** the remaining £11.4m LGF allocation to the Project to support the Construction Phase of the Project subject to:

i. Highways England providing evidence, as set out in paragraph 12.4, that a robust Value for Money assurance process has been followed and a funding decision has been made by Highways England's Investment Decision Committee (IDC) to approve the project in full; and

ii. Sufficient funds being made available to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) by Government for the future year LGF allocation to the Project.

3. **To Note** that the signing of the fund agreement to transfer £11.4m LGF from SELEP to Highways England to support the Construction Phase of the Project is subject to evidence being provided to the Board that the condition 2.1.2 (i) has been satisfied.

Geoff Miles offered his thanks on behalf of the business community for the approval of this and other schemes, which might have otherwise stalled in their deliverability, and noted the considerable amount of time it has taken for Highways England to progress the delivery of the project.

**6 Coastal Communities Housing Intervention Project - LGF Allocation**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave the purpose of which was to make the Accountability Board (the Board) aware of the value for money assessment for the Coastal Communities Housing Intervention Business Case which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable £2m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to be devolved for scheme delivery.

**Resolved**

**To Approve** the allocation of £2million LGF to the Coastal Communities Housing Intervention Project to support the delivery of the project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as achieving borderline high value

for money, but with a low to medium certainty of achieving this.

Councillor Bentley pointed out that the intervention in Essex was in fact in respect of the area of Jaywick which is in the District of Tendring.

#### **7 Stanford le Hope LGF Funding Decision**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment of the Stanford le Hope Business Case which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable funding to be devolved to Thurrock Council to enable project delivery.

#### **Resolved**

**To Approve** the allocation of £7.5m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to Stanford le Hope Transport Package to support the delivery of the project as identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting high value for money, with a medium certainty of achieving this.

#### **8 A131 Chelmsford to Braintree Route Based Strategy - LGF Funding Decision**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for the A131 Chelmsford to Braintree Route Based Strategy Business Case which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable funding to be devolved to Essex County Council to enable project delivery.

#### **Resolved**

**To Approve** the allocation of £3.66m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the A131 Chelmsford to Braintree Route Based Strategy to support the delivery of the project as identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as achieving high value for money with high certainty of achieving this.

#### **9 Kent Strategic Congestion Management Programme - LGF Funding Decision**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for the Kent Strategic Congestion Management Programme Business Case which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable funding to be devolved to Kent County Council for scheme delivery.

#### **Resolved**

**To Approve** the allocation of £800,000 Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the Kent Strategic Congestion Management Programme 2017/18 to support the delivery

of the project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting achieving borderline high value for money, but with a low to medium certainty of achieving this.

**10 Hailsham, Polegate & Eastbourne Movement and Access Transport Scheme - LGF Funding Decision**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for the Hailsham, Polegate and Eastbourne Movements and Access Corridor Project (the Project) Business Case which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable £2.1m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to be devolved to East Sussex County Council for scheme delivery.

**Resolved**

**To Approve** the allocation of £2.1million LGF to the Hailsham, Polegate and Eastbourne Movement and Access Corridor Project to support the delivery of the project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as achieving borderline high value for money, but with a low to medium certainty of achieving this.

**11 Capital Programme Management of the Local Growth Fund**

The Board received a report and presentation from Rhiannon Mort updating the Board on the latest position of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Capital Programme, as part of SELEP's Growth Deal with Government.

Councillor Bentley raised the issue of the reprofiling assurance in respect of the A127, with Rhiannon Mort confirming that this will be sought from the Department of Transport.

The Board discussed the issue of funding and stressed that SELEP should continue to lobby the Government to receive a fair allocation.

Adam Bryan advised that SELEP are currently waiting to receive full LGF programme privileges from Government. The final sign off of these flexibilities will be required from a Government Minister. Now that the SELEP Assurance Framework has been finalised, it is expected that these flexibilities should be approved shortly.

**Resolved**

1. **To Note** the updated LGF spend forecast for 2016/17
2. **To Note** the project deliverability and risk assessment;
3. **To Note** the re-profiling of £14.801m LGF spend from 2016/17 to 2017/18 for those projects identified in Tables 3 to 7 of the report;
4. **To Note** the increased LGF allocation to Tonbridge Town Centre

Regeneration (£0.103m);

5. **To Approve** the accelerated LGF spend in 2016/17 for:
  - a. East Sussex Strategic Growth Project (£0.3m) ,
  - b. A226 London Road/ B255 St Clements Way (£0.934m),
  - c. Strood Town Centre Journey Time and Accessibility Enhancements ( £0.081m),
  - d. Chatham Town Centre Place-making and Public Realm Package ( £0.120m),
  - e. Medway Cycling Action Plan (£0.100m) and
  - f. Medway City Estate Connectivity Improvement Measures (£0.157m).

## 12 **Skills Capital Programme Update**

The Board received a report from Louise Aitken providing an update on the latest position of the Skills Capital Programme. She advised that there is now in fact £3.2m unclaimed grant as this has changed from the £3.6 m which was the case at time the report was written.

Members were advised that where there is slippage, there is close workings with the colleges in question, with the case in respect of Sussex Downs College project (Minute 6 of the Board's meeting of 20 January) particularly highlighted.

### **Resolved**

1. **To Note** the updated spend forecast for 2016/17
2. **To Note** the project delivery and risk assessment
3. **To Note** potential slippage of funds to next financial year

## 13 **Date of Next Meeting**

The Board noted that the next meeting will take place on Friday 31 March 2017.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 11am

**Chairman**