
Summary of decisions taken at a meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held in High House Production Park Vellacott Close, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1RJ on Friday, 13 September 2019

Published on Friday 13th September 2019. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Wednesday 18th September 2019 it can then be implemented.

Please note that this is a summary of decisions taken at the meeting only. A full account of proceedings will appear in the minutes of the meeting which will be published on the Council's website by Tuesday 1st October 2019.

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Present:

Geoff Miles	Chair
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Mike Whiting	Kent County Council
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Council
Cllr Rupert Simmons	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend Borough Council
Graham Razey	Further Education/Skills representative
Lucy Druesne	Higher Education representative.

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The following apologies were received:

- Councillor Paul Carter (substituted by Councillor Mike Whiting)
- Councillor Keith Glazier (substituted by Councillor Rupert Simmons)

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 7th June were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3 Questions from the Public

There were none.

4 Declarations of Interest

As a private businessman, Geoff Miles declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 11 (Growing Places Fund Update).

He advised of his intention to step out of the room whilst agenda item 11 was discussed and it was confirmed that Lucy Druesne would chair this item.

Councillor Rupert Simmons declared a code interest in respect of agenda item 11 (Growing Places Fund update) as he is a Director of Sea Change. In light of this non-pecuniary code interest, Cllr Simmons remained in the room during agenda item 11 but did not participate in the discussion.

Graham Razey declared, that as CEO of the EKC Group, who have been named as the preferred solution for Ashford College as part of the further education commissioner's recommendations to the education administrators. The £11m grant from SELEP was for the development of a new campus, Ashford College. This asset would transfer to EKC Group if EKC Group agrees a deal with the education administrators.

5 USP College, Benfleet LGF funding decision

The Accountability Board (the Board) received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Capital Programme Officer, and a presentation from Steer the purpose which was for the Board to consider the award of £900,000 LGF to the delivery of the USP College Centre of Excellence for Digital Technologies and Immersive Learning, Benfleet, Essex (the Project). This project has been identified by the Investment Panel as a priority through the LGF3b pipeline development process.

Resolved:

To Agree the award of £900,000 LGF to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting high value for money (estimated) with high certainty of achieving this.

6 Bexhill Creative Workspace, East Sussex LGF funding decision

The Accountability Board (the Board) received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Capital Programme Officer, and a presentation from Steer the purpose which was for the Board to consider the award of £960,000 LGF to the delivery of the Bexhill Creative Workspace project (the Project). This project has been identified by the Investment Panel as a priority through the LGF3b pipeline development process.

Resolved:

To Agree the award of £960,000 LGF to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting high value for money with medium to high certainty of achieving this.

7 Tilbury Riverside Business Centre Expansion LGF Funding Decision

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort SELEP Capital Programme Manager, and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the award of £2.360m LGF to the delivery of the Tilbury Riverside Business Centre Expansion (the Project), Thurrock. This Project has been identified by the SELEP Investment Panel as a priority through the LGF3b pipeline development process.

Resolved:

To Agree the award of £2.360m LGF to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting high value for money with medium to high certainty of achieving this.

8 Medway City Estate LGF funding decision

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was to bring forward the revised scope of the Medway City Estate (the Estate) connectivity improvements project (the Project) for a funding decision by the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. To Approve** the change of scope for the Project which was been assessed by the ITE as presenting high value for money with high certainty of this being achieved.
- 2. To Note** the change of project outputs as details in section 4 of the report.
- 3. To Note** the reallocation of £200,000 LGF from the Strood Town Centre Improvement to the Project.

9 A131 Braintree to Sudbury LGF Funding Decision

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was to bring forward the revised scope of the A131 Braintree to Sudbury Project (the Project) for a funding decision by the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. To Approve** the change of scope for the Project which has been assessed by the ITE as presenting high value for money with high certainty of achieving this, subject to confirmation from Essex County Council by the 31st January 2020, that the S106 contributions are in place to deliver the Project; and
- 2. To Note** the change of project outcomes as detailed in section 6 of the report.

10 Capital Programme Management of the Local Growth Fund

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the latest position of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Capital Programme, as part of SELEP's Growth Deal with Government.

Resolved:

- 1. To Agree** the changes to 2019/20 LGF spend forecast, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
- 2. To Note** deliverability and risk assessment, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

11 Growing Places Fund update

Geoff Miles left the room due to his previously made declaration of interest. This item was chaired by Lucy Druesne as the Vice Chair.

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Capital Programme Officer, the purpose of which was to update the Board on the latest position of the Growing Places Fund (GPF) Capital Programme.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the updated position on the GPF programme;
2. **To Approve** the amended repayment schedule for the Sovereign Harbour Project.

12 Discovery Park Growing Places Update Report

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, the purpose of which was to provide the Accountability Board with an update on the delivery of the Discovery Park project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** the updated repayment schedule for the Project, as set out in Table 2 of the report; and
2. **To Note** the intention for Kent County Council to seek a legal charge over the development to ensure the completion of the Project and the timely repayments of the GPF, as per the profile in Table 2 of the report; and
3. **To Agree** that if Kent County Council have not entered into a legal agreement with the project promoter by 31 January 2020, the GPF must be returned in 2019/20 to Essex County Council, as the Accountable Body for SELEP, for investment in new GPF pipeline projects; and
4. **To Agree** that before entering into a legal agreement with the Midos Group for the transfer of the loan, Kent County Council must provide the SELEP Accountable Body with confirmation that:
 - 4.1. The £5.3m loan will only be spent on capital; and
 - 4.2. the expenditure of the GPF does not constitute as State Aid; and
 - 4.3. the GPF will be spent on contracts which are competitively procured in accordance with the UK and EU procurement guidelines and regulations, to the extent reasonably expected by a private sector company.

13 SELEP Operations Update

The Board received a report from Suzanne Bennett Chief Operating Officer, the purpose of which was for the Board to be updated on the operational activities within the Secretariat to support both this Board and the Strategic Board. The report included a financial update on the revenue budget by the Accountable Body, an update on risk management and updates on items of governance.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the current forecast underspend of £301,000 against total revenue budget for 2019/20, and that this is offset by an equivalent reduction in the planned drawdown in reserves;
2. **To Note** the risk register at Appendix A of the report; and
3. **To Note** the update on the LEP Review and Assurance Framework

14 A13 Widening Interim Report

The Board received a report (Appendix 1 was considered under Exempt items) from Anna Eastgate, Thurrock Council which was presented by Rhiannon Mort, the purpose of which was to provide the Board with an interim update on the A13 widening project (the Project), as a consequence of new information which could affect the delivery of the Project.

Resolved:

To Note the interim update report on the A13 widening Project

15 Future meeting dates

The Board noted that the next meetings will take place on Friday 15th November 2019 and Friday 14th February 2020 at High House Production Park.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.02 pm

16 Exclusion of the Public

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

17 A13 Widening CONFIDENTIAL Appendix 1

The Board considered A13 Widening Report CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 1

Chairman