

Joint Strategic Economic Committee

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership

1 April 2015

Growth Deal Update

Introduction

1. On 29 January 2015 Government announced Local Growth Fund (LGF) 2 allocations to LEPs following a bidding process carried out in December 2014. Members will be aware of the tight deadline to submit Outline Business Cases and the prioritisation exercise carried out that resulted in SWLEP submitting three projects; Digital Corsham, Swindon Bus Exchange and A350 West Ashton/Yarnbrook (including junction 17.)

SWLEP Outturn

2. SWLEP successfully secured an additional £11.5m under LGF2 on top of the £129m announced in July 2014 under LGF1; bringing the total allocation of LGF 1+2 to £141m; 1.93% of the total £7.3bn allocated to date from the £12bn single growth fund pot. Planning estimates carried out in 2013 suggested that the notional SWLEP allocation, dependent on formulae used, could have been anywhere between 0.7% (EU methodology) to 1.4% (Growing Places methodology) therefore the current outturn of 1.93% is well ahead of those planning estimates.

Local Growth Fund 1

3. The projects scheduled to go-live during 2015/16 have commenced a period of mobilisation and Members are requested to note summary status below as reported to Commissioning Group / SWLEP Board.

15/16 Programme Summary					
Project Ref	Project Name	Lead Delivery Partner	Previous	Current	Notes
LGF/1516/001/ LTB350	LTB A350 Improvements	Wiltshire Council	AG	AR	Match funding bid to Cabinet
LGF/1516/002/ A429	A429 Malmesbury	Wiltshire Council	AG	AG	On track
LGF/1516/003/ EV	New Eastern Villages	Swindon Borough Council	AG	AR	Finance gap identified
LGF/1516/004/ PSP	Porton Science Park	Wiltshire Council	AR	AG	ESIF funding bid
LGF/1516/005/ LSTF	LSTF Swindon	Swindon Borough Council	AG	G	On track

4. The Grant Offer letter from BIS has been received but release of funding will be dependent on successful sign off by Unitary Authority S151 Officers of the SWLEP Assurance Framework and submission of such to BIS for comment only.
5. The SWLEP Assurance Framework will be the overarching approach by which the majority of schemes in search of the Government's Local Growth Fund will be assessed locally. The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Transport Body already has a successful Assurance Framework which has been used for prioritising and guiding robust decision making and Government now requires all Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure that they have an Assurance Framework in place which covers all Local Growth Fund expenditure and evidences all local growth policy areas under which schemes and initiatives will fall.

Local Growth Fund 2

6. Government announced that SWLEP had secured an additional £11.5m from LGF2 to fund 3 projects; Digital Corsham, Swindon Bus Exchange and A350 Yarnbrook/West Ashton (inc junction 17.) These projects are scheduled to commence 2016/17 and beyond. The two Outline Business Cases (OBCs) submitted for Digital Corsham and Swindon Bus Exchange were positively received by BIS along with confirmation that no OBC is required for Yarnbrook/West Ashton for the foreseeable future as this project is scheduled for delivery in 2019.

SEP Refresh

7. While the general election means the future political climate is uncertain, we can be reasonably confident that Local Enterprise Partnerships will continue to be the main conduit for promoting local economic growth and that the Local Growth Fund, or equivalent, will continue into future rounds with the potential for LEPs to be allocated additional sources of funding. Regardless of the outcome of the election, SWLEP will need a robust and up-to-date Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and a portfolio of projects with which to bid for funding.
8. As agreed by the Governance and Resourcing Committee, the SWLEP Director has been tasked with delivering a refreshed SEP by June 2015 and activity will commence during March 2015 in order to ensure that SWLEP is in the best position to take advantage of future LGF funding rounds post the general election. The aim is to bring a draft report, supported by an Investment Plan, to the May Board meeting. A Working Group, Chaired by Nicky Alberry has been formed.

Summary

9. JSEC Members are asked to note and comment on the content of this update paper; the contents of which have been discussed with the Commissioning Group and the SWLEP Board.

Isobel Brown, Director, Swindon and Local Enterprise Partnership
