

In attendance:

Board Directors: Ursula Lidbetter (Chair); Cllr Colin Davie, Cllr Rob Waltham, Cllr Peter Wheatley; Mark Tinsley; Richard Wills

LEP Board Support: Ruth Carver

Accountable Body : Linsay Hill-Pritchard

Observers: Pete Holmes

Attendees for particular items: Rachel Lister

Apologies: Chris Baron; Herman Kok; Halina Davies

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

Cllr Wheatley declared an interest in Paper 4 – Allocation of recouped growth deal funding

Cllr Waltham declared an interest in Paper 5 – Northern Junction Roundabout

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on 20th July 2017 were agreed and can be published on the website following minor amendments.

The items on the agenda were considered in order to ensure a quorum

Paper 5 – North Junction Roundabout

Cllr Waltham, NLC left the room

At the January Investment Board, members were asked to endorse "in principle" the proposal to reallocate £2.9m of growth deal funding from Berkeley Circle, Scunthorpe to Normanby Enterprise Park 7 and Northern Roundabout infrastructure enhancements adjacent to what was, at the time, the new football ground location and access point to the north of the Lincolnshire Lakes housing development. The paper discussed referred to the second of these projects and related to £1.9m of growth deal grant.

A revised decision needed to be considered by the Board as there have been changes to the delivery partners involved in the Northern Junction project. Scunthorpe United Football Club (SUFC, the applicant for the original scheme) decided not to proceed with the stadium development at the northern junction roundabout location and instead came forward with proposals for a new development at the southern junction (proposed terminating junction adjacent to lake 5).

Conflicting information was received by the LEP in relation to the two junction proposals, hence to ensure that a technically focused impartial decision could be made in relation to the £1.9m of Growth Deal funding support, an external consultation was carried out to review information provided and subsequently make recommendations to the Investment Board.

From a planning perspective, North Lincolnshire Council do not support the SUFC alternative proposal as it is not compliant with the Area Action Plan.

Highways England has confirmed that even if the required funding can be secured, the southern junction would take 9-12 months to complete and approved designs and construction would take at least another 18 months. These timescales would make the delivery of subsequent outputs relating to the stadium and supporting land unachievable within the prescribed Growth Deal programme period of 2020/21.

North Lincolnshire Council, as highways authority, and the Housing and Communities Agency are keen to continue support the development of the northern junction roundabout as a priority, requesting that the Greater Lincolnshire LEP accepts a revised application from them as applicant, and reallocation of the £1.9m of Growth Deal grant accordingly.

Action – The Investment Board approved the investment of £1.9m growth deal for the Northern Junction on the basis of the recommendations and conditions provided within the due diligence report.

Cllr Waltham, NLC, returned to the meeting and Rachel Lister left.

Paper 4 – Allocation of Growth Deal Funding **Cllr Wheatley left the room**

Investment Board directors are asked to consider and approve recommendations for reallocation of £300,000 from the Holbeach Scheme of the Growth Deal programme. In March 2017, the Board agreed to reduce the allocation of Growth Deal funding to the Holbeach Peppermint Junction scheme from £2.4m to £2.1m when the tenders for the project came in lower than originally expected. This left £300,000 of growth deal monies for reconsideration by the LEP. Officers recommended that this money be allocated to the FEZ programme as this would ensure continued infrastructure investment to support the agri-food sector.

Action – The Board approved the recommendation for provisional allocation of the additional £300,000 towards the FEZ programme, and specifically to the Europarc FEZ, subject to due diligence appraisal. This will enable NELC to build two bespoke units rather than one, increase the number of jobs provided on the site and ensure viability of the scheme.

Paper 1 – Minutes of meeting held on 20th July 2017

The minutes were approved and could be published. Richard Wills said the impact of investment in road infrastructure in Lincolnshire is being looked at in more detail and that route assessments are being taken on the A15/A16/A17. Slippage on major schemes forms part of the LEP Review and will be discussed at the Annual Conversation. Linsay HillPritchard explained that other LEP areas are also experiencing similar issues.

Action – Minutes of meeting held on 20th July 2018 were approved and can be published.

Paper 2 – Growth Deal Update Report

This paper is to update Board Directors on the progress with the current Growth Deal Programme. With several projects now underway, Officers will be providing the Board with highlight reports on schemes/programmes performing well and nearing or having reached completion. The "Go Skegness" scheme was presented on this occasion, a wide-ranging project that is seeking to benefit both visitors and residents by creating a more efficient highways and public transport network, in addition to encouraging healthy lifestyles through walking and cycling. It will also support the local visitor economy, encourage new businesses, create jobs through the construction phase and attract visits in the long term. Following discussions with and quarterly submissions from project lead partners, it remains clear, as highlighted to the Board in April that the Government's 2017/18 Growth Deal expenditure target of £15.7m will not be fully achieved. Three projects were deemed as high risk in terms of milestones to the programme. One of these projects, Northern Junction Roundabout, was presented to the Board for review, and the other two, Skegness Countryside Business Park and Grantham Southern Relief Road, will report on progress at the next Investment Board. The programme is currently

forecasting £9.7m in expenditure for this financial year, which leaves a gap of £5.7m for the LEP to consider as part of its freedoms and flexibilities. To manage slippage, there are limited options to bring forward allocated schemes to increase growth deal expenditure in 2017/18; however, there are options that can be explored to help prevent an underspend situation, these are:

- Seeking to pay the amount of skills capital pot as an advance "programme"
- Seeking to advance pay for local authority capital projects for them to then release secured capital budget to projects
- Collaboration with LEP areas that are overspending against target

These measures would be introduced under the freedoms and flexibilities. Forecasts for 2018/19 exceed agreed government targets; hence the LEP could begin to significantly rebalance existing offset figures. The Board endorsed the proposed approach for managing slippage in 2017/18. The Board was informed that the Skills Capital Investment Fund of £6.8m received 8 applications. These have been scored with 4 being rejected and the other 4 returned with clarifying questions regarding added value and revenue details. Further evaluation will take place and recommendations will be brought to the Investment Board in November for consideration.

Paper 3 – GLLEP Assurance Framework

In April 2015, GLLEP produced its first Assurance Framework. There were no formal national government guidelines at the time, hence the document was focused on existing governance, LEP activity and decision making at the time. The document was produced in conjunction with two others, the GLLEP Implementation Plan and the GLLEP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. In Autumn 2016, the government circulated its expectation in terms of what each LEP Assurance Framework should include as a minimum and our Framework was updated and expanded accordingly in advance of the LEP/BEIS Annual Conversation.

An external audit process was undertaken in early 2017 stating that GLLEP's Assurance Framework was compliant in terms of national requirements and it was officially signed off by the Accountable Body's Section 151 Officer in February 2017. The Assurance Framework is a public facing document on the GLLEP website advising on LEP roles and responsibilities, but crucially it is also a handbook in terms of what the LEP does and how. As LEP employees and representatives, there are a number of actions that need to be considered every quarter when comes to the Assurance Framework:

- Be aware of when the Assurance Framework was last updated
- Check that expectations in relation to governance remain the same and that if not, revised requirements are noted.
- Read and understand the rules in relation to conflicts of interest and transparency, adhering as required
- Are partnerships the same or have they altered/expanded? Should groups be added that have not been highlighted or are there some that no longer exist?
- Are policies up to date? Which ones apply to the work carried out on behalf of the LEP? Have LEP Officers/Representatives read through them and do they understand the implications?

Ruth Carver asked the Board whether training is required for the Assurance Framework. Richard Wills agreed that all Board members need to know what is actually in the Assurance Framework and whether they are being compliant, and the Board agreed that some formal training would be useful.

Any Other Business - None

Date of Next Meeting - Friday, 24th November 2017