
Summary of decisions taken at a meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held online on Friday, 12 March 2021

Published on Friday 12th March 2021. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Wednesday 17th March 2021 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 30th March 2021.

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Present:

Sarah Dance	Chair
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend Borough Council
Cllr Rob Gledhill	Thurrock Council

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The following apologies were received:

- Rosemary Nunn
- Simon Cook

2 Minutes of the last meeting

An amendment was proposed to the minutes of the previous meeting to make clear the request for a lessons learnt report and the rationale for this work being required.

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 12th February were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the amendment being made as proposed.

3 Declarations of Interest

Sarah Dance declared a non-pecuniary interest as the co-chair of Thames Estuary Production Corridor.

4 Questions from the public

There were none.

5 Getting Building Fund funding decision

The Accountability Board (the Board) received a report from Katherine Wyatt, SELEP Capital Programme Officer and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the award of £1,113,204 Getting Building Fund (GBF) to the Laindon Place Project (£790,000) and St George's Creative Hub project (£323,204).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** the award of £323,204 GBF to the St George's Creative Hub project which has been assessed as presenting high value for money with low/medium certainty
2. **To Agree** the award of £790,000 GBF to the Laindon Place project which has been assessed as presenting high value for money with low/medium certainty, subject to written confirmation by Essex County Council, to confirm:
 - 2.1. Essex Highways have approved the public realm works; and
 - 2.2. The S73 application has been approved for the installation of the electric vehicle charging points.

6 GBF (Getting Building Fund) Update

The Board received a report from Katherine Wyatt the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the overall position of the Getting Building Fund (GBF) capital programme.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** that the Swan Modular Housing Factory Project has met three of four conditions of funding, as detailed in section 6.4 of the report
2. **To Agree** that the final condition against the Swan Modular Housing Factory Project, for the scheme promoters to obtain BOPAS accreditation of the steel fabrication process, should be removed.
3. **To Agree** a further extension of time to the time available for the Jaywick Market and Commercial Space to gain full planning consents to the end of July 2021
4. **To Note** the current forecast spend for the GBF programme for 2020/21 financial year of £20.4 million

7 Growing Places Fund funding decisions

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Capital Programme Officer the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the award of £4.5m Growing Places Fund (GPF) funding to the two projects (the Projects) detailed in Appendix B of the report. These projects were included in the GPF project pipeline agreed by Strategic Board on 12 June 2020.

Resolved:

To approve the award of:

1. £1m GPF by way of a loan to support the delivery of the No Use Empty South Essex project, as set out in Appendix C, which has been assessed as offering High value for money with High certainty of achieving this; and
2. £3.5m GPF by way of a loan to support the delivery of the Herne Relief Road – Bullockstone Road Improvement Scheme project, as set out in Appendix D, which has been assessed as offering High value for money with Low/Medium certainty of achieving this. Noting that the funding will be transferred in two tranches, with the second tranche (£1.4m) dependent upon a successful outcome of the ongoing planning appeal. If the planning appeal is unsuccessful, the value of the GPF loan will be reduced to £2.1m (tranche 1 only).

8 M11 Junction 8 Project

The Board received a report from Howard Davies, SELEP Capital Programme Officer, the purpose of which was to provide an update to the Accountability Board (the Board) on the delivery of the M11 Junction 8 project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** the award of an additional £1 million Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the Project which has been assessed as presenting high value for money and high certainty of being achieved; and
2. **To Note** that Essex County Council has now provided confirmation through the S.151 Officer that the full funding package is in place for the Project.

9 Queensway Gateway Road Project Update

The Board received a report (Appendix B was considered under Exempt items) from Richard Dawson, Head of Service - Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure, East Sussex County Council and Helen Dyer, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive a further update on the delivery of the Queensway Gateway Road project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the latest position on the delivery of the Project; and
2. **To Agree** that an update will be provided to Strategic Board in June 2021 to make them aware of the issues faced by the Project; and
3. **To Agree** that the Board will be provided with a further update on the Project, which sets out a clear delivery plan and associated milestones, at its meeting on 10th September 2021.

10 Bexhill Enterprise Park North project update

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive a further update on the delivery of the Queensway Gateway Road project (the Project).

The Board were advised that unfortunately the outcome of the planning process was still unknown.

Resolved:

To Approve the transfer of the outstanding allocation of £1.5m as a ring-fenced grant with a condition that all funding for the Project (£1.94m) must be returned within 4 weeks of notice of an unsuccessful planning appeal or by 1 September 2021 if full consents are not in place by that date.

11 A28 Sturry Link Road Project Update

The Board received a report (Appendix A was considered under Exempt items) from Rhiannon Mort, Capital Programme Manager, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive an update on the delivery of the A28 Sturry Link Road project (the Project), Canterbury, Kent.

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** that LGF spend on the project remains on hold and the £4.656m LGF currently held by Essex County Council, as Accountable Body, continues to be held by the Accountable Body at the end of the 2020/21 financial year.
2. **To Agree** that planning consent must be in place for the Project by 1 September 2021
3. **To Agree** that a further update is provided to the Board on 2 July 2021 to set out the latest position of the Project.

12 A13 Widening LGF Funding Decision

Anna Eastgate, Assistant Director Lower Thames Crossing & Transport Infrastructure Projects, Thurrock Council and Rhiannon Mort SELEP Capital Programme Manager, SELEP the purpose of which was to provide an update to the Board on the delivery of the A13 widening project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** the award of an additional £1.5m LGF to the Project;
2. **To Note** that significant progress has been made since the last update and the project is entering the last 12 months of construction.

13 Kent and Medway EDGE Hub – LGF funding decision

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the award of additional Local Growth Fund to the Kent and Medway EDGE hub project

Resolved:

To Agree the award of an additional £901,128 to the Kent and Medway Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise Hub project which has been assessed as offering High value for money with High certainty of achieving this;

14 Local Growth Fund Additional Funding Award

This item was not considered by the Board, as no funding was made available to award to the projects listed in the report.

15 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting will take place on Friday 2nd July 2021 the venue to be confirmed.

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 Queensway Gateway Road Project CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX B

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);

Chair