

## Minutes of the Strategic Investment Panel

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 09.30-12.30  
Sargent Room, Coaver Club, County Hall, Exeter

### SIP Members:

- Alan Denby, Business Lead, LEP Management Team (by Phone)
- Amanda Ratsey, Business Lead, LEP Management Team
- Chris Garcia, LEP Chief Executive
- David Bird, Chair of the SIP
- Paul Hickson, Place Lead, LEP Management Team
- Richard Stevens, Business Leadership Group, LEP Board Member
- Stephen Criddle, Chair People Leadership Group, LEP Board Member

### In attendance:

- Ed Cross, LEP PMO (Minutes)
- Eifion Jones, Head of Strategy & Operations
- Helena Davison, Communications Manager, HotSW LEP
- Ian Harrison, Independent Transport Assessor
- Jamie Evans, DCC
- Mel Sealey, LEP PMO
- Steve Murphy, SCC Accountable Body representative

<p><b>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies:</u></b></p> <p>Apologies from: Barbara Shaw, Keri Denton</p> <p><b>Action:</b> LTB Chair is in transition. Mel to invite new chair, Mark King of Torbay Council, to future SIP meetings.</p> <p><b>2. <u>Declarations of interest</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie Evans declared an interest in Marsh Barton station,</li> <li>• Alan Denby an interest in Edginswell Railway Station.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. <u>Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> May SIP</u></b></p> <p>Minutes were approved with the following actions carried forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action C/F:</b> Look at written procedure to clarify required points in order to progress signing of Oceansgate's GPF funding agreement.</li> <li>• <b>Action C/F:</b> Make date for submission clearer in protocols and put forward for approval/sign off by s151 officers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MS</b></p> <p><b>MS</b></p> <p><b>MS/MR</b></p>
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<p><b>4. Investment Programme Business Cases and Project Changes</b></p> <p><b>4.1. Growing Places Fund</b></p> <p>No change</p> <p><b>4.2. Growth Deal</b></p> <p><b>4.2.1. Bridgwater College Variation</b></p> <p>Jamie outlined the proposed changes to the HE Centre at the Cannington Campus, following the merger of Bridgwater and Somerset College. The newly formed Bridgwater &amp; Taunton College now seeks to relocate the proposed HE centre to their Taunton Campus, given greater learner demand. Rather than constructing a new building, it is proposed that extensive refurbishment of the Taunton Campus over two phases.</p> <p><b><u>Decision: SIP agreed the proposal still demonstrated a good strategic fit but requested that Jamie reported back on any potential changes to the intervention rate and leverage. The project may need to go back to board.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b> Email updated report regarding the situation with the intervention rate and ACE project to SIP members before next SIP meeting.</p> <p><b>4.3. Special Projects Fund</b></p> <p>No change</p> <p><b>5. Investment Programme Delivery</b></p> <p><b>5.1. Investment Programme Report</b></p> <p>Mel Sealey updated on latest picture. £340,000 is the estimated headroom from underspend from some projects. Eleven business cases have now been approved for Growth Deal 2.</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b> Produce a report on how headroom effects top slicing for next SIP</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b> Report to next SIP on the current position with Yeovil's HPTA project.</p> <p><b>5.2. New Stations Fund Update</b></p> <p>Ian updated on latest developments. Government announcement on submitted bids is not now expected until post the election. LEP wrote letters in support of projects, confirming that Growth Deal funds were available for both projects however, LEP is worried about the effect of the delay and potential outcome of the bids. The LTB is to probe the two projects on their Plan B, if their applications to the fund are unsuccessful.</p>	<p>JE</p> <p>CG</p> <p>JE</p>
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<p><b><u>Decision: Report recommendation approved. SIP raised specific concern over Edginswell Station, if the bid is not successful and Torbay cannot underwrite the funding gap. SIP agreed update on next 3 priority projects at the next meeting (Tiverton EUE, Roundswell and Bath and West FEZ), keeping both railway projects as amber. If no resolution has been found following LTB talks with individual projects on potential Plan Bs, and the situation remains inconclusive, SIP may choose to mark both projects red at next SIP.</u></b></p>	MS
<p><b><u>Action:</u></b> Add update on situation re NSF and presentation of alternative projects to next SIP agenda.</p>	
<p><b>5.3. Amber Project Review</b></p>	
<p>Amanda Ratsey raised potential concern with Science Park Grow Ons, given reduced outputs in the funding agreement variations which were not agreed upon. The Open Innovation Building was also discussed, specifically changes to the project and Science Park priorities, and re-profiling regarding reduced outputs which were not agreed upon.</p>	
<p><b><u>Decision: SIP agreed to investigate potential discrepancies in outputs for the Grow On buildings.</u></b></p>	CG
<p><b><u>Action:</u></b> Check with Science Park over potential contradicting information.</p>	
<p><b>5.4. Transport, National Productivity Investment Fund Update</b></p>	
<p>SIP discussed the issue of prioritisation of projects by the LTB, and whether or not the SIP may have to prioritise on its own or with guidance from the LTB. The bid deadline is tight at 30<sup>th</sup> June so time is limited for prioritisation.</p>	
<p><b><u>Decision: SIP is keen for any prioritisation process to be joined up with all stakeholders backing the decisions. SIP will wait to see the proposal from the next LTB meeting, and may go to LEP board for views and guidance going forward if needed.</u></b></p>	IH
<p><b>5.5. Transport, projects cost escalation review</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Action:</u></b> Check Assurance Framework and Partnership Agreement regarding the £250k limit and remit for LTB to redirect to other projects, without having to refer to LEP board.</p>	MS
<p><b>5.6. SCC Update</b></p>	
<p>No change</p>	
<p><b>6. Strategic Agenda Items</b></p>	
<p><b>6.1. Productivity Plan White Paper</b></p>	
<p>EJ updated on progress. The proposed plan is due to be presented to Leaders/Chief Executives meeting in mid-July and then potentially to the LEP</p>	

<p>July board. . Currently the plan needs further development regarding how to deliver, who to involve, improving the format and on how the stated aims and objectives will be achieved.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Circulate single page summary sheet to SIP members</p> <p><b>6.2. Ash Futures Study Update</b></p> <p>EJ mentioned that a draft report is expected by next week for sharing with SIP and the board in July.</p> <p><b>6.3. ESIF Update</b></p> <p><b>6.3.1. ERDF</b></p> <p>EJ updated on latest developments. Two calls for applications are set to go live on 30<sup>th</sup> June, deadline 8<sup>th</sup> September. Bulk of the funding is in the transition area. Planning some July publicity events for businesses.</p> <p><b>6.3.2. EAFRD</b></p> <p>EJ updated SIP on progress. Currently there is only £0.5m worth of projects with around £15m budget and £12.5m of live calls.</p> <p><b>6.3.3. ESF</b></p> <p>There is therefore a risk of underutilisation of the available funding, and alternative uses for the available funds are being sought. This includes seeking advice from Exeter University on other potential avenues of spend, as well as discussions with the Big Lottery Fund.</p> <p>Jamie has scheduled ESF next steps to be discussed at next People Group on 7th July (day after next SIP).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Produce short paper on progress for the July SIP meeting.</p> <p><b>7. AOB</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>8. Date of next meeting- 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017</b></p>	<p>EJ</p> <p>JE</p>
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