

# GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership

Board Paper – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Agenda Item 8** The process for re-allocation of Growth Deal funds that become available due to project changes

## **What is this item for:**

To seek Board approval for the process for reallocation of Growth Deal funds as described.

## **Background:**

GFirst LEP, in line with all LEPs, is in receipt of Single Local Growth Funding via Growth Deal allocations. The process that is followed in order to select projects and then process those that are funded is documented in the local Assurance Framework.

Government has delegated to GFirst LEP the freedom and flexibility to move or reallocate Growth Deal funds as the local situation demands. The process for this is mainly described in the Assurance Framework, but this paper is to establish the process for reallocation of funds when they become available. This would be the result of projects in the Growth Deal programme either being withdrawn or under spending.

## **The Opportunity:**

An opportunity will be identified through the normal Programme Management processes. The Programme Management Group (PMG) will identify and agree the amount of funds available, and when they will be available. This will be agreed as part of the management of the total profile of fund allocation, and would not be linked directly to the amounts or timing of the project withdrawn or under-spent. This will by default create a very limited opportunity for new projects, as a critical criteria for selection will be their ability to deliver within the budget and time identified in the opportunity.

The opportunity and available funds would require approval and endorsement by GFirst LEP, taking into account the commitment to Government to spend to profile and also Gloucestershire County Council as the accountable body for the fund, taking into consideration the programme's cash flow and fund management responsibilities.

## **Identification of potential projects for consideration:**

Projects will be identified through existing mechanisms and will not be published as an open call, as would be the case for the development of a new programme submission to Government for further rounds of Growth Deal funding. Specifically, the following will be implemented:

**Projects that were included in the most recent Growth Deal bid to Government, but failed to be funded will automatically be invited to apply for the opportunity. This represents the current pipeline that has been agreed through due process. Promoters would be allowed to revise the projects if necessary, but would not be invited to submit any other proposals.**

## **Exceptional Circumstances:**

It is recognised that there may be projects that have been developed since the last pipeline process, that are so exceptional, that it is desirable for them to be considered. To be considered 'exceptional' they will have the potential to deliver or accelerate outstanding growth for the county. They will also need to be able to demonstrate their ability to deliver within the budget and time identified in the opportunity.

Suggestions for a very limited number of projects in this category will be invited from the GFirst LEP Board and the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee.

**Initial Assessment Process :**

Once the list of projects for consideration has been collated, the process described in the Annex D of the Assurance Framework would be applied from point 2. The LEP Board would retain the final decision making powers as identified in Annex D: 3B 'LEP Board selection and prioritisation'. (See below)

**Transparency:**

This process will be managed in a fair and transparent manner, in line with the local assurance framework, with a full audit trail of the process being kept by the LEP.

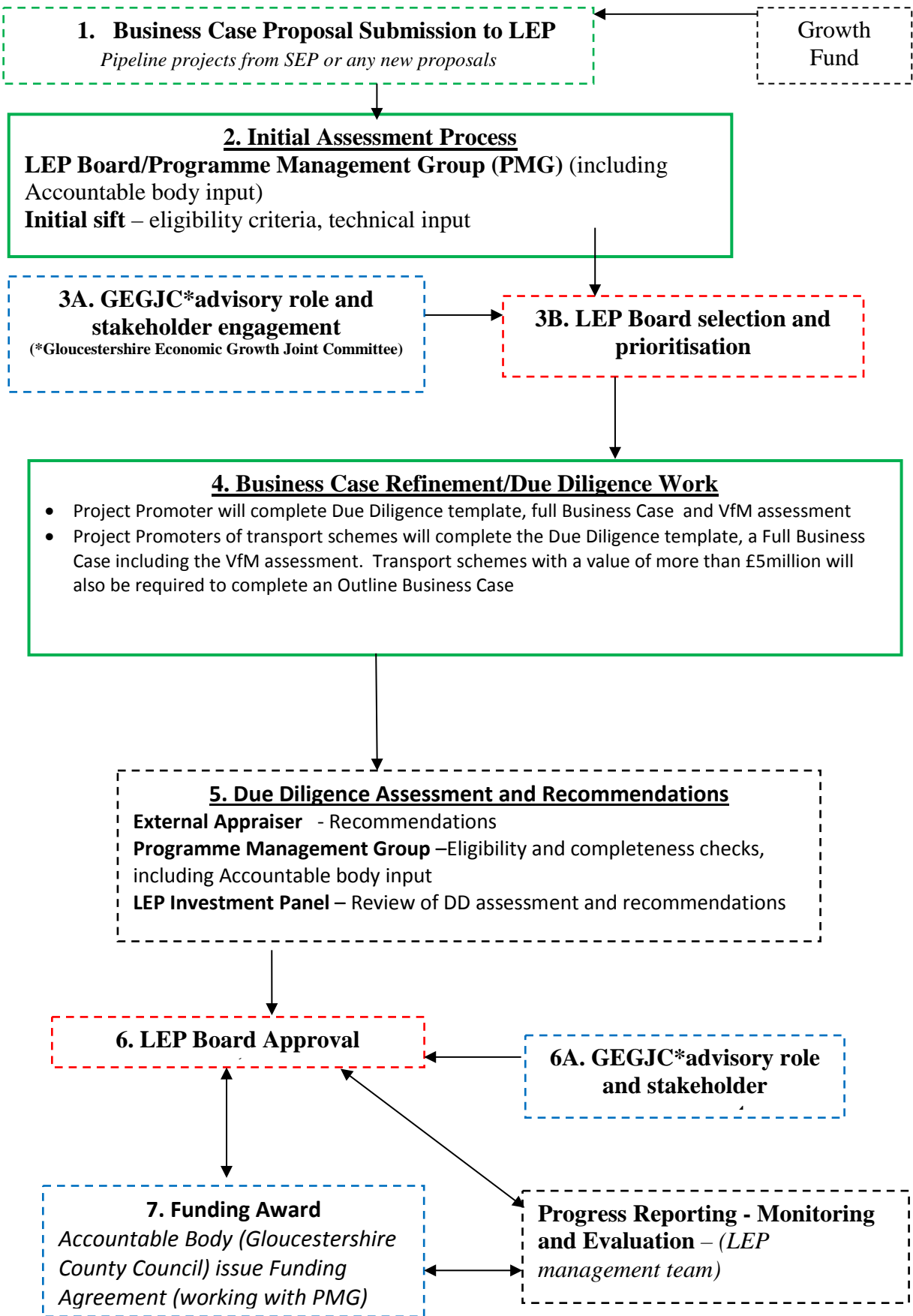
**Recommendations:**

The Board is asked to note and approve the process, as described.

**6. Further information:**

For further information points raised in this Board paper, please contact Mally Findlater  
[mally.findlater@gfirstlep.com](mailto:mally.findlater@gfirstlep.com)

Appendix D: See page 3



Accountable Body Role – Gloucestershire County Council

Project selection

Project approval and funding award process

**KEY**  
 Red outline – decision point  
 Green outline – input from Project Promoters  
 Blue outline– GCC Accountable Body