
Minutes of the meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held in High House Production Park Vellacott Close, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1RJ on Friday, 16 March 2018

Present:

Geoff Miles	Chairman
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 John Lamb	Southend Borough Council
Angela O'Donoghue	Further Education/ Skills representative
Lucy Druesne	Higher Education representative

ALSO PRESENT Having signed the attendance book

Suzanne Bennett	Essex County Council
Steven Bishop	Steer Davies Gleave
Adam Bryan	SELEP
Jake Cartmell	Steer Davies Gleave
Edmund Cassidy	Steer Davies Gleave
Kim Cole	Essex County Council (As Deputy Monitoring Officer for the Accountable Body)
Dominic Collins	Essex County Council
Richard Dawson	East Sussex County Council
Helen Dyer	Medway Council
Janet Elliott	Medway Council
Ben Hook	East Sussex County Council
Tomasz Kozlowski.	Medway Council
Andy Lewis	Southend Borough Council
Richard Longman	Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Paul Martin	SELEP
Stephanie Mitchener	Essex County Council (as delegated S151 Officer for the Accountable Body)
Rhiannon Mort	SELEP
Lorna Norris	Essex County Council
Sarah Nurden	Kent and Medway Economic Partnership
Tim Rignall	Thurrock Council

Paul Rogers	Thurrock Council
Gareth Rott	Essex County Council
Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council Democratic Services
Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Council

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Rob Gledhill from Thurrock Council.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 23rd February 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Rodney Chambers declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda which concerned the Historic Dockyard Chatham, as he is a trustee thereof.

4 Questions from the Public

There were no public questions.

5 Strood Civic Centre Flood Mitigation

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 Strood Civic Centre Flood Mitigation Project (the Project) which has been through the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) review process, to enable £3.5m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to be devolved to Medway Council for Project delivery.

Resolved:

To Approve the award of £3.5m Local Growth Fund to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed as presenting high value for money with high certainty of achieving this.

6 Local Growth Fund Capital Programme Update

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

The Board discussed the slippages and questioned what was genuine slippage as opposed to where completion is not likely to happen. Rhiannon clarified that at this stage the Board were just being asked to agree the "carrying forward" of funding between financial years.

They proceeded to discuss the roles of the Accountability Board and the Strategic Board and the remit of decisions made at each.

Councillor Lamb gave the Board a progress update in respect of the projects in his area.

Councillor Carter questioned who has responsibility for any overspend and any risks associated therewith. Rhiannon clarified that the risk sits with the upper tier delivering authority. She confirmed that full details of funding risks associated with projects will be brought to the next Board meeting.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the updated LGF spend forecast for 2017/18
2. **To Agree** the project delivery and risk assessment, as set out in Appendix 3.
3. **To Agree** the slippage of LGF spend from 2017/18 to 2018/19 for the following projects:
 - a. Hailsham/Polegate/ Eastbourne Movement and Access Transport scheme (£1.128m);
 - b. Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Package (£0.969m);
 - c. East Sussex Strategic Growth Project (£2.755m);
 - d. Basildon Integrated Transport Package (£1.268m)
 - e. Kent and Medway Growth Hub (£1.500m);
 - f. Tunbridge Wells Junction Improvements and A26 Cycle Route (£0.565m);
 - g. Kent Strategic Congestion Management Package (£0.208m);
 - h. Kent Rights of Way Improvement Plan (£0.150m);
 - i. Kent Sustainable Interventions Programme (£0.013m);
 - j. Maidstone Integrated Transport Package (£1.135m);
 - k. Ashford International Connectivity Project – Ashford Spurs (£3.060m);
 - l. A226 London Road/ B225 St Clements Way (£0.312m);
 - m. Coastal Communities Housing Intervention – Thanet (£0.512m);
 - n. Dartford Town Centre Transformation (£0.200m);
 - o. Fort Halsted (£1.530m);
 - p. A2 off-slip at Wincheap, Canterbury (£0.354m);
 - q. Leigh Flood Storage Area and East Peckham- unlocking growth (£0.091m);
 - r. A289 Four Elms Roundabout to Medway Tunnel Journey time and Network Improvements (£1.911m);
 - s. Strood Town Centre Journey Time and Accessibility Enhancements (£1.625m);
 - t. Chatham Town Centre Place- Making and Public Realm Package (£1.269m);
 - u. Medway Cycle Action Plan (£0.136m);
 - v. Medway City Estate Connectivity Measures (£0.065m);
 - w. Rochester Airport Phase 1 (£2.582m);

- x. Southend Central Area Action Plan (£0.850m); and
 - y. London Southend Airport Business Park Phase 1 and Phase 2 (£8.999m).
4. **To Agree** the acceleration of LGF spend in 2017/18 for the following projects:
- a. Queensway Gateway Road (£1.540m);
 - b. Chelmsford City Growth Area (£0.500m);
 - c. Technical and Professional Skills Centre at Stansted Airport (£1.000m)
 - d. Kent Thameside LSTF (£0.106m);
 - e. A28 Chart Road (£1.913m);
 - f. A28 Sturry Link Road (£0.059m);
 - g. Kent and Medway EDGE Hub (£0.500m);
 - h. A2500 Lower Road (£0.200m); and
 - i. Strood Civic Centre – flood mitigation (£0.338m);
5. **To Approve** the acceleration of £0.338m LGF spend in 2017/18 for the Strood Civic Centre Flood Mitigation project.
6. **To Approve** the acceleration of £5.000m LGF spend in 2017/18 on the Gilden Way Upgrades, for spend across the Gilden Way and M11 Junction 7a project
7. **To Approve** the planned spend of £113.293m LGF in 2018/19, excluding DfT retained schemes and £148.666m including DfT retained schemes, subject to SELEP receiving sufficient funding from Government in 2018/19 as per the amount indicated in the provisional funding profile.

7 **Thanet Parkway - Programme Update**

The Board received a report from Joseph Ratcliffe, Transport Strategy Manager, Kent County Council which was presented by Rhiannon Mort. The purpose of the report was to make the Board aware of the latest progress in the Thanet Parkway Railway Station Project (the Project) in Kent. The Business Case for the Project has been reviewed through Gate 1 of the Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) process, but the award of Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the Project has not yet been considered by the Board owing to a Project funding gap of approximately £8.8m. The LGF provisional allocation is £10m.

Councillor Carter spoke in support of the Project, stressing that it is an extremely important transport project with over £2.5m having already been invested by Kent County Council.

Councillor Bentley requested that more detailed information be contained in reports to provide more clarity around the decisions being sought. Rhiannon advised that more detailed funding information would be provided at a future Board meeting as the Project is brought forward by the promoting authority for a funding decision.

The Board proceeded to discuss the problems where projects involved working with Network Rail and requested that they should be invited to Strategic Board to explain their position; pressure can then be applied to Network Rail with a robust statement made in respect of funding allocations and the sharing of project risk.

Resolved:

To note the current work being undertaken in order to progress the Project:

1. That further work is being undertaken to secure additional funding to bridge the current funding gap of £8.8m;
2. That the Project can still be delivered within LGF timescales subject to full funding;
3. That possible alternative delivery methods are being investigated to ensure best value for money; and
4. That a funding decision is intended to be sought from the Board during 2018/19.

8 A13 Widening update report

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).

Resolved:

To Note the current position with regards to the A13 widening Project as set out in the report.

9 2017-18 and 2018-19 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 February 2018.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the current forecast outturn position for 2017/18; and
2. **To Note** the information update for the budget for 2018/19.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting will take place on Friday 27th April 2018.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 10.00am.

Chairman