

Report to the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Supervisory Board

7th December 2017

RATIFICATION OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Purpose of the report

To note and endorse the decisions taken by the Supervisory Board by written procedure since the previous meeting, which was not quorate.

Recommendations

The Supervisory Board is recommended to:

1. Note and endorse the decision of the 11th August to establish the GBSLEP Learning & Development Programme, and the decision to ring-fence the interest accrued on the Local Growth Fund capital deposited with Birmingham City Council as the Accountable Body to fund the Learning & Development Programme for an initial period of at least two years;
2. Note and endorse the decision of the 7th September to invest £1.5m from the element of the Business Rates Pool retained for economic development to establish the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) Enabling Fund;
3. Note and endorse the decision of the 7th September to invest £300,000 from the SEP Enabling Fund to resource the LEP's employment & skills agenda;
4. Note and endorse the decision of 20th October to invest £200,000 from the SEP Enabling Fund to establish the second wave of the Growth Hub Development Fund

Background

1. The Supervisory Board meeting held on 3rd August 2017 was not quorate, although the decision was made to proceed with the meeting.
2. Given the next scheduled meeting of the Supervisory Board was not until 7th December (with the meeting on 13th October cancelled), it was agreed that a number of decisions would be taken by written procedure and ratified at the next meeting.

GBSLEP Learning & Development Programme

3. On Friday 21st July, the GBSLEP Board agreed to establish a programme of learning & development for partners, the Board and the Executive. The intention is that the programme will primarily enable the delivery and development of the capital programme, by addressing practical skills around business case development and project management as well as ensuring that leaders and senior managers and supported to excel in an increasingly collaborative, partnership-working environment.

4. In establishing the programme, the Board agreed that the interest accrued against the Local Growth Fund deposited with the Accountable Body would be ring-fenced to provide the funding; and that the Head of Delivery would be responsible for the programme.
5. On 11th August, the Supervisory Board noted the LEP Board's decisions by written procedure. The Supervisory Board is therefore recommended to note and endorse that decision taken by written procedure.

SEP Enabling Fund

6. On 28th August, the GBSLEP Board agreed to establish the SEP Enabling Fund in order to deliver the SEP Business Plan. In doing so, the Board agreed to allocate £1.5m from the retained element of the Business Rates Pool allocated to GBSLEP for economic development to the Enabling Fund.
7. The Board also agreed to the process for allocating the funds, including delegated authority to the LEP Director to allocate up to £100,000 in respect of matters that are not "key decisions" and agreed that the portfolio of projects would be overseen by the Head of Strategy.
8. On 7th September, the Supervisory Board noted the LEP Board's decisions by written procedure. The Supervisory Board is therefore recommended to note and endorse that decision taken by written procedure.

Resources for Employment & Skills

9. On 28th August, the GBSLEP Board agreed to allocate £300,000 from the SEP Enabling Fund to provide core resources for the GBSLEP Employment & Skills agenda into 2019.
10. On 7th September, the Supervisory Board noted the LEP Board's decisions by written procedure. The Supervisory Board is therefore recommended to note and endorse that decision taken by written procedure.

Growth Hub Development Fund

11. On 12th October, the GBSLEP Board agreed to invest £200,000 from the SEP Enabling Fund to establish a second wave of Growth Hub Development Fund, to be overseen by an Investment Decision Panel comprised of members of the Growing Business sub-board.
12. On 20th October, the Supervisory Board noted the LEP Board's decisions by written procedure. The Supervisory Board is therefore recommended to note and endorse that decision taken by written procedure.

Conclusions

13. This paper seeks the ratification of the decisions made by written procedure since the last meeting of the Supervisory Board on 3rd August 2017. The Supervisory Board is recommended to note and endorse those decisions.

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