

**Commissioning Group Update
JSEC 30 September 2015**



Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Introduction

The Commissioning Group met on 26 August 2015 and considered the following items:

- Local Growth Fund 2015/16 projects
- Local Growth Fund 2016/17 projects
- Strategic Economic Plan Refresh

JSEC Members are asked to provide comment on the information outlined below.

Local Growth Fund 2015/16 Projects (LGF)

Both Unitary Authorities presented highlight reports on projects due to commence in 2015/16. The Commissioning Group noted the schemes' progress and wish to provide feedback to JSEC that a thorough performance management control process is now in place with ongoing monthly meetings scheduled.

The summary report is noted below:

2015/16 Programme Summary					
Project Ref	Project Name / LGF investment	Lead Delivery Partner	Previous	Current	Notes
LGF/1516/001/LT B350	LTB A350 Improvements £1.67m	Wiltshire Council	G	G	Contractor appointed & pre-delivery groundworks commenced.
LGF/1516/002/A4 29	A429 Malmesbury £1.40m	Wiltshire Council	G	G	Construction commenced.
LGF/1516/003/EV (i)	New Eastern Villages – The Great Stall Bridge (Green Bridge) £7.60m	Swindon Borough Council	AR	AR	Work underway to examine costs in further detail.
LGF/1516/003/EV (ii)	New Eastern Villages - Greenbridge Roundabout/West of A419 £4.00m	Swindon Borough Council	AR	AR	Finance gap identified, value engineering underway.
LGF/1516/003/EV (iii)	New Eastern Villages A420 Gablecross £2.50m	Swindon Borough Council	AR	AR	Slippages in recruitment. Remodelling required.

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LGF/1516/003/EV (iv)	New Eastern Villages Southern Connector Road £11.60m	Swindon Borough Council	AR	AG	Design options being investigated to reduce cost.
LGF/1516/003/EV (v)	New Eastern Villages White Hart Junction £22.50m	Swindon Borough Council	AR	AR	Value engineering being carried out. Additional funding sources investigated. Options Appraisal for DFT.
LGF/1516/003/EV (vi)	New Eastern Villages Business Case £0.50m	Swindon Borough Council	AG	AG	Drafting OAR.
LGF/1516/004/PS P	Porton Science Park £4.00m	Wiltshire Council	AG	G	ERDF Application submitted. Working on BREEAM requirements.
LGF/1516/005/LS TF	LSTF Swindon £3.75m	Swindon Borough Council	G	G	Scheme is on time and on budget.
LGF/1516/006/C D	City Deal £1.40m	SWLEP Core Team	R	AR	SBC and WC Project Managers seconded from September

Local Growth Fund 2016/17 Projects (LGF)

Highlight reports for projects due to commence in 2016/17 and beyond were also presented by both Unitary Authorities. Commissioning Group Members had previously agreed that meetings should review one scheme in detail at each meeting. The first project to undergo detailed scrutiny was Chippenham Station Hub. Key items discussed included:

- Benefits of an additional platform
- Involvement of local MPs
- Evidence that an original feasibility study had been carried out over a Friday/Saturday period and that new evidence from a mid-week study had secured support from First Great Western
- Lessons learned exercise with Lincoln City Council and Somerset County Council who had been experiencing similar issues
- Review paper to be brought to Commissioning Group February 2016

The future project scrutiny workplan includes Junction 15 on 30 September 2015 with other projects thereafter at each monthly meeting.

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The 2016/17 and beyond summary report is noted below:

2016/17+ Programme – Business Case Status Update					
Project Ref	Project Name	Lead Delivery Partner	Previous	Current	Notes
LGF/1617/001/ A350	A350 Dualling Bypass £7.10m	Wiltshire Council	AG	AG	OBC finalised September 2015 (previously reported as June 2015). This scheme will be an incremental scheme after the A350 Chippenham Bypass - Bumpers Farm improvements have been delivered.
LGF/1617/002/ WI	Wichelstowe Infrastructure £22.90m	Swindon Borough Council	G	G	DfT Retained Scheme. Development of OBC to commence in 2016
LGF/1617/003/ SRT	Swindon Rapid Transit £9.85m	Swindon Borough Council	G	G	Confirmation of early stage strategy and route aspiration ongoing. Agreement with bus operators required to proceed to test proposed routes in more detail.
LGF/1617/004/ CSH	Chippenham Station Hub £16.00m	Wiltshire Council	AR	AR	DfT Retained Scheme. Requires an appraisal specification to be developed prior to further development work.
LGF/1617/005/ LTB15	LTB M4 Junction 15 £3.70m	Swindon Borough Council	G	AR	Revision of business case required due to cost estimate rising. Housing & Growth Fund proposal being put forward by Highways England.
LGF/1617/006/ LTB16	LTB M4 Junction 16 £5.92m	Swindon Borough Council	AR	AR	Programme remains on track with key risks to be addressed (embankments vs retaining walls and inclusion of JV in governance.)
LGF/1617/007/ DC	Digital Corsham £2.50m	Wiltshire Council	G	AR	Completed detailed condition survey has identified delivery costs. On schedule for 2016.
LGF/1617/008/ SBX	Swindon Bus Exchange £3.00m	Swindon Borough Council	AG	AG	CPO required to move bus exchange to final location. Public enquiry to take place in September 2015.
LGF/1617/009/ YWA	A350 Yarnbrook/ West Ashton £6.00m	Wiltshire Council	G	G	Project on track. Continuing to work on planning application.

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JSEC Members are invited to comment on the Commissioning Group approach and detail provided in the highlighted projects.

Strategic Economic Plan Refresh

JSEC Members will recall that a Working Party, Chaired by Nicky Alberry (SWLEP Vice Chair) had been established to refresh the SWLEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and following commitment of the SWLEP Board at its July 2015 meeting, a strategy workshop for Board Members was held on 9 September 2015 to ensure the high level vision was agreed and supported by all Members. A second follow-on workshop, attended by SWLEP Board Members was subsequently held on 17 September 2015. The key outputs of this workshop, facilitated by the Chief Executive Swindon Borough Council and the Corporate Director Wiltshire Council, included:

- Identification of three spatial growth zones
 - Swindon and M4 Corridor
 - A350 Corridor, including Corsham Digital Community
 - Salisbury and A303 Corridor
- Identification of 5 intervention themes
 - Skills and talent
 - Transport links
 - Broadband plus digital connectivity
 - Place shaping, including cultural
 - Business development

The SWLEP Board believes that this approach will provide opportunities for the prioritisation of intervention themes according to the individual geographic spatial zone requirements, thus ensuring different needs can be prioritised accordingly.

Under the SWLEP Vice Chair's guidance, a number of workstreams have simultaneously been assisting SWLEP and UA Officers to produce an Investment Plan of potential prioritised projects that would ensure the key deliverables of the strategy could be achieved. In line with the SWLEP's governance, its Assurance Framework outlines the process for prioritisation of projects against agreed strategic objectives and at its July 2015 meeting, the SWLEP Board approved the recruitment of Independent Technical Advisors (ITAs) to advise the Commissioning Group and assist them in making recommendations to the Board on prioritised projects for investment.

Following a recent procurement exercise supported by Wiltshire Council Procurement Team, three companies have been recommended to support SWLEP Commissioning Group and scheme promoters to carry out the independent assessment of projects. This exercise will be concluded during October 2015 and outcomes subsequently challenged via a STAR Chamber process to ensure a robust review of projects is carried out ahead of SWLEP Board approval on 11 November 2015.

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Enterprise Zone

In early August 2015 BIS/DCLG invited LEPs to attend one of a series of briefing sessions on emerging opportunities for an Enterprise Zone (EZ) with application submission 18 September 2015 under a competitive process. EZs are an important part of the Government's programme to devolve responsibility for leadership of local growth and provide a powerful tool for LEPs to develop their local economy.

Incentives include:

- LEPs retaining 100% of business rate growth for 25 years with an expectation to fund development required in the EZ sites
- Business rate discount for occupiers – 100% discount for five years up to maximum state aid threshold for businesses that enter the EZ before 31 March 2022

Supported by JSEC Chairman, JSEC Vice Chairman and SWLEP Chairman, an application was submitted prior to the deadline for a SWLEP Enterprise Zone harnessing nine sites grouped in three areas across the SWLEP key spatial growth zones: Swindon and M4 Corridor; A350 Corridor, including Corsham Digital Community; and Salisbury and A303 Corridor under an innovation theme.

Successful applications are likely to be announced Autumn 2015 with regulations needed for the new EZ to be "live" in place by April 2016.

Summary

JSEC Members are invited to comment on Commissioning Group report areas:

- 2015/16 Highlight Report
- 2016/17 Highlight Report
- SEP Refresh activities
- Enterprise Zone application

Barry Dennington, Chair SWLEP and Commissioning Group
Nicky Alberry, Vice Chair SWLEP, Chair SEP Refresh Group
Isobel Brown, SWLEP Director