

Meeting title	GFirst LEP Board
Date/time/venue	14/07/2020 @ 9:00 to 10:00 Via Zoom
Attendees	<p><u>Members:</u> Diane Savory (DS) (Chair), Ruth Dooley (RD), Jim Grant (JG), Mark Hawthorne (MH), Stephen Jordan (SJ), Rob Loveday (RL), Russell Marchant (RM), Ian Mean (IM), Neill Ricketts (NR), Adam Starkey (AS), Mike Warner (MW), & Lorrin White (LW)</p> <p><u>In attendance:</u> David Owen (DO), Barry Bodin-Jones (BBJ), Pete Carr (PC), Dev Chakraborty (DCh), Doina Cornell (DC), Carl Creswell (CC), Sarah Danson (SD), Mally Findlater (MF), Patrick Forde (PF), Nick Holyoake (NH), Steve Mawson (SM), Lynn Stacey (minutes) & Rupert Waters (RW)</p>
Apologies	Emma Hanby, Deborah Potts & Jenny Raymond

No.	Item	By	Action
1)	<p><u>Welcome & introduction</u></p> <p>DS gave an update on her current work / meetings as part of the Recovery process. This includes a South West BEIS Ministerial Roundtable being held tomorrow on retail and tourism. DS also attended the LGA Annual Conference webinar last week on 'Thinking Local: A Vision for the Future'.</p> <p>DS welcomed Rupert Waters to this meeting, who has replaced Claire Edwards at GCC.</p> <p>CC gave an update on his department, and his current work on the economic recovery. CC reported central Government is engaging more with businesses and listening to their needs. ALL to provide CC with any relevant feedback.</p> <p>A discussion took place on face masks, after central Government's announcement on new measures being compulsory when visiting shops.</p> <p><u>Local Infrastructure Stimulus Fund</u> (name to be changed to 'Getting Building Fund'). DO explained the evaluation and decision-making process, which included a LEP Board subgroup (DS, RD & AS) who reviewed the short list. This resulted in 15 schemes totalling £52million being submitted to MHCLG. DO confirmed that GFirst LEP had been awarded £11.3million out of the total fund of £900million. At this current time, the negotiation on which projects would be funded was still ongoing.</p> <p>DO stated there was £450k remaining unallocated from the Local Growth Deal Fund, which needs to be reallocated. It was proposed, this would be diverted to the Getting Building Fund to ensure we can deliver more projects in the pipeline.</p>	ALL	

	<p><u>Decision</u> The Board unanimously approved the reallocation of the £450k to the Getting Building Fund.</p> <p>MF explained the next steps, which includes a formal return to be signed off by DS and SM. Once this has been completed, confirmation will be sent to the Board on the list of projects to go forward. The relevant projects will go through the standard due diligence and will be presented in the August and September LEP Board meetings.</p> <p><u>Gloucestershire Careers Hub</u> PC informed the board, we have been successful in being part of a new wave of Careers Hub expansion. The hub will be made up of local schools and colleges working together with universities and training providers. This work will commence on the 1st September 2020 and further details will follow.</p>		
2)	<p><u>Minutes of:</u></p> <p>Minutes of the last LEP Board meeting on 9 June 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record.</p> <p><u>Gloucestershire Airport Anson Park Development Changes</u> – the minutes of the written procedure dated 24th June 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>		
3)	<p><u>Declarations of interest available on the GFirst LEP website -</u> https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/the-board/register-of-members-interests/ DO requested that Board members declare any pecuniary or personal interests relating to specific matters on the agenda as each item was discussed.</p>		
4)	<p><u>Gloucester Railway Station</u></p> <p>BBJ went through the paper that was issued to the Board with the details related to the Gloucester Railway Station Improvements Investment proposal.</p> <p>A due diligence process has been completed as part of an assessment of the business case and likely economic benefits of the scheme. The project consists of four main components: Subway / Forecourt Improvements, Building Enveloping and Highway Works. BBJ went through the benefits of this project and confirmed the Investment Panel were in full agreement to recommend this project for Funding Approval, with the preconditions and conditions as stated in the paper.</p> <p>BBJ explained that State Aid is not a concern for the LEP as this is considered to be a transfer of public funds. Any risk would be the responsibility of Gloucester City Council, who have taken legal advice to inform their position.</p> <p>BBJ also highlighted the risk of potential delays due to COVID-19. He reported the mitigation measures were reasonable and considered a low risk, due to the importance of the project and the confidence of delivery in 2021.</p> <p>The Board was very keen for the provision of the underground works to be sufficient to enable more electric charging points to be provided in the future, in addition to</p>		

	<p>those included in the scheme. BBJ confirmed the Investment Panel was also supportive of this. The Board also supported the additional condition suggested by the Investment panel that stipulates that Gloucester City Council uses its best endeavours to facilitate delivery of additional benefits by GWR / Network Rail, as outlined in the supporting paper.</p> <p>BBJ confirmed that the canopy element of the design was not included in the £4.3m investment, but that it was seen as highly desirable. GWR have indicated a willingness to consider funding the additional cost of the canopy, although this would now feature as a stand-alone project, the funding for which is subject to approval by DfT/ First Group and Network Rail.</p> <p>Decision The Board approved the funding of £4,300,000 for this project, and authorise GCC as Accountable Body to prepare the formal funding agreement to take account of the pre-conditions and to include the conditions that were detailed in the supporting paper to the Board including the additional condition as above.</p>		
5)	<p>Recovery Planning</p> <p>NH presented the LEP's draft Recovery Plan - a sector specific, economic recovery plan which will help inform the place-based recovery plans being produced by our local authority partners.</p> <p>An extensive discussion pursued. The Board supported the draft Recovery Plan and provided a useful update for NH.</p> <p>NH to take forward the points raised.</p>	NH	
6)	<p>AOB No further items were raised.</p>		

Future meeting dates for 2020:

- Tuesday 18th August 2020 @ 9:00
- Tuesday 15th September 2020 @ 8:30
- Tuesday 8th December 2020 @ 8:30