

JOINT STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (SWLEP)

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (SWLEP)
MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2016 AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNCIL
OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM SN15 1ER.**

Present:

Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE (Chairman), Cllr David Renard (Vice Chairman), Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cllr Garry Perkins, Cllr Toby Sturgis (Substitute - Part II) and Cllr Oliver Donachie (Substitute - Part II)

Also Present:

Paddy Bradley

41 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors John Thomson and Russell Holland, and Mr John Mortimer, acting Chairman of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

Councillor Thomson was substituted by Councillor Toby Sturgis

42 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2016 were presented for consideration and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign as a true and correct record.

43 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

44 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

45 Public Participation

There were no questions or statements.

46 **Local Growth Deal 3 submission from the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP)**

Paddy Bradley, Director of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) Secretariat presented a report on the submission of the SWLEP for the third round of Local Growth Deal (LGF) funding on 28 July 2016, detailing proposed projects to the value of £87047m as detailed in the agenda papers. The SWLEP was also seeking financial support to a commercially sensitive inward investment opportunity. Formal announcement of the results of the bid were expected after the Autumn Statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Committee was also informed that every Local Enterprise Partnership had now been assigned a specific minister to be their principal contact. For the SWLEP, the responsible minister was Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG.

The Committee discussed the LGF bid and the Board sessions to prepare it. It was stated the Board had undertaken many good sessions to identify its priority projects, although it was noted that deliverability would be a key factor in being successful, and that in particular the transport funds available had received applications totalling at least three times the available monies. It was also stated it was unknown if there would be future rounds of funding made available at the present time.

Details were also sought on the announced housing fund, where the LEPs had felt the process had been too convoluted for many larger developers, as well as how LEPs could help aid the process.

Resolved:

To endorse the SWLEP bids to support local economic growth.

47 **SWLEP Commissioning Group Project Highlight Reports**

Ian Durston, Programme Manager, presented a report from the SWLEP Commissioning Group highlighting the status of current projects. The Committee went through the report noting the progress for each project, seeking additional details as appropriate.

It was confirmed the Porton Science Park and Junction 16 projects were progressing well, although in response to queries it was confirmed Highways England was seeking additional information regarding matched funding in respect of the Junction 15 project.

It was noted that the Corsham Mansion House project had been moved to a Red rating as a result of it being determined previous timescales would need to be extended, although it was anticipated the rating would be improved for the next report, with a planning application for further work expected in 2017.

Other updates and comments included that there was work to identify if costs could be reduced in respect of the Swindon Bus Exchange project, the A350 relief road at Yarnbrook had been delayed as a result of ecological issues due to the presence of

bats, and in respect of Junction 17 capacity improvement a business case would be presented to the Commissioning Groups before the end of 2016. The combined New Eastern Villages projects would have a refreshed update shortly, and positive meetings had been held with Network Rail regarding the Chippenham Station Hub, and it was expected the project would move to a Green rating.

The Committee was informed an action plan was being prepared to improve the output of the Higher Futures programme, and the Committee requested that it be brought to them for approval as both local authorities were responsible.

Resolved:

To note the reports and for the SWLEP to note the comments of the Committee.

48 European Structural Investment Fund Updates

A report was provided updating the Committee on the progress of the European Structural Investment Fund. It was confirmed that the government had guaranteed some funding for those who signed deals prior to the UK formally exiting the European Union, although it was unclear if all monies would be available after that point.

Details were also sought on the process of currency exchange for receipt of Fund monies, and the need for applications to be made in as timely a manner as possible.

Resolved:

To note the update

49 Strategic Housing Market Assessment Area and Functional Economic Market Area (SHMAA/FEMA)

Richard Bell, Head of Planning, Regulatory Services and Heritage, Swindon Borough Council, and Alistair Cunningham, Associate Director, Economic Regeneration and Planning, Wiltshire Council, provided an update on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Area (SHMAA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) work.

Consultants were in the process of presenting their findings to both local authorities and would also be made to the developer industry, and it was intended the Joint Planning Working Group of both authorities would meet early in 2017 to consider next steps

Resolved:

To note the update.

50 **Forward Work Plan**

The Committee considered the Forward Work Plan. It was requested the action plan for Higher Futures be considered at the next meeting, and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Area work be considered at the first meeting in 2017.

Additional items to be scheduled as appropriate would be consideration of an updated Assurance Framework for the SWLEP and a Post-16 Education review from March 2017 onwards.

Resolved:

To approve the updated Forward Work Plan.

51 **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was confirmed as currently 8 December 2016. It was agreed future meetings could all take place at the Monkton Park offices in Chippenham.

(Duration of meeting: 9.05 - 9.55 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