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**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, 17 November 2017**

Published on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

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**Present:**

Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Cllr Mark Dance	Kent County Council
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Council
Cllr David Elkin	East Sussex County Council
Cllr John Lamb	Southend Borough Council
Angela O'Donoghue	FE & Skills
Lucy Druesne	Higher Education representative

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The following apologies were received:

Geoff Miles – Angela O'Donoghue chaired the meeting in his absence.

Councillor Paul Carter (Substituted by Councillor Mark Dance)

Councillor Keith Glazier (Substituted by Councillor David Elkin)

Councillor Rob Gledhill.

**2 Minutes**

In relation to Minute 5 (LGF Governance Arrangements), Cllr Mark Dance provided the following statement.

*“Paul Carter has asked that I raise the reference to the LGF Governance Arrangements paper. The relevant minutes can be found on page 14 of the board papers.*

*Paul recalls at the last meeting, there was a significant debate about where federated boards should have the flexibility to reallocate underspends with a value of 10% of the federated board's programme, rather than 10% per project. The SELEP team were to go away and see if this change could be made.*

*I'm told that the Accountability Board were content to note the process for the use of LGF underspends, however it also "resolved to re-examine the LGF Governance Policy (and specifically the management of LGF underspend) at the first SELEP Accountability Board meeting following the annual LEP review".*

*Please could this action be included in the minutes, and added to the December agenda."*

Rhiannon Mort confirmed that the Board had agreed the recommendation of the report to:

- **Note** the process set out in to the SELEP Assurance Framework for the use of LGF underspends; and
- **Agree** the process for the inclusion of new LGF projects in the SELEP LGF Capital Programme.

Rhiannon Mort confirmed that the SELEP Assurance Framework currently states that there is 10% flexibility per project, but that the Assurance Framework is reviewed on an annual basis and is due to be considered at the SELEP Strategic Board on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017. In reviewing the SELEP Assurance Framework consideration will be given as to whether the 10% flexibility per project remains appropriate.

In relation to Minute 14 (SELEP Revenue Funding Budget Update) ,Cllr Mark Dance raised that Paul Carter had recorded that the upper-tier and unitary authority leaders had asked SELEP to create a contingency plan as all local authorities had less funding this year, and therefore would have to consider reducing their funding allocation to SELEP in 18/19."

Adam Bryan confirmed that a letter had been written to Jake Berry MP to call for a level of SELEP core funding from Government which is proportionate to the size of our LEP and certainty of this funding for future financial years. A 2018/19 secretariat revenue budget will be brought to the next Board meeting for a decision.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September were thereafter agreed as a correct record and signed on behalf of the Chairman.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bentley declared a personal Business Interest in respect agenda item 8 (Mercury Theatre Funding Decision)

Angela O'Donoghue, as Principal and Chief Executive of South Essex College, declared an interest in respect of agenda item 11(LGF Capital Programme Update Report), decision to note the change request for the Phase 2 Forum development Southend, subject to development of a Business Case and completion of ITE review process.

**4 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**5 A133 Colchester to Clacton Funding Decision**

The Accountability Board (the Board) received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave, the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for the A133 Colchester to Clacton Project (the Project) which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) review process to enable £2.74m funding to be devolved to Essex County Council for scheme delivery.

**Resolved:**

**To Approve** the award of £2.74m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting very high value for money with high certainty of achieving this.

**6 M11 Junction 8 Funding Decision**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave, the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for M11 Junction 8 (the Project) which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) review process, to enable £2.734m funding to be devolved to Essex County Council for Project delivery.

**Resolved:**

**To Approve** the award of £2.734m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting very high value for money with high certainty of achieving this.

**7 A414 Chelmsford to Harlow Funding Decision**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave, the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for A414 Chelmsford to Harlow Project (the Project) which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable £2.173m funding to be devolved to Essex County Council for scheme delivery.

Whilst the Project was originally allocated £3.66m through LFG Round 1, a Business Case has been brought forward for the allocation £2.173m. Section 6 of this report sets out the proposed re-allocation of funding from the A414 Chelmsford to Harlow Project to the Mercury Theatre and the A414 Pinch Point Package.

**Resolved:**

**To Approve** the award of £2.173m Local Growth Fund (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 Mercury Theatre Funding decision

Councillor Bentley left the meeting for the duration of this item.

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave, the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of the value for money assessment for Mercury Rising Theatre Project (Project) in Colchester, Essex which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process to enable £1m LGF to be devolved to Essex County Council for scheme delivery.

### Resolved:

1. **To Note** the risk that:
  - a. the proposed funding contribution from the Mercury Theatre has not been secured in full; and
  - b. the proposed funding contribution from the Arts Council England is due to be considered on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
2. **To Approve** the inclusion of the Mercury Rising Theatre Project in the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Growth Deal Programme; and
3. **To Approve** the award of £1m LGF, identified through the reduction in allocation of LGF to the A414 Chelmsford to Harlow Project, to Mercury Theatre Project to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting achieving high value for money with medium certainty, subject to:

Written confirmation of the proposed funding contribution from Arts Council England being received, as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of the report

## 9 Sandwich Rail Infrastructure Funding Decision

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort and a presentation from Steer Davies Gleave, The purpose of which was to seek Board approval for the inclusion and award of £1,025,745 Local Growth Fund (LGF) to The Open 2020 Championship Rail Infrastructure Project (the Project) at Sandwich Railway Station, Kent.

### Resolved:

1. **To Approve** the inclusion of the Project into the LGF Programme;

2. **To Approve** the award of £1,025,745 LGF, identified from the underspend and reallocation of LGF from Ashford International Connectivity Project, to support the delivery of the permanently in situ solution as identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting high value for money with medium certainty of achieving this. This award is subject to:

1. The underspend from the Ashford Spurs project being confirmed\*; and
2. Confirmation from the R&A that the event will be hosted at Royal St George's on at least 3 occasions on a 7-8 years cycle; and
3. Written confirmation from the DfT and R&A that their funding contributions have been committed.

\* This was confirmed at the meeting.

#### 10 **A13 Widening project update**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, the purpose of which was to provide Board) with an update on the A13 widening project.

##### **Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the update report; and
2. **To Agree** to the acceleration of Department for Transport (DfT) retained funding on the A13 widening scheme in advance of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) A13 widening development funding

#### 11 **LGF Capital Programme Update Report**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort updating the Board on the latest position of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Capital Programme, as part of SELEP's Growth Deal with Government.

##### **Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the updated LGF spend forecast for 2017/18
2. **To Note** the project delivery and risk assessment
3. **To Agree** the slippage of LGF spend from 2017/18 to 2018/19 for the following projects:
  - a. Eastbourne Town Centre (£1.945m);
  - b. STEM Innovation Centre (£4.550m);
  - c. Basildon Integrated Transport Package (£1.068m)
  - d. Maidstone Integrated Transport Package (£0.729m);
  - e. Thanet Parkway (£4.000m);
  - f. Coastal Communities Housing Intervention – Thanet (£0.370m);
  - g. A289 Four Elms Roundabout to Medway Tunnel Journey Time and Network Improvements (£1.768m)

- h. Strood Town Centre Journey Time and Accessibility Enhancements (£1.220m);
- i. Chatham Town Centre Place-making and Public Realm Package (0.869m);
- j. Rochester Airport – Phase 1 (£1.944m);
- k. Rochester Airport – Phase 2 (£0.300m); and
- l. Strood Civic Centre – flood mitigation (£0.250m)
- m. TGSE LSTF – Thurrock (£0.169m);
- n. Thurrock Cycle Network (£0.620m);
- o. London Gateway/Stanford le Hope (£0.837m)
- p. A13 Widening Development Funding (£2.292m)

4. **To Agree** the acceleration of LGF spend in 2017/18 for the following projects:
  - a. Eastbourne and South Wealden Walking and Cycling LSTF package (£0.750m);
  - b. 1.1.4.2 Devonshire Park (£1.600m);
  - c. 1.1.4.3 A131 Chelmsford to Braintree (£0.750m)
  - d. 1.1.4.4 M11 Junction 8 Improvements (£0.500m)
5. **To Agree** the reduced spend forecast in 2017/18 and 2018/19 for the Ashford International Rail Connectivity Project to support the re-allocation of LGF to the Sandwich Rail Infrastructure Project in 2018/19, subject to the award of LGF to the Sandwich Rail Infrastructure Project under Agenda Item 9.
6. **To Note** the reallocation of LGF from A414 Harlow to Chelmsford Route Based Strategy to Mercury Theatre Project, subject to agreement by the Board under Agenda Item 7
7. **To Note** the change request for the Phase 2 Forum development Southend, subject to development of a Business Case and completion of ITE review process

## 12 2017-18 Revenue Budget Update

The Board received a report from Suzanne Bennett, the purpose of which was to update the Board of the current year revenue budget forecast outturn position as at the end of October 2017.

### Resolved:

**To Note** the current forecast outturn position.

## 13 SELEP Assurance Framework Implementation Plan delivery

The Board received a report from Adam Bryan, the purpose of which was to make the Board aware of:

1. The progress which has been made by the SELEP team and the federal areas in implementing the changes necessitated by the refreshed Assurance Framework. *The Board was reminded that it is accountable for assuring that all requirements are implemented; it is a condition of the funding that the Assurance Framework is being implemented.*
2. The implications of the Review of Local Enterprise Partnership Governance and Transparency by Mary Ney (Non-Executive Director, DCLG) which was released to LEPs on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the progress to date in implementing the SELEP Assurance Framework.
2. **To Note** the secretariat team's intentions around implementing the Mary Ney recommendations.

**14 Growing Places Fund Update**

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort updating the Board on the latest position of the Growing Places Fund (GPF) Capital Programme.

**Resolved:**

**To Note** the updated position on the GPF programme.

**15 Future meeting dates**

The Board noted that the following future meeting dates:

- Friday 15th December 2017 at 9.30am at Ashford College.
- Friday 23rd February 2018 at 10.00 am at High House Production Park
- Friday 27th April 2018 at 10.00 am at High House Production Park
- Friday 15th June 2018 at 10.00 am at High House Production Park
- Friday 14th September 2018 at 10.00 am at High House Production Park
- Friday 16th November 2018 at 10.00 am at High House Production Park
- Friday 15th February 2019 at 10.00 am at High House Production Park

The meeting closed at 11:20 am

**Chairman**