

**Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise
Partnership Limited**

Supervisory Board

On the 18th March 2020, with the next scheduled meeting of the Supervisory Board not scheduled until the 8th April, the Supervisory Board members were asked to endorse a decision (which is specified as being within the coverage of the Supervisory Board Terms of Reference set out in the GBSLEP Local Assurance Framework) by the LEP Director utilising a written procedure, with an appropriate deadline for responses. The papers sent for noting and endorsement are attached.

This written procedure allows Supervisory Board members to either endorse or to refuse to endorse the decisions, with a nil response treated as an endorsement.

If the Supervisory Board are unable to endorse the decisions, the escalation process indicated set out in the GBSLEP Local Assurance Framework will be followed.

Supervisory Board members noted and endorsed the decision paper attached.

In addition, any endorsements will be formally ratified at the next full meeting of the Supervisory Board.

Edward Scutt

Head of Governance, GBSLEP



GREATER BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL LEP REPORT FOR DIRECTOR

25 February 2020

LOCAL GROWTH FUND INVESTMENT REPORT CONSTRUCTION SKILLS FOR WORK-READINESS

Recommendation

The GBSLEP Director is requested to:

- i. Approve the allocation of £286,975 [two hundred and eighty-six thousand, nine hundred and seventy-five pounds] to Solihull College and University Centre subject to availability of LGF for the delivery of the Construction Skills for Work-readiness project, in accordance with the GBSLEP Assurance Framework following the submission of the Full Business Case (FBC) and its Independent Technical Evaluation (ITE).

Background

1. An Expression of Interest (Eoi) was submitted to GBSLEP in July 2018 for a project seeking to establish a realistic construction site to will be run by Solihull College and University Centre (SCUC) in partnership with a commercial construction company that has experience; through its training company, of delivering successful work ready programmes for the sector.
2. The Eoi for £331,501 LGF towards a total project cost of £711,798 received a 'B Strong Strategic Fit' rating through assessment against the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) in October 2018 by the LEP Executive and Sector Skills Champion.
3. The Outline Business Case (OBC) was submitted in February 2019 and after final clarifications it was submitted for ITE in April 2019, which completed in May 2019.
4. Through delegated authority the GBSLEP Director granted the project programme entry and a conditional allocation on 30 May 2019 with an invitation to submit the FBC.
5. SCUC submitted the FBC to GBSLEP on 17 November 2019 requesting £286,975 LGF out of a total project cost of £636,093.
6. This underwent ITE with further clarifications requested on 12 December 2019. The ITE was finalised on 07 January 2020 with all areas complete and issues addressed.
7. The project scored highly (22/36) in the January 2020 pipeline prioritisation process and was one of the projects identified by LEP Board on 23 January 2020 to continue for a grant decision, subject to PDB approval and funding being available.

Case for change

8. The key aim of this project aligns to the GBSLEP priority action “Skills for Growth and Employment for All” and responds to the re-tune agenda which targets people out of work and whose skills don’t match labour market demand.
9. Across the area, there is a higher than average proportion of people with no recognised skills. This project seeks to provide those without skills and employment the opportunity to improve their work-readiness.
10. Engagement with construction employers has identified a shortage of people with construction plant equipment skills, experience and qualification required to work on site.
11. Training in these areas requires use of expensive plant and construction equipment and a site suitable for its operation, the cost of this is a barrier for colleges and training providers.
12. SCUC and RMF Construction Training Academy Ltd (RMF) have created a partnership in order to deliver the project. RMF are providing the site and contributing match funding and SCUC are leading the bid for capital to support procurement of equipment.
13. The project will establish a realistic construction site with programmes to develop the specialised skills required to enable individuals to acquire the qualification required to move straight into work within the construction sector.
14. Training will focus on the construction plant and equipment skills that have been identified as a shortage in the region and would be attractive to employers.
15. By focusing on the construction industry, this project will enable people from the area to benefit from new jobs that become available as an outcome of the predicted growth in the area, through developments such as HS2, The Commonwealth Games and other major construction projects.

Milestones

16. The following are the project milestones which will be adjusted according to decision date:

Milestone Description	Completion Date
Place order for equipment	December 2019
Funding is Awarded	January 2020
Install Equipment	January 2020
Practical Project Completion	February 2020
Financial Completion	March 2020
Launch date	September 2020

Table A

Outputs and Outcomes

17. The following are the project outputs and outcomes:

Output Description	Output Quantity
Area of new or improved learning/training floorspace (sqm)	80,115
Specialist Capital Equipment (£)	568,278

Table B

Outcome Description	Outcome Quantity
Apprenticeships	12
Number of New Learners Assisted (in course leading to a full qualification)	275

Table C

Funding Profile

18. The project is funded as in the table below:

	2019/20	Total
Capital (GBSLEP)	£286,975	£286,975
Capital (Other public sector)	£212,624	£212,624
Capital (Private sector (RMF))	£136,494	£136,494
Total	£636,093	£636,093

Table D

Conclusions

19. This project seeks to provide the equipment needed to establish a realistic construction site in Solihull which will be run by SCUC in partnership with a commercial construction company that has experience; through its training company, of delivering successful work ready programmes for the sector.

20. Subject to availability of remaining LGF the Programme team recommend approval of £286,975 LGF capital grant funding for the Construction Skills for Work-readiness project.

Prepared by: Wendy Edwards

Reviewed by: Sally Agass

Contact: wendy.edwards@GBSLEP.co.uk
Mob no' 07548 712827

Date prepared: 25 February 2020

Decision

The GBSLEP Director has reviewed the investment report for Construction Skills for Work-readiness and decided to;

Decision	Comment/action
Approve	X
Approve with conditions	
Not Progress	

Date: 12.3.20

Signed: Signature Removed

Print Name: Katie Trout