

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership
Extraordinary Meeting of the Board to be held via video conference on Thursday 22 April 2021
17:00 to 18:00

Item	Title	Time
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for absence	17:00 – 17:05
2.	Matters Arising and declarations of interest	17:05 – 17:10
3.	Governance matters to include: a. Update on board composition and board director membership b. Update from SERCOM on organisational capacity	17:10 – 17:30
4.	Solent LEP Delivery Plan 2021/22	17:30 – 17:40
5.	Getting Building Fund Update	17:40 – 17:55
6.	Any other business	17:55 – 18:00

22.4.2021

Item 3

Governance matters

A confidential report will be considered at the meeting.

22.4.2021

Item 4

Solent LEP Delivery Plan 2021/22

Item Number: 4
Item Title: Draft annual delivery plan 2021/22
Meeting Date: 22 April 2021
Purpose: For Approval

1. Draft Resolution:

The Board are asked to:

- **Approve** the final draft Solent LEP annual delivery plan for 2021/22 and **Delegate Authority** to the Executive to finalise the annual delivery plan for publication on 7 May 2021.

Overview

This paper seeks the views and approval of the Board on the draft of the Solent LEP annual delivery plan for 2021/22, and follows consideration of the first draft by FFPMG at their meeting in March 2021. The draft has been updated to reflect advice from FFPMG and a final draft is attached in Annexe A for board consideration and approval. The paper also seeks authority from the Board to delegate authority to the Executive to finalise for publication on 7 May 2021 following the conclusion of the local elections purdah period on 6 May 2021.

2. Solent Draft Business Plan 2021/22

The [National Local Growth Assurance Framework](#) (the Framework) sets out a range of requirements of LEPs, including for each LEP to develop and publish an Annual Delivery Plan by the beginning of each financial year.

3. Advice on the development of LEP Delivery Plans

In relation to delivery plans, the Framework states the following:

"...As part of the assurance monitoring process, each LEP is required to publish an annual report and delivery plan. The delivery plan and annual report should set out a well-developed understanding of the local economic evidence base to identify opportunities and obstacles to inclusive growth, prosperity and improved productivity. Government will work with LEPs to develop measures to report against in the plan and report. These will be considered as part of the annual assurance process. Delivery plans and annual reports should be published at the beginning of each financial year..."

Furthermore, the current delivery plan for 2020/21, structured in line with the advice of [Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships](#), has provided a good framework for the development of the 2021/22 iteration which seeks to address the following areas:

- A detailed and well developed understanding of the local economic evidence base across the LEP area;
- The economic development priorities, interventions and funding for the area;
- How LEPs are investing existing Local Growth Fund awards, and delivering other local growth programmes;

- Headline outcome indicators based on local priorities to benefit people and communities;
- How LEPs will work with local authorities to make the most of their existing levers to drive economic growth and ensure that the planning system is responsive to commercial development;
- Details on the allocation of any other national and local funds;
- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Plans for consultation and engagement with public, private and voluntary and community based bodies.

The format and presentation of the document follows that of the delivery plan from last year, but with one important addition; given that we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 public health emergency, it is important that both the structure and the content of the Delivery Plan for 2021/22 take into account the latest version of the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) as approved by the Board at its meeting on 26 February 2021.

The other significant change to note in this year's plan is that, while the structure to the 2020/21 Delivery Plan has been maintained, the level of detail of the objectives aligned to each priority has been simplified to focus on high level strategic outputs. There are 31 in the 2021/22 Delivery Plan compared with 70 in the previous year.

The seven priorities are as follows:

- Priority 1: "A world leading marine and maritime economy"
- Priority 2: "Pioneering approaches to climate change adaptation and decarbonisation"
- Priority 3: "The UK's capital of coastal renaissance"
- Priority 4: "A thriving visitor, creative and cultural economy"
- Priority 5: "Developing a world-class talent base"
- Priority 6: "An outstanding business environment"
- Priority 7: "Health and wellbeing at the heart of economic success"

Following approval of this recommendation by the Board on 22 April 2021, and delegation that final drafts, amendments and approval will be made by the Executive, the timeline for publication of the Delivery Plan is for 7 May 2021.

It should be noted that the priorities for 2021/22 set out in the draft delivery plan accord with the narrative of the Assurance Framework for 2021 as agreed by the Board at their meeting on 11 December 2020.

4. Decision Summary

The Board is asked to:

- **Approve** the final draft plan and **Delegate** authority to the Executive of the Solent LEP to finalise the annual delivery plan for publication on 7 May 2021.

5. Equality impact assessment

An EIA has been prepared and considered in relation to this proposed Fund and is provided at Annexe A. It is considered that there are no negative impacts on groups identified in the EIA.

6. Financial comments from the S151 Officer of the Accountable Body

There are no specific financial implications arising from the content of this report.

The objectives and activities set out in the draft delivery plan are considered when setting the Solent LEP's budget for the current year and for future years up to and including 2023/24.

Should there be any need for additional resources to be deployed as part of the ongoing work to deliver the LEP's objectives then the requirement for these and recommended funding sources would be set out in a future report to the FPPMG or LEP Board.

7. Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications regarding the requirement of the Board to provide views on the draft Solent LEP annual delivery plan for 2020/21 as presented during the Board meeting of 19 April 2021.

Where the Solent LEP Board review (April 2021) and seek to implement the annual delivery plan the legal implications will be reviewed and measured at the relevant junctures by the Accountable Body and any/all financial implications will be made in conjunction with delegations from the PCC's 151 officer.

Annexe A – Final Draft of Solent LEP Delivery Plan 2021/22

A confidential report will be considered at the meeting

22.4.2021

Item 5

Getting Building Fund Update

Item Number: 5
Item Title: Getting Building Fund Update
Meeting Date: 22 April 2021
Purpose: For Decision

Confidential information has been removed from this report.

**Information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 has been removed from this report including:
information relating to an individual, and/or; relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.**

1. Overview

This paper provides an update on the Getting Building Fund (GBF) programme, and specifically, the unallocated funding, and seeks agreement from the Board on use of the unallocated funding.

2. Recommendations

Board Members are asked to:

- **Note** the update on the Getting Building Fund programme;
- **Consider** and **Agree** the due diligence report, and;
- **Agree** to award funding to a project subject to:
 - The recommended actions set out in the due diligence report;
 - Satisfactory conclusion of a four week public consultation;
 - Further due diligence by the Accountable Body as part of the process to conclude a funding agreement.

3. Update on Getting Building Fund Programme

The Board will be aware that five projects have been approved for grant funding:

- Fifth Cruise Terminal at Port of Southampton - ABP
- Centre for Enzyme Innovation - University of Portsmouth
- Branstone Farm Rural Employment Hub - Isle of Wight Council
- Nutrient Mitigation - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Fawley Waterside Digital - Fawley Waterside

As reported to the FPPMG meeting on 30 March 2021, the funding agreements for Fawley Waterside Digital and Nutrient Mitigation projects were the only ones yet to be executed. The scheme promoter concluded contract negotiations for the Fawley Waterside Digital scheme on 15 April 2021, and executed the funding agreement on 16 April. 2021. In relation to the Nutrient Mitigation programme, a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

4. Update on Getting Building Fund Unallocated Funding

At the 11 December LEP Board meeting the Board agreed to make available the unallocated £1.4m of £15.9m GBF to eligible projects that were included in the LEP's initial submission to the Government's GBF in June 2020, but could not be progressed at that time due to affordability considerations. Of these projects, three expressed an interest, and were considered by FPPMG on 26 January 2021. FPPMG invited all three projects to submit a Full Business Case (FBC) by 5 February 2021.

The LEP has been keen to maintain pace with project development as GBF must be fully spent by 31 March 2022. As such, we expect projects to commence works in April 2021, at the latest. With this in mind, FPPMG were keen

to set a challenging deadline for the submission of FBC's to enable projects to be considered at the LEP Board meeting on the 26 February 2021.

Of the three projects invited to submit a FBC, two provided FBCs for due diligence, whilst one withdrew from the process. A high level summary of the two FBCs is provided in Annexe A.

Following an initial review of the two FBCs submitted on the 5 February 2021, further due diligence was required to provide sufficient information for the Board to be in a position to make a funding decision. This work is now complete and the final independent due diligence report and recommendations for funding is provided at annexe B.

5. Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the above recommendations. The guidance for potential new applicant under the new fund will be reviewed by legal. Each fund decision will be review and managed by the drafting of each specific Grant Agreement. PCC's (acting as accountable body for the LEP) s.151 officer acts as the Chief Finance officer (by the relevant delegation powers) for the LEP and is in receipt of a general delegation from the Council in order to manage such matters.

6. Equality impact assessment

An EIA has previously been prepared and considered in relation to the Getting Building Fund and it was considered that there are no negative impacts on groups identified in the EIA.

7. Financial comments from the S151 Officer of the Accountable Body

The reallocation of the Getting Building Fund residue is a high priority as the grant conditions require that all of the funding is defrayed by 31 March 2022 and this is reflected when prioritising projects as covered in the main body of this report. This requirement is passed on to all successful projects as part of their funding agreements to ensure that full defrayal can be achieved and that no investment is lost to the LEP geography.

Annexe A – High Level Summary of Getting Building Fund full business cases

A confidential report will be considered at the meeting

Annexe B – Independent Due diligence report on Getting Building Fund full business cases

A confidential report will be considered at the meeting