

Changes to Local Assurance Framework

Current wording

K.5. There are two groups external to, but critical to SELEP's successful discharge of its duties and will therefore continue to be resourced. These are:

- K.5.1. the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) sub-committee, administered by Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government for the discharge of European funding in the SELEP area;
- K.5.2. the Thames Gateway Strategic Group, which incorporates South Essex, North Kent and East London, continues to meet to progress the delivery of Government policy objectives in the area and continues to benefit from special ministerial attention.

Y. MANAGING PROJECT SLIPPAGE
 Y.1. Capital Grant Programme
 Y.1.1. Through effective management...

Proposed update

K.5. There are **three** groups external to, but critical to SELEP's successful discharge of its duties and will therefore continue to be resourced. These are:

- K.5.1. the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) sub-committee, administered by Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government for the discharge of European funding in the SELEP area;
- K.5.2. the Thames Gateway Strategic Group, which incorporates South Essex, North Kent and East London, continues to meet to progress the delivery of Government policy objectives in the area and continues to benefit from special ministerial attention.
- K.5.3. the Freeport East Board where SELEP has an important advisory role in the operation of the Freeport which aims to be a significant driver of growth, jobs, and innovation in the region. SELEP representation on the Freeport Board will ensure the strategic priorities of the partnership and wider needs of local businesses are represented and considered.**

Y. MANAGING PROJECT SLIPPAGE
Y.1. LGF
Y.1.1. Through effective management...

Y.3. GBF
Y.3.1. Funding cannot slip beyond the stated end date of 31 March 2022 unless agreed by the Accountability Board. The risk of clawback will be passed by SELEP and the Accountable Body to the upper tier authorities via a Grant Agreement, the risk will not be borne by SELEP or the Accountable Body.
Y.3.2. In July 2021, the Accountability Board agreed that GBF funding could be retained against projects subject to certain criteria and conditions being satisfied. The agreed criteria and conditions were as follows:

- i. The maximum extension offered to a GBF project is 6 months, to 30 September 2022.**
- ii. Only projects which have been delayed by external factors which could not have been foreseen at the time of Business Case development can be considered for retention of GBF funding beyond 31 March 2022. External**

factors could relate to the impact of external agencies (i.e., Network Rail or Central Government departments) or failure of suppliers/contractors to deliver in accordance with an agreed programme.

- iii. Projects must demonstrate that they meet the following six conditions before the Board will be asked to consider approving retention of GBF funding beyond 31 March 2022:
- iv. Provision of a clear delivery plan with specific delivery milestones and completion date to be agreed by the Board;
- v. Confirmation that all funding sources identified to enable delivery of the Project are in place and provision of an updated GBF spend profile;
- vi. Written confirmation that all planning requirements will be met by 31 December 2021;
- vii. Confirmation that contractual commitments will be in place with the construction contractor by 31 January 2022;
- viii. Confirmation that the total project cost and the project benefits remain unchanged ensuring that the Project continues to offer High value for money;
- ix. Endorsement from Strategic Board that the funding should be retained against the Project beyond 31 March 2022.
- x. Any projects which receive approval from the Accountability Board to retain their GBF funding beyond 31 March 2022 will provide updates at each subsequent Accountability Board meeting to demonstrate that the project remains on track to meet the agreed extended GBF spend deadline.

Y.3.3. It was recommended to the Board in July 2021 that, should any projects not meet the criteria outlined at Y.3.2. seek an extension to GBF spend beyond 31 March 2022, the Accountability Board agree that the funding be reallocated to alternative projects on the GBF pipeline which can meet the conditions and criteria at Y.3.2.