

Minutes of the meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held in High House Production Park Vellacott Close, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1RJ on Friday, 12 April 2019

Present:

Geoff Miles	Chair
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 Rob Gledhill	Thurrock Council
Cllr John Lamb	Southend Borough Council
Lucy Druesne	Higher Education representative
Paul Sayers	Further Education/Skills representative

ALSO PRESENT Having signed the attendance book

Suzanne Bennett	SELEP
Adam Bryan	SELEP
Edmund Cassidy	Steer
Paul Cale	Kent County Council
Kim Cole	Essex County Council (Legal representative for the Accountable Body)
Helen Dyer	SELEP
Jessica Jagpal	Medway Council
Joel John	Essex County Council
Stephanie Mitchener	Essex County Council (as delegated S151 Officer for the Accountable Body)
Rhiannon Mort	SELEP
Lorna Norris	Essex County Council
Andy Rayfield	MAXIM
Tim Rignall	Southend Borough Council
Paul Rogers	Thurrock Council
Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Council
Matthew Waldie	Essex County Council
Amy Wharton	SELEP

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Board welcomed back Lucy Druesne, as Higher Education representative, following a year of parental leave.

The Board were informed that Graham Razey would now be the Further Education representative. Paul Sayers, from East Kent College Group, attended this meeting as Graham Razey's substitute.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 15th February 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of Interest

As a private Businessman, Geoff Miles declared a pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 13.

He advised of his intention to step out of the room whilst agenda item 13 (Growing Places Fund Update) was discussed; and it was confirmed that Lucy Druesne would chair this item.

4 Questions from the Public

There were none.

5 Thanet Parkway LGF funding decision

The Accountability Board (the Board) received a report from Helen Dyer, Capital Programme Officer which was presented by Rhiannon Mort SELEP Capital Programme Manager, and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the award of £14m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the Thanet Parkway Project, as detailed in the Project Business Case.

Cllr Carter pointed out that the figures used by Steer did not reflect the real situation in this area; this project would create a significant part in the regeneration of the East Kent peninsula. He added that he wanted to get on with the project and not delay further, as the process of getting new rolling stock into service took six years from the placing of the order. Other members agreed that Network Rail needed to be more positive in developing these schemes.

It was agreed that Rhiannon Mort should write to the Department for Transport on behalf of the Board, expressing members' concerns. She would circulate a draft electronically.

It was also agreed that, once the financial conditions were satisfied (probably in June/July), the project could proceed, and not be delayed till the September Board meeting.

Resolved:

1. To **Approve** the award of £14m 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 certainty of achieving this, subject to written

confirmation from Kent County Council S151 officer, following completion of GRIP Stage 4, to confirm:

- 1.1 That the total cost estimate for the Project does not exceed those set out in section 8 of the report; and
- 1.2. That all funding has been secured to enable the delivery of the Project.

2. To **Note** that no LGF can be drawn down or spent on the Project until the funding conditions have been satisfied.

6 Kent Sustainable Interventions Programme update

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, the purpose of which to make the Board aware of the latest progress in the delivery of the annual programme of works covered under the Kent Sustainable Interventions Programme (the Programme).

The particular issue of how to reallocate funding underspend was raised. It was pointed out that to permit reallocation of underspend to other projects, rather than to return it to SELEP for pipeline projects, would set a precedent. This was noted but it was agreed that any such determination should be made on a case by case basis.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the progress in delivering the Programme and the individual schemes that have been delivered each year.

2. **To Agree** that the Sloe Lane, Thanet scheme will not be taken forward as part of the Programme, which will result in a total of £200,000 LGF being available for alternative investment:

3. **To Note** that the following two schemes will not be taken forward as part of the LGF programme as they have been delivered through alternative funding, which will result in £250,000 LGF being available for alternative investment:

- (1) A2070 Barrey Road - £150,000;
- (2) Highfield Lane, Mersham - £100,000

4 **To Note** the following schemes which have been delivered under budget, and therefore the availability of £174,000 LGF underspend from the following:

- (1) Cinque Ports phase 2/3/4 (£36,000);
- (2) Morants Court (£3,000);
- (3) Kent Spa and Castle Ride (£9,000);
- (4) Forward design of future Programme schemes (£126,000)

5. **To Note** the reallocation of £25,500 LGF from the LGF schemes identified in 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of the report to the following schemes which have been approved within the scope of the Programme:

- (1) Morehall to Folkestone (£20,000);
- (2) A228 Holborough (£5,500)

As the changes to the LGF allocations to specific interventions sit below the 10% threshold, the Board is only asked to note this change.

6. **To Agree** the proposal for the net £599,000 underspend from the Programme to be combined with the remaining £432,000 allocation to the Programme to deliver the following schemes in 2019/20 and 2020/21, considered for approval under agenda item 7.

- (1) Maidstone East redevelopment expansion (£650,000)
- (2) Week Street/County Road raised table (£381,000)

This is subject to the approval of Maidstone East redevelopment expansion and Week Street/County Road raised table under agenda item 7.

7 **Kent Sustainable Interventions Programme LGF funding decision**

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Capital Programme Officer, which was presented by Rhiannon Mort and presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was for the Board to support the delivery of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Kent Sustainable Interventions Programme (the Project) as part of the wider Kent Sustainable Interventions Programme. The Project has been considered by through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) review process, to enable £1.031m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to be devolved to Kent County Council for Project delivery.

It was suggested that, to avoid the need to underwrite any further risk, any potential overspend should be design engineered out of the project as it proceeds.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** that a Project has been brought forward for the award of £1.031m LGF, of which £432,000 LGF has been provisionally allocated to the Programme but has not be drawn down to date and a further £599,000 LGF has been identified as underspend from previous phases of the Programme.
2. **To Agree** the award of £1.031m 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 low/medium certainty of achieving this, with the Board agreeing, under agenda item 6, that the £599,000 LGF underspend from previous phases of the programme should remain allocated to the Programme.

8 Kent Strategic Congestion Management Programme 2019/20 funding decision

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was to ask the Board to consider the award of £1.127m Local Growth Fund (LGF) the Kent Strategic Congestion Management Programme 2019/20 (the Project) which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process, to be devolved to Kent County Council for scheme delivery.

It was noted that the bulk of the overall funding had been already agreed, but each year had to present a business case, to specify the projects. There were concerns voiced about the way that local authorities had to deal with problems on roads managed by Highways England.

It was also suggested that the Government should be looking to provide funding for infrastructure to major ports, particularly in the face of Brexit.

Resolved:

To Approve the allocation of £1.127m LGF to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as achieving high value for money with a low to medium certainty of achieving this.

9 Maidstone Integrated Transport Package LGF funding decision

The Board received a report by Rhiannon Mort, the purpose of which was for the Board consider the project change which has been brought in relation to Phase 1 of the Maidstone Integrated Transport Project (the Project). This involves a revised project scope and an additional LGF ask of £700,000.

In addition, the Board were asked to consider the award of a further £4.2m to Phase 3 of the Project.

Resolved:

1. **To Approve** the change of scope for Phase 1 of the Project, as set out in section 5 of the report;
2. **To Approve** the award of an additional £700,000 to the Phase 1 Project, as set out in section 6 of the report. This funding is being reallocated from Phase 3;
3. **To Approve** the award of £4.2m LGF to Phase 3 of the Project.

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.

There was some discussion about how potential projects were taken through the system. It was noted that there were often delays caused by third parties, and

that the lack of certainty over government funding might lead to projects failing in midstream. It was suggested that the statistics regarding delays should be reviewed at the next Board meeting, creating hard evidence of the Board's concerns that could be communicated to Government.

It was also noted that the statistics as presented gave a potentially misleading picture of house building, so should be presented with a suitable caveat.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the updated LGF spend forecast for 2019/20, as set out in section 2 of the report.
2. **To Note** deliverability and risk assessment, as set out in section 5 of the report.
3. **To Note** the inclusion of nine new LGF3b projects within the LGF capital programme, as set out in Section 4 of the report.
4. **To Note** the changes to 2018/19 LGF spend forecast, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report. The financial end of year position will be reported to the Board in September 2019.
5. **To Agree** the changes to 2019/20 LGF spend forecast, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
6. **To Agree** the removal of the A2 Wincheap Off-Slip project from the Growth Deal programme and the reallocation of the £4.4m LGF provisional allocation to the project through the LGF3b process, as detailed in section 7 of the report.
7. **To agree** the removal of the Chelmsford Flood Alleviation project from the Growth Deal programme and the reallocation of the £800,000 LGF provisional allocation to the project through the LGF3b process, as detailed in section 8 of the report.

11 Innovation Park Medway – LGF3b update

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the updated Independent Technical Evaluation in relation to the deliverability of the proposed LGF3b Innovation Park Medway (northern site) – Extended Enabling Infrastructure project (the Project).

It was noted that the aim was to bring the revised business plan to the Board at its September meeting.

Resolved:

To Agree that Medway Council have satisfactorily addressed the deliverability concerns raised by the ITE in their initial assessment of the Project, which was presented to Investment Panel on 8th March 2019; having done so, Medway Council will be required to bring forward an updated Business case to satisfy the ITE process prior to a Board decision to award the funding to the Project.

12 A13 widening update

The Board received a report from Paul Rogers, Programme Manager Major Schemes, Thurrock Council, the purpose of which was to provide the Board with an update on the A13 widening project (the Project).

The importance of community engagement was noted, and it was also pointed out that local people were more positive about the project, as they were now able to see actual changes being made.

Resolved:

To Note the update set out within the report on the A13 widening Project

13 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 Note** the accelerated repayment schedule for the Bexhill Business Mall Project;
3. **To Note** the amended draw down schedule for the Colchester Northern Gateway Project;
4. **To Note** the amended draw down schedule for the Eastbourne Fisherman's Quayside and infrastructure development Project.

14 SELEP Operations update

The Board received a report from Suzanne Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, the purpose of which was for the Board to note the operational planning within the Secretariat to support both this Board and the Strategic Board.

Noted were the results of the Annual Performance Review, by the Cities and Local Growth Team in Central Government:

- Governance - Good
- Deliverability - Good
- Strategy – Needs Improvement (need to move quicker on Local Industrial Strategy)

An action plan will now be produced, to demonstrate how SELEP intends to address this Strategy point. Once this is signed off by Jake Berry MP, the Under-Secretary of State, it will be brought to the next Board meeting.

The importance of restating the Board's legal position and modus operandi was noted; and it was imperative for the Board to receive written recognition of its legal status from the Government as soon as possible. This had been requested for some time and it was hoped that the release of civil servants from Brexit duties would expedite this.

The Chairman encouraged members to make their MPs aware of any ongoing issues.

Resolved:

1. To **Note** the operational plan for 2019/20 at Appendix A of the report;
2. To **Note** the risk register at Appendix B of the report;
3. To **Note** the financial update; and
4. To **Note** the Assurance Framework Implementation Plan at Appendix D of the report.

15 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting will take place on Friday 7th June 2019 at High House Production Park.

The Chair wished Cllr Lamb well for the future, as this was his last Board meeting.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.05 pm

Chairman