

JOINT STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE JOINT STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2016 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 6, SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, EUCLID STREET, SWINDON.

Present:

Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE (Chairman), Cllr David Renard (Vice Chairman), Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Cllr Garry Perkins and Cllr Russell Holland

Also Present:

John Gilbert, Carlton Brand and Paddy Bradley

30 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

31 **Minutes**

Resolved:

To approve and sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2016.

32 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

33 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

34 **Public Participation**

A statement on projects from the Local Enterprise Partnership for the Chippenham area was delivered by Mrs Marilyn Mackay. In response it was explained the Committee, being made up of the two local authorities for the LEP area, would assess and comment upon LEP priorities, but that the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP itself would make the final decisions on projects, including at its meeting on 13 July 2016.

Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division, Wiltshire Council, then received responses to questions submitted to the Committee, with details attached to these minutes. Concern was expressed about public engagement on projects, particularly with local representatives, and it was agreed once technical work had progressed to an appropriate stage, local members should be met with to be consulted.

35 **SWLEP Project Prioritisation**

A report on the project prioritisation for the third round of Local Growth Funding was received from Paddy Bradley, Director of the SWLEP Secretariat.

It was explained that it was likely the current round would be the final opportunity to apply for Local Growth Fund monies within the current parliament, and that submissions needed to be made by the end of July, and that a process had been put in place to achieve this.

The Committee discussed the report and the process for agreeing priorities for the SWLEP projects, and whether this was in line with the SWLEP guidelines and would enhance economic growth as desired.

At the end of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

To note the requirements of the Local Growth Deal 3 and the progress of the preparation made to date.

36 **Project Highlight Report**

The Committee received Project Highlight Reports detailing the status of projects for 2015/16 and 2016/17. It was stated that the Secretariat held regular meetings with project officers in each relevant council, reported also to the SWLEP Board, and that central government regarded the processes in place as good practice.

The Committee discussed the projects and sought details on those which were not currently rated as Green on an RedAmberGreen system. Some projects, particularly involving the New Eastern Villages projects were retained or had retained elements, requiring approval from the Department for Transport, which caused additional delays and hold up of funds. It was confirmed the end date of the projects there remained unchanged, but there were elements being adjusted on modelling for the schemes. It was agreed that the Committee would write to the SWLEP Board stating its concern the projects remained rated Red or AmberRed due to the Department for Transport, and to ask the SWLEP to seek more details.

In response to queries it was confirm the project costs for the Chippenham Station Hub project were in the expected range, and were being finalised. It was also confirmed the Junction 17 project was now rated AmberGreen

At the conclusion of discussion,

Resolved:

To note the update and to write to the SWLEP Board requesting details be sought from the Department for Transport regarding concerns for the New Eastern Villages projects.

37 Forward Work Plan

The Committee considered the draft forward work programme. It was explained the assurance framework detailing the structure and procedure of the SWLEP was reviewed annually and suggested changes would be proposed.

In relation to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Functional Economic Market Assessment item programmed for the October meeting it was stated that this meeting would discuss interim findings and the final report would be presented at the December meeting. Consultants continue to progress the work including engagement with key stakeholders. Consideration by the Joint Working Group would be progressed in line with these dates.

Initial findings indicate that there would be three FEMAs broadly consistent with the economic zones of the Strategic Economic Plan and four Housing Market Areas.

38 Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 12 October 2016.

39 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Item Numbers 40 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Reason for taking item in private:

Paragraph 3 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

40 **European Structural Investment Fund Status Update**

The Committee received a confidential report on the latest updates from the European Structural Investment Fund.

Resolved:

That JSEC notes given all factors, progress to date has been reasonable and that spend and performance profiles are on target to meet the 2018 Performance Review.

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.00 am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115