



**JSEC 13 April 2017
Questions and Statement from
Councillor Chris Caswill,
Chippenham Monkton Division,
Wiltshire Council**

Questions

1. Paragraph 42 of the LEP Assurance Framework commendably lists an impressive amount of material which will be made public on the LEP web site. Will the Committee encourage the LEP to deliver fully on this important commitment – for example I cannot find any of the Sub Group papers and minutes, and the Constitution and code of Conduct are listed but not accessible.

Response

The Board receives regular updates of the activity of the Subgroups and so this information will be available in the published Board papers. The full set of governance documents will be available following final agreement at the Board Meeting on 25 May 2017.

2. What is the current timetable for both Phase 1 and the remaining part of the Chippenham Hub Local Growth Fund project? Whilst Councillors have had a very helpful briefing on both parts of the project, when will there be a formal public consultations on both parts?

Response

The Chippenham Station Hub Phase 1 scheme which is being led by Great Western Railway will be presented to the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) Board on the 25 May 2017. An outline business case for the Phase 1 scheme (which will provide a detailed delivery timetable) will be available for viewing on the SWLEP website (www.swlep.co.uk) prior to the Board meeting. If the SWLEP Board approves the Phase 1 scheme and the funding is allocated, a planning application will be developed and submitted by Great Western Railway which will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposals. Regarding the other phases of the Chippenham Station Hub scheme, an outline business case (which will provide a timetable for delivering the additional phases) will be produced this summer, and this will be followed by the development and submission of an outline planning application later in 2017, which will also include consultation with the public.

3. Where does responsibility for Infrastructure lie within the LEP sub group structure? It appears to be in the remit of both the Transport Infrastructure and Place Shaping sub Groups, as recognised in on the Place Shaping priorities. This seems to be a recipe for confusion in terms of public accountability as well as efficient decision making.



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Response

Physical transport infrastructure resides with the Transport Subgroup and Town Centre regeneration projects are covered by the Place Shaping Subgroup. However, any potential investment projects are reviewed first by the Commissioning Group to determine appropriate governance and ensure cross-cutting issues are identified.

4. Relating to Question 1, when will the Sub Group Minutes start to be made public?

Response

Please see the answer to Question 1.

5. It is not clear what the eventual complete bid was for the most recent Local Growth Fund. Will that be made public? What is happening to bids that did not succeed in attracting Local Growth Fund support?

Response

The Board received a paper at its meeting on 22 March 2017 reporting on the Local Growth Fund 3 allocation. It is attached to this response.

6. And specifically to the Chippenham transport package?

Response

The paper submitted to the Board indicated that SWLEP would continue to seek funding for projects not resourced in LGF Round 3. Chippenham transport package is one of the projects not receiving resources from LGF3.

Statement from Councillor Caswill

As I will not be the Wiltshire Councillor for the Chippenham Station area by the time of the next LEP meeting, I would like to take this opportunity express my support for what I know of the train station improvement bid which is currently being prepared. In particular I and a great many local residents welcome the possibility that the bid could include the so-called 'third lift' within the footbridge across the railway line. It was a great disappointment that it could not be included when the bridge was recently reconstructed, as it would have provided (and hopefully will provide) improved access to and from the town centre and the area north of the line for those with limited mobility and parents with small children. I hope it will be included in any part 1 package and that the LEP, and the Department of Transport will support the scheme, so that it can be delivered as quickly as possible.