

## **Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership**

### **1. Introduction**

The Commissioning Group met on 21 October 2015 and considered the following items:

- Local Growth Fund 2015/16 and 2016/17 projects
- Detailed Project Review of New Eastern Villages and City Deal
- Strategic Economic Plan
- Careers Enterprise Company – Advisor Pilot

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

### **2. Local Growth Fund Projects (LGF)**

Highlight reports were presented by both Unitary Authorities on projects due to commence in 2015/16 and 2016/17 and beyond. The Commissioning Group noted the schemes' progress and the summary reports are attached as Appendix 1.

### **3. Detailed Project Review**

Commissioning Group Members had scheduled Swindon Borough Council's New Eastern Villages Project for a detailed review and received a presentation on status of the overall project which has been broken down into smaller schemes in the Highlight Reports. The local Growth Fund investment in this project is £48m. In addition, the Commissioning Group had requested a detailed review of the City Deal Project. Local Growth Fund investment of £1.4m, matched by £1m from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council will deliver an innovative model of Higher Education in the SWLEP area.

### **4. New Eastern Villages**

- Of the 8000 homes planned for New Eastern Villages, planning applications have already been received for 5000, although there are still on-going questions which the developer needs to address
- There are nine major developers for the site, with over 100 landowners and a Developers' Forum has been formed
- The land for the new secondary school is not within the scheme
- The Green Bridge has been re-named The Great Stall Bridge. This bridge is required across the A419 and will be included in the next round of LGF bidding

- Most likely the building will start in the North of the area where there is a very strong and pro-active developer
- Greenbridge Roundabout Improvement – 1000 letter drops have been carried out and two information events are planned to advise residents

## **5. City Deal**

- The delivery model had been agreed at the July 2015 SWLEP Board meeting and two Project Managers had been seconded over from their respective Councils with effect from 1 September 2015
- A newly appointed Board Sponsor, Simon Patten, has been identified who will be involved in the recruitment process of the Skills Brokerage team
- The team jobs have been advertised as permanent roles both internally and externally via SWLEP, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, Career Transition Partnership and MOD websites as well as press
- 6 out of the 7 roles will be filled initially with the 7<sup>th</sup> being filled when the Project is underway
- It is anticipated that the Brokers (Skills Advisors) will be the most difficult to recruit owing to the unique set of skills required, being a mix of business engagement and HEI knowledge
- Full progress report required for January 2016 Board Meeting
- City Deal Subgroup, Chaired by Simon Patten, will be resumed
- Competition held to come up with new name completed – City Deal will be known as Higher Futures
- The first course, Financial, starts in January 2016 and will include employers Nationwide, Intrinsic and Openwork. Colette Mallon (CM), Business Engagement Manager, is meeting with Zurich and hopes to bring them on board
- Fee structure still being discussed. Employers would pay a membership fee and also any introductory fees. The question remained as to whether HEI should also pay fees
- Meeting with Glasgow and Middlesex Universities scheduled who are considered to be leaders in the delivery of non-traditional learning

## **6. Strategic Economic Plan Refresh**

The draft Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has been refreshed following two workshop sessions with the SWLEP Board, a number of SEP Refresh Working Group meetings and several Secretariat-led writing groups and was presented to the SWLEP Board on 11 November 2015. JSEC Members are asked to note that the next iteration will be reviewed towards the end of November 2015 and final version is expected by SWLEP Board mid December 2015.

## **7. Careers Enterprise Company – Advisor Pilot**

In June 2015 BIS invited all LEPs to submit a bid for 12-month funding to support increased business engagement in education and influence the future employability of young people. SWLEP will recruit a network of 31 Enterprise Advisers (business

volunteers) to support 42 secondary schools and 3 FE colleges across Swindon and Wiltshire (13 EAs for Swindon and 18 EAs for Wiltshire) who will work on a 1:1 basis or via cluster approach to encourage the increased effectiveness of employer engagement in education and school interactions. Funding was received to match Unitary Authority investment for three full time Enterprise Coordinators to be recruited to support the Enterprise Advisers.

The Swindon and Wiltshire Enterprise Advisor Pilot launch is taking place on 26 November 2015 in Wiltshire and 2 December 2015 in Swindon.

## **8. Summary/Recommendation**

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

- Local Growth Fund 2015/16 and 2016/17 projects
- Detailed Project Review of New Eastern Villages and City Deal
- Strategic Economic Plan update
- Careers Enterprise Company – Advisor Pilot

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