



Bespoke Greater Lincolnshire LEP Investment Board

8th March 2018

Lincolnshire Co-op, Stanley Bett House, Lincoln

Paper 1.0

In attendance:

Board Directors: Ursula Lidbetter (Chair) (Lincolnshire Co-operative); Pat Doody Cllr Rob Waltham (North Lincolnshire Council), Chris Baron (Butlins Skegness)

Conference Callers: Cllr Ray Oxby (North East Lincolnshire Council), Chris Baron, Butlins Skegness)

LEP Board Support: Ruth Carver (LEP Director), Sue Groves (Note Taker)

Accountable Body : Linsay Hill-Pritchard (Lincolnshire County Council)

Observers: Pete Holmes (BEIS), via conference call

Apologies: Cllr Colin Davie (Lincolnshire County Council), Cllr Rob Waltham (North Lincolnshire Council)

Welcome by the Chair – Ursula Lidbetter

The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance. It was noted that the Board could be regarded as quorate for all matters.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Paper 1 – Skills Capital Investment Fund

The Board was asked to approve the Skills Capital Investment Fund, subject to the due diligence of individual schemes, which would be managed and operated at programme level by Lincolnshire County Council.

In July 2016, a Growth Deal 3 allocation of £29.45m was awarded to Greater Lincolnshire, of which £6.7m was initially made available towards a new Skills Capital Investment Fund which was brought to the July 2017 Investment Board, with an additional £100k set aside for due diligence and legal costs.

Following a call for projects from all eligible Institutions, which included post 16 colleges and approved training organisations in the Greater Lincolnshire area and panel scoring process, the LEP Investment Board subsequently agreed to allocate additional EP resources to increase the Skills Capital Investment Fund to £7.44m subject to future resources. It was agreed that a figure of £100k be allocated as revenue in order to recover costs of the growth deal project manager, due diligence, legal and project management of the scheme by Lincolnshire County Council. 9 bids (expressions of interest) were received and shortlisted for the July 2017 Investment Board with 4 being shortlisted. All allocations must be spent by 2021, and outcomes delivered by 2025. This fund can be used for construction, including design fees and site investigation costs, refurbishment/remodelling of existing buildings, purchase of specialist equipment, and work to improve delivery and efficiency through digital technologies, including steps to improve technological infrastructure and service resilience

The Accountable Body will have the ultimate sign-off on projects, which will have been taken to Investment Board for approval and progress reports.

In our outcomes, a query was raised about the projected new apprenticeships, with recent forecasts stating that apprenticeships will decline. An answer was given that this would be picked up in the due diligence, as well as value for money, match funding etc.

Once due diligence has been carried and a project does not meet the criteria, it was asked whether one of the other projects could be brought forward or whether the funding could be allocated to North Lincolnshire Higher Level Technical, Business Skills and Innovation Hub whose allocation was significantly lower than

requested.

The Board agreed to endorse this proposal.

Paper 2 – South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone

The Board directors were asked to consider the due diligence for Phase 1 of the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone at Holbeach and to approve progression to contracting state.

It is proposed to award Lincolnshire County Council, who will be working in partnership with South Holland District Council, £2.985 of Single Local Growth Fund for Phase 1. LCC has already secured £3m and SHDC £½m.

Greater Lincolnshire LEP has an overall growth deal allocation of £6.8m towards the wider FEZ programme, of which Phase 1 of the South Lincolnshire FEZ in Holbeach has provisionally secured £2.985m. Overall costs for Phases 1 and 2 have unfortunately risen since the bid was first put together and utility costs for Phase 1 could rise up to as much as £10.1m. However, final costs will be confirmed and reassessed by May 2018 to ensure to continued value for money and deliverability.

RC stated that the outputs need some revision.

Feasibility has been carried out to see if there is a demand for this FEZ and RC stated that a number of businesses had shown an interest.

Question raised regarding investing any profit gained back into the development from the Invest & Grow fund. As this is from the Single Local Growth Fund, any profits would be put back into the development. Suggested that a clause be put in the contract regarding Phase 2; open and transparent about the land and any surplus monies would be remain in the development.

Agreed that this development is core to the LEP agenda and the Government's.

The Board agreed to endorse this proposal

Any Other Business

Cllr Oxby asked about the Scunthorpe project that was originally planned to be discussed but was informed that the Due Diligence was not ready and would be presented at the next Investment Board.

Date of Next Meeting

23rd March 2018