**Minutes of the Strategic Investment Panel**

**Wednesday 5th February 2018 09:30-11:30**

**CONFERENCE CALL**

**SIP Members:**

* **Alan Denby, Business Lead, LEP Management Team**
* **Amanda Ratsey, Business Lead, LEP Management Team (joined later)**
* **Barbara Shaw, Chair Place Leadership Group, LEP Board Member**
* **Chris Garcia, LEP Chief Executive**
* **David Bird, Chairman of SIP, LEP Board Member (joined later)**
* **Richard Stevens, Chair Business Leadership Group, LEP Board Member (acting as Chairman until David Bird joined the meeting)**

**In attendance:**

* **Ben Bryant, SCC Accountable Body Representative**
* **Colin Bettison, Plymouth City Council**
* **Ed Cross, LEP PMO (minutes)**
* **Eifion Jones, Head of Strategy & Operations**
* **Helena Davison, Communications Manager, HotSW LEP**
* **Ian Harrison, Independent Transport Assessor**
* **Mel Roberts, SCC, Accountable Body**
* **Mel Sealey, LEP PMO**
* **Sally Edgington, Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS**
* **Phill Adams, DCC, People LG (joined during item 6)**

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| 1. **Welcome and Apologies**   Fiona McMillan, Keri Denton, Paul Hickson   1. **Declarations of Interest**   None   1. **Minutes of the 6th December SIP**   Minutes were approved subject to amendment of section 5.1.3 - an additional action to be added relating to drafting of a letter to go to projects concerning output reporting and related clawback provision within individual funding agreements.  **C/F Action:** Remove Edginswell from reporting sheet   1. **Investment Programme Business Cases and Project Changes**    1. **Growing Places Fund**   No change   * 1. **Growth Deal**      1. **Unlocking Growth Fund – South Molton Business Case Approval**   **Decision: SIP Members approved the business case, subject to appraiser’s conditions.**  **Action:** Business case template for UGF to be improved to include an additional “Not applicable” column.   1. **Investment Programme Delivery**    1. **Investment Programme Report**       1. **Programme Summary**   MS informed SIP that two project’s business cases had been approved (one of which, South Molton, at this meeting). Q3 claim reports showed total cumulative spend of roughly £70.7m with 17 projects having completed all funding claims. MS also explained that DCLG were now expecting the release of DELTA (their new reporting tool) to be pushed back to December 2018.  CG informed SIP that the LEP proposed to allow the MOD to take first charge on the Oceangate project, given that an issue would only arise if Plymouth City Council (PCC) were to go out of business which is low risk. The LEP will take second charge. Whilst there could be a loss to the LEP in such an instance, there would be no loss to the public purse overall. This applies to Growth Deal and Growing Places Fund funding agreements.  MS noted that the Constructing Futures business case did not include the addition of the 2% top slice but this has been included within the funding agreement.  **Decision: SIP agreed to allow the MOD to take first charge on the Oceangate project, given the low perceived risk of PCC going out of business, and the MOD still being a public body.**   * 1. **Amber Project Review**   MS informed SIP that three projects remained as amber with updates expected in March or April this year.  **Action:** Amend draft LTB briefing to state that SIP is expecting an update in March regarding Marsh Barton.   * 1. **SCC Update**   No change   1. **Strategic Agenda Items**    1. **Productivity Strategy (DB joined the meeting)**   EJ updated SIP that final comments on papers circulated were expected by Friday 9th February**.** The main change to the strategy so far was greater integration of digital, natural capital and inclusive growth throughout the document. SIP agreed that the document needed to be more concise with repetition reduced.  The delivery plan is in progress and will be reviewed at a future SIP meeting.  **Action:** Provide input on how the Leadership Groups support delivery plans and organise a meeting of LG Chairs to discuss.   * 1. **ESIF Update**   EJ informed SIP that, except for low carbon, all ERDF Priorities were fully or over committed. EJ also highlighted the consequent lack of funding available to take advantage of the potential extension in March to the Export to Growth (ETG) programme; DCLG’s recommendation being to move funding from unsuccessful ERDF applications to ETG when applicable. Spend targets for DCLG also remained challenging and the LEP was continuing to work closely with DCLG to meet their spend target for this year.   * 1. **LEADER**   **Action:** LEP to look at how changes to LEADER funding may affect the LEP area going forward, working with LEADER groups.   * 1. **ESF**   EJ informed SIP that £19m remained uncommitted. DCLG had outlined two potential routes to progress the fund and DCC were exploring the local call route options.  **AR joined the meeting**   * 1. **IOT Bids (Phill Adams joined the call for this section)**   CG explained that this was a Department for Education (DFE) programme with a workshop held in London in January. 10 or 12 expressions of interest (EOIs) would be progressed if successful (roughly 1 per UK region) – the deadline for submissions the 1st March 2018.   1. **AOB**   CG updated SIP on matters relating to the Nuclear Sector Deal. The HotSW LEP has representation at a major international conference in Japan and CG is now working at a national LEP level to provide input on skills and a place-based approach, including identifying any quick wins locally for an area regarding innovation and supply chains.   1. **Date of Next Meeting**   5th March 2018 | **EC**  **CB**  **MR/MS**  **IH**  **EJ/CG**  **EJ** |