

AGENDA ITEM 5

Report to Accountability Board	Forward Plan reference number: FP/AB/045 FP/AB/037
Date of Accountability Board Meeting: 24 th June 2016 Date of report: 15 th June 2016	
Title of report: Capital Programme Management Update	
Report by: Adam Bryan	
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to:

- Present recommendations for amendments to the capital programme, including a reallocation of funding from Westenhanger Lorry Park Scheme and a change of scope to the A26 London Road/Speldhurst Road/ Yew Tree Road Junction scheme.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Board is asked to:

- **APPROVE** the re-allocation of £3m Local Growth Fund project from Westenhanger Lorry Park project to fund Ashford International Rail Connectivity (Ashford Spurs) Project;
- **APPROVE** the removal of Westenhanger Lorry Park project from the SELEP LGF programme;
- **APPROVE** the proposed change of scope to the A26 London Road/Speldhurst Road/ Yew Tree Road Junction LGF scheme to become Tunbridge Wells Junction Improvements Project; and
- Subsequently **RECOMMEND** the proposed variations to Government
- These recommendations are made on the condition that a value for money assessment is undertaken for the following schemes by the ITE and are assessed as presenting high value for money and demonstrate medium to high certainty of achieving this:
 - Ashford International Rail Connectivity (Ashford Spurs) Project
 - Tunbridge Wells Junction Improvements Project

3. Supporting Detail

In support of this paper, appendices contain:

- Appendix 1: Full Report: Ashford Spurs Proposal
- Appendix 2: Full Report: Tunbridge Wells Junction Improvements Proposal

4. Background

Kent and Medway Economic Partnership are seeking variances to two projects currently funded under LGF Round 2.

- **Ashford Spurs Proposal**

LGF Round 2 had provisionally allocated funding to both Westenhanger Lorry Park (£3m) and Ashford International Rail Connectivity project (£2m). The Government has since confirmed plans to invest in a large scale Lorry Area, and there is now no requirement for funds allocated to Westenhanger Lorry Park. Instead, it is sought that this funding is re-allocated to the Ashford International Rail Connectivity project to help bridge the funding gap. It is expected that this additional allocation would attract further capital investment to the scheme. Full details are outlined in the attached appendix.

- **Tunbridge Wells Junction Improvements Proposal**

LGF Round 2 had allocated £1.8 million to the delivery of the Yew Tree Road/Speldhurst Road/A26 junction improvement scheme in Tunbridge Wells, aimed to ease congestion and facilitate growth. Since its original scoping, the scheme was refined and delivered more cost effectively, to the tune of £600k in February/March 2016. To unlock further benefits, this proposal seeks to amend the project scope to create a second phase of transport infrastructure improvements to tackle congestion and support economic and housing growth in the town. Full details are outlined in the attached appendix.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no funding implications arising from the recommendations in this report as no new funding is being requested; we are simply looking to re-profile existing Local Growth Funding to different projects.
- 5.2. To meet with the requirements of the SELEP Assurance Framework it will be necessary to ensure that any decision to allocate additional or new Local Growth Funding to a project is supported by a business case review and value for money assessment by the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE).
- 5.3. It is advised by the Accountable Body that the decision to transfer an additional £3m of funding to the Ashford International Rail Connectivity (Ashford Spurs) Project should be reviewed by the Accountability Board should the project not be successful in gaining the required funding to meet the remaining anticipated £4.8m funding gap for this project.

6. Legal Implications

6.1. None at present

7. Staffing and other resource implications

7.1. None

8. Equality and Diversity implications

8.1. None

9. List of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Full Report: Decision to agree the reallocation of £3m Local Growth Fund from Westenhanger Lorry Park to Ashford International Rail Connectivity Project.
- Appendix 2: Full Report: A26 London Road/Speldhurst Road/ Yew Tree Road Junction Project Change of Scope

(available at www.essex.gov.uk if not circulated with this report)

10. List of Background Papers

10.1. None

(Any request for any background papers listed here should be made to the person named at the front of the report who will be able to help with any enquiries)

Role	Date
Accountable Body sign off	16 June 2016
Lorna Norris	
On behalf of Margaret Lee	