

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership - Project Prioritisation

1. Introduction

The JSEC has requested the following actions be carried out with regards to the Project Pipeline prioritisation process:

1. That UA Officers (Programme Managers) carry out a due diligence review of the data resulting from the ITA assessment presented in this paper to ensure that any further strategic factors have been accounted for
2. That officers advise on LGF Round 3 timescales and requirements when known.
3. That given the Government's position regarding the Ultrafast Broadband project, that JSEC to ask the LEP to develop the proposals further.

2. Due Diligence Review

A due diligence review has been carried out by Programme Managers and other key officers from within Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council in order to take into account strategic factors that are relevant with regards to the prioritisation of projects. In addition, scheme promoters have been given the opportunity to respond to points raised by ITAs when assessing their projects in order that any additional information could be taken into account by the ITAs. The results of all of this work was presented to the SWLEP Board at the Board Meeting on 16 March 2016.

3. LGF Round 3 Timescales and Requirements

Central Government has communicated that the following three funding streams are available:

- £475 million for **Local Transport Majors**. This will enable investment in larger transport projects than was previously possible and will be made available to LEPs to bid for alongside new Growth Deals. This fits with the separation we have made in our project prioritisation between DfT retained schemes and LGF projects.
- £2 billion **long term housing loan funding** for the investment in infrastructure needed to support major housing developments. Developers will be invited to submit bids to the HCA. Government expects strong local engagement and would encourage all LEPs to be involved.
- The remaining money will be for a further round of **Growth Deals**. This will be made up of contributions from BIS, DCLG and DfT. Within it, skills capital funding has been extended beyond 2016/17 through to 2020/21, reflecting the Government's support for the FE estate after Area Reviews have concluded. The Local Sustainable Transport

Fund has also been brought into the flexible element of the Fund. The other proposals leave about £2bn for these potential projects.

Letters have recently been received from Greg Clark regarding the £2bn of Growth Deal money and Robert Goodwill regarding the £475m for Local Transport Majors. No communication has been received on the £2bn long term housing loan fund, though discussions have been held with local HCA personnel to gain further understanding of this funding stream.

Submissions for the Growth Deal and Local Transport Majors streams are required to be submitted by 21 July 2016. Timescales for the Housing Loan Fund are not clear at the time of writing.

Requirements included in the letters for each of the funding streams are:

Growth Deal

- Propose a specific figure
- Show strong collaboration between your partnership and the local area
- Demonstrate stronger, reformed governance structures (including alignment with mayoral Combined Authorities)
- Demonstrate greater level of private sector investment
- Projects must engage with the Government's key objectives
- Delivery of existing Growth Deals important to support confidence will deliver value for money

Large Transport Majors

- Transport projects over £36m (Figure specifically for Swindon and Wiltshire -TBC)
- For business case development and / or construction work
- Cross LEP schemes welcomed

Housing Loan Fund

- Submissions by private sector developers
- To fund infrastructure investments to support housing developments
- Developments can be from large scale down to self build

Copies of the letters for the Growth Deal and Large Transport Projects are attached as appendices to this report.

The pipeline of projects are now being re-assessed against these criteria by the SWLEP Delivery Performance Team (DPT) in order to develop a list of proposals for projects to be submitted against each funding stream.

4. Ultrafast Broadband

The Ultrafast Broadband proposal has been developed to include geographies across the whole of the SWLEP area and is one of the projects identified to be taken forward in the above process.

Ian Durston, SWLEP Programme Manager