
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, 14 February 2020

Published on Friday 14th February 2020. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Wednesday 19th February 2020 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 3rd March 2020.

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Present:

Geoff Miles	Chair
Cllr Tony Ball	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
Simon Cook	Further Education/Skills representative
Rosemary Nunn	Higher Education representative.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The following apologies were received:

- Councillor Kevin Bentley (substituted by Councillor Tony Ball)

The Chair welcomed Simon Cook, from Mid Kent College, who has taken over the role of Further Education representative from Graham Razey and Rosemary Nunn from the University of Greenwich, who has taken over the role of the Higher Education representative from Lucy Druesne.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 15th November were agreed as an accurate record, with slight amendment to the Finance Update and signed by the Chair.

It was **Agreed** that an update would be provided on the local funding contributions to SELEP at the next Board meeting on the 15th May 2020, following confirmation of SELEP core funding from central government.

It was **Agreed** that the Board would be made aware as soon as SELEP core funding had been confirmed.

3 **Declarations of interest**

As a private businessman, Geoff Miles declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 15 (Growing Places Fund Update).

He advised of his intention to step out of the room whilst agenda item 15 was discussed and it was confirmed that Rosemary Nunn would chair this item.

4 **Questions from the public**

There were none.

5 **Local Growth Fund Capital Programme Report**

The Accountability Board (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.

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** the changes to 2019/20 LGF spend forecast, as set out in Appendix 2 and summarised in table 1 of the report.
2. **To Agree** a total planned LGF spend in 2020/21 of £87.994m excluding Department for Transport (DfT) retained schemes and increasing to £119.860m including DfT retained schemes. This decision is subject to sufficient LGF being made available by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in 2020/21 as per the provisional funding allocation.
3. **To Note** the deliverability and risk assessment, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
4. **To Agree** to remove the Marks Farm project (formerly A131 Braintree to Sudbury) from the LGF programme and reallocate the £1.8m LGF to the next project on the LGF3b pipeline
5. **To Agree** that the Basildon Innovation Warehouse project must:
 - 5.1. submit an updated business case to SELEP secretariat by 24 April 2020 in order to complete the independent technical evaluation (ITE) process, for consideration at the 3 July 2020 Board meeting; and
 - 5.2. provide an update to Board on the 15 May 2020 which provides reassurance to the Board of the deliverability of the project, as set out in section 6.10 in the report

If these two conditions cannot be satisfied, it will be recommended to the Board, on the 15th May 2020, that the £870,000 LGF allocation is reallocated to the next project on the LGF3b pipeline.

6. **To Agree** that the Exceat Bridge project business case must come forward for a funding decision at the Board meeting on 3rd July 2020 and confirm that:

- 6.1. the project presents high value for money;
- 6.2. a full funding package is in place to deliver the project; and
- 6.3. the project can meet the conditions, set out in 5.1 of the report, for LGF spend beyond 31 March 2021.

If these three conditions cannot be satisfied, it will be recommended to the Board, on 3rd July 2020, that the £1.5m LGF allocation is reallocated to the next project on the LGF3b pipeline.

6 **Thanet Parkway Funding Decision**

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer SELEP Capital Programme Officer 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 (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** that the Project satisfies the five conditions agreed by the Board in February 2019 to allow LGF spend beyond the Growth Deal period, subject to:
 - 1.1. receipt of written confirmation from the Kent County Council S151 officer that all funding has been secured to enable delivery of the Project; and
 - 1.2. receipt of written confirmation from Kent County Council that planning permission for the Project has been granted. Written confirmation should be provided by 22nd July 2020 at the latest.
2. **To Approve** the award of £14m LGF to the delivery of the Project which has been assessed as presenting high value for money with medium certainty of achieving this, subject to the above conditions in 1. above having been met.
3. **To Note** the intention for a grant agreement to be put in place for the transfer of the £14m LGF award to the Project.
4. **To Note** that no LGF will be transferred to Kent County Council for the delivery of the Project until the conditions set out in 1. above have been satisfied

7 **A13 Widening Update**

The Board received a report from Anna Eastgate, Assistant Director Lower Thames Crossing & Transport Infrastructure Projects, Thurrock Council and Rhiannon Mort the purpose of this report was to provide an update to the Board on the delivery of the A13 widening project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Note** that an increase to the total cost of the Project has been identified relative to the position reported to the Board in June 2019. The updated timescale for the delivery of the Project and the revised total Project cost have not yet been formally confirmed to the Board by Thurrock Council.
2. **To Agree** that an update must be provided to the Board by Thurrock Council at the next meeting of the Board on 15 May 2020 to confirm the updated total Project cost and expected Project completion date.
3. **To Note** that significant progress has been made since the last meeting to address the issues which have led to challenges in delivering the Project, as set out in section four and five below;
4. **To Note** that Thurrock Council provided a verbal commitment to the SELEP Strategic Board in October 2019, to meet any shortfall in the funding for the Project and to ensure the Project is delivered. Written confirmation will be sought prior to the next Board meeting on 15 May 2020, to confirm that Thurrock Council has committed the additional funding required to deliver the Project.

8 M2 Junction 5 Report

The Board received a report from Howard Davies, SELEP Capital Programme and a presentation from Steer the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the award of £1.6m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to contribute toward the delivery of the M2 Junction 5 (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** the award of £1.6m 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 certainties of achieving this. This is subject to written confirmation being provided to SELEP Secretariat and Accountable Body by Kent County Council (KCC) to confirm:
 - 1.1. the Secretary of State for Transport's approval of the Project following Public Inquiry; and;
 - 1.2. the Highways England Project Business Case confirms that the Project presents high value for money, with a benefit cost ratio of over 2:1.
 - 1.3. the full funding package is in place to deliver the Project.
2. **To Note** that LGF cannot be drawn down by KCC until the two funding conditions set out in 1. above have been satisfied.
3. **To Note** that if the two funding conditions set out in 1. above are not satisfied then the Board will agree to reallocate the funding to the next LGF project identified on the SELEP's LGF3b pipeline.

9 Innovation Park Medway Update Report

The Board received a report from Rhiannon Mort, the purpose of which was to provide the Board with an update on the delivery of the Innovation Park Medway project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the update on the delivery of the Project;
2. **To Agree** that the Business Case for £1.519m Phase 3 LGF be brought forward for consideration by the Board on the 3rd July 2020 for a funding decision.
3. **To Agree** that by the Board meeting on the 3rd July 2020, Medway Council must:
 - 3.1. demonstrate how the Phase 2 and Phase 3 Project meets the five conditions set out in 8.3 of the report; and
 - 3.2. provide evidence that satisfactory progress has been made towards meeting the Project milestones, set out in Table 2 in the report; and
 - 3.3. provide an update on the mitigation sought by Highways England and the extent to which this will impact the overall deliverability of the Project, as set out in section 6 of the report.

If the condition set out in 3.1 to 3.3 are not satisfied by 3 July 2020, the Board will be asked to consider the reallocation of the £3.7m LGF award to Phase 2 and £1.519m LGF to Phase 3.

4. **To Note** the risk to Medway Council of abortive LGF spend on the Phase 2 project, if the LDO is not approved to enable the delivery of the Project. If LGF spend on the Project becomes an abortive revenue cost, this must be repaid to SELEP by Medway Council under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with the SELEP Accountable Body.

10 A289 Four Elms roundabout update

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive an update on the delivery of the A289 Four Elms Roundabout to Medway Tunnel project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** that the £9.279m unspent LGF is reallocated through the LGF3b pipeline development process; and
2. **To Agree** that there is compelling justification for SELEP not to recover the £1.821m LGF spent on the Project to date; and
3. **To Agree** that should the HIF funding not be secured that the Project is considered for future funding opportunities, should such funding opportunities become available.

11 University of Essex Parkside LGF Funding Decision

The Board received a report from Howard Davies, SELEP Capital Programme and a presentation from Steer the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the award of up to £5m Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the delivery of the University of Essex Parkside Phase 3 development (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Agree** the award of £5m 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 high certainty of achieving this; subject to planning consent being secured for the delivery of the Project.
2. **To Note** that a comprehensive Benefits Realisation Plan will be expected prior to commencement of works

12 Groundworks and Scaffolding Training Centre LGF funding decision

The Board received a report from Howard Davies and a presentation from Steer, the purpose of which was to bring forward the revised scope of the Colchester Institute Groundworks and Scaffolding Training Centre (the Project) for consideration by the Board.

Resolved:

1. **To Approve** the change of scope for the Project which has been assessed by the ITE as presenting high value for money with high certainty of achieving this.
2. **To Approve** the reduction of funding to be awarded to £50,000 LGF to support the delivery of the Project.
3. **To Note** that the remaining £50,000 will be returned to the LGF pot to be reallocated to the next project on the LGF3b pipeline.

13 Queensway Gateway Road Project Update

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer the purpose which was for the Board to receive an 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 Note** that the Board will be provided with a further update on the Project at its next meeting on 15th May 2020.

14 Bexhill Enterprise Park North Update

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Capital Programme Officer and Marwa Al-Qadi, Project Co-ordinator – East Sussex Growth, East Sussex County Council, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive an update on the delivery of the Bexhill Enterprise Park North project (the Project).

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the latest position on the delivery of the Project;
2. **To Agree** to pause LGF spend on the delivery of the Project, beyond the £440,000 LGF already transferred to East Sussex County Council, until planning consent has been granted.
3. **To Agree** that a further update on the Project which confirms the outcome of the planning appeal should be provided to the Board at their meeting on 3rd July 2020.

15 Growing Places Fund Update

Geoff Miles left the room due to his previously made declaration of interest. This item was chaired by Rosemary Nunn as the Vice Chair.

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, 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 Approve** the revised repayment schedule for the North Queensway project
3. **To Approve** the revised repayment schedule for the Workspace Kent project
4. **To Approve** the revised repayment schedule for the Eastbourne Fisherman's Quay and infrastructure development project
5. **To Note** the revised drawdown schedule for the Eastbourne Fisherman's Quay and infrastructure development project
6. **To Note** the removal of the Discovery Park project from the GPF programme
7. **To Note** the increase in GPF funding available for reallocation through GPF Round 3

16 SELEP Operations Update

The Board received a report from Suzanne Bennett Chief Operating Officer, the purpose of which was for the Board to be updated on the operational activities within the Secretariat to support both this Board and the Strategic Board. The report included an update on risk management and updates on items of governance. The financial update was included in a separate report.

Resolved:

1. **To Note** the risk register at Appendix A and the update included in the report;
2. **To Note** the update on the LEP Review and Assurance Framework; and
3. **To Note** the update on the Annual Performance Review.

17 SELEP Finance Update

The Board received a report from Lorna Norris, Senior Finance Business Partner the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the latest financial forecast position for the SELEP Revenue budget for 2019/20.

Resolved:

To Note the half year forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20 of an underspend of £826,000.

18 A28 Sturry Link Road Update

The Board received a report (Appendix 1 was considered under Exempt items) from Rhiannon Mort, 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 £4.791m unspent LGF will be automatically reallocated to the LGF3b pipeline if planning consent is not secured by 15th May 2020 for:
 - 1.1 the Broad Oak Farm and Sturry development; and
 - 1.2 the Project itself.

19 Date of next meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting will take place on Friday 15th May 2020 at High House Production Park.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 1.10pm

20 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.

- 21 A28 Sturry Link Road Confidential Appendix 1**
The Board considered A28 Sturry Link Road CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 1.

- 22 Hadlow College Update**
The Board noted the Hadlow College update.

Chairman