



LEAD MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development, Councillor Keith Glazier

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 11.00 AM ++ OR CONCLUSION OF CABINET, WHICHEVER IS THE LATER ++

COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LEWES

AGENDA

- 1 Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 8 October 2019 (*Pages 3 - 4*)
- 2 Disclosure of Interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- 3 Urgent items
Notification of any items which the Lead Member considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda.
- 4 Local Growth Fund (LGF) Round 3b - Grant agreement for the Bexhill Creative Workspace project (*Pages 5 - 8*)
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
- 5 Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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4 November 2019

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LEAD MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development, Councillor Keith Glazier, on 8 October 2019 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillors Godfrey Daniel, Philip Daniel, David Tutt and Trevor Webb spoke on item 4 (see minute 4)

1 DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 9 MAY 2019

1.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2019.

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

2.1 Councillor Trevor Webb declared a personal interest in Item 4, in that he is closely involved in the Link project, but he did not consider this to be prejudicial.

3 REPORTS

3.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

4 NOTICE OF MOTION: RIGHT TO WORK FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

4.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Executive.

4.2 The Lead Member agreed to give further consideration to the final wording of the motion he would recommend to Council in consultation with the proposer and seconder of the original Notice of Motion.

DECISIONS

4.3 The Lead Member RESOLVED, following discussion of the final wording with the proposer and seconder of the Notice of Motion, to recommend to Council the following motion:

“East Sussex County Council believes that:

- (i) people seeking asylum generally want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families;*
- (ii) restrictions on the right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of East Sussex and the UK; and*
- (iii) allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in East Sussex and for the local and national economy.*

East Sussex County Council calls on the UK Government to consider giving people seeking asylum the right to work, unconstrained by the shortage occupation list, after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim.”

Reasons

4.4 The Notice of Motion asks the County Council to call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim. Policy in relation to asylum seekers' right to work is determined by national government and as such is not within the Council's control.

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

Date: 12 November 2019

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Bexhill Creative Workspace: Local Growth Fund Round 3b – Grant Agreement

Purpose: To seek approval for East Sussex County Council to enter into a Grant agreement to transfer the Local Growth Fund Round 3b monies as approved by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP) to the Project: Bexhill Creative Workspace

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

1. Approve grant funding to the value of £0.96m to Rother District Council to fund the delivery of the Bexhill Creative Workspace project (following approval of the business case by the SE LEP Accountability Board on 13 September 2019); and
 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to agree the terms of any agreements and to take all other necessary actions in respect of Recommendation 1
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1. Background Information

1.1 In March 2014, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), which comprises businesses, local authorities and education leaders across East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock, submitted their proposals to Government for a Growth Deal to drive economic expansion in the area up to 2021. Within this was a specific growth plan for East Sussex focussed around its three growth corridors – Newhaven, A22/A27 Eastbourne/South Wealden and the A21/A259 Bexhill/Hastings Growth Corridor.

1.2 The SELEP's initial Growth Deal was agreed in July 2014 with additional Growth Deals agreed in February 2015, March 2016 and February 2017. The total amount of funding provisionally allocated to SELEP by Central Government, was £570m. Of this, £561.6m had been allocated to 97 Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects. Within East Sussex, over £80m of SELEP LGF monies have been secured to date, towards economic growth and infrastructure projects.

1.3 Following the SELEP 'Deep Dive' review there was a recommendation that SELEP should take steps to satisfy themselves that any underspend at a federated level is reallocated to the most promising and best value for money projects. In response to the findings of the Deep Dive, on 16 March 2018, the Strategic Board agreed to implement the recommendations of the review. This included a decision to, "agree to establish and maintain a single pipeline of priority projects which will be used to identify the projects which utilise underspends in the event that it becomes available".

1.4 On 29 June 2018, SELEP's Strategic Board agreed to issue an Open Call for unallocated LGF funding to the value of £8.3m for projects which supported its strategic objectives and which would form a strong 'short-term' pipeline of priority investments. The open call was termed LGF Round 3b with potentially a maximum of £47.2m available for future pipeline project delivery to be currently spent by March 2021.

1.5 On 8 March 2019 the SELEP Investment Panel announced the outcome of the call, following the SELEP's independent technical evaluator's assessment of each of the 60 projects strategic outline business cases (SOBC). As a result, East Sussex had secured a further £5.358m LGF monies, allocated to three projects: Bexhill Enterprise Park North (£1.94m); Plumpton College Skills for Rural Businesses (£2.918m); and The Churchfields Business centre (formerly Sidney Little Road Business Incubator Hub) (£0.5m) with the remaining successful applicants forming the SELEP prioritised pipeline of projects should potential further LGF funding come available from underspends.

1.6 On 28 June 2019 the SELEP Investment Panel confirmed the total LGF available for reinvestment had increased to £15.158m. The SELEP Investment Panel prioritised eight further projects to progress utilising the the LGF monies currently available including the East Sussex **Bexhill Creative Workspace** (£0.96m) scheme. The project was identified by the Investment Panel as a priority through the LGF3b pipeline development process.

1.7 On 13 September 2019 the SELEP Accountability Board approved the award of £960,000 of LGF monies to support the delivery of the Project identified in the Business Case and which has been assessed by the SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) as presenting high value for money with medium to high certainty of achieving this.

1.8 Essex County Council (ECC), as the lead accountable body for the SELEP, issues funds on a project by project basis to the relevant upper tier authority through grant agreements, in this case East Sussex County Council. It is then the responsibility of the upper tier authority to defray funds and monitor progress for each individual project. The County Council mitigates the risk of repayment of grant award should the project not proceed to full delivery through grant agreements with individual projects.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The '**Bexhill Creative Workspace**' project will create six light industrial units specifically for the purpose of attracting new creative industries in to the town. The project's business case strategically presents close alignment to: the SELEP Economic Strategy Statement; the East Sussex Growth Strategy; the East Sussex Cultural strategy and the Rother District Council Corporate Plan. The project is also located at the heart of the one of the East Sussex strategic priority Growth Corridors, the A259/A21.

2.2 The total scheme costs £1.76m with RDC match funding £0.8m for the purchase of the building. The £0.96m of LGF investment is required as a contribution towards the development of low cost creative workspace through the redevelopment of a former food production facility located on the Beeching Road industrial estate in Bexhill.

2.3 The project seeks to create 1,599 sqm of B1 light industrial space across six units for the specific use of creative industry businesses. Creating entry level and starter jobs for young creatives in the area and supporting 36 net additional jobs. RDC will work with the De La Warr Pavillion in Bexhill to access local networks and create a programme of development for local creatives which includes low cost space to work.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The project supports the delivery of the SELEP's strategic objectives as outlined in the new Economic Strategy Statement 2019, the East Sussex Growth Strategy strategic priorities and the County Council's core priorities in 'driving sustainable economic growth' and 'making best use of resources by maximising the funding available through external bidding'.

3.2 As a result of the award by the SELEP Investment Panel and Accountability Board of grant funding to East Sussex of £0.96m through the SELEP Local Growth Fund Round 3b programme Lead Member is asked to approve the allocation of £0.96m funding to Rother District Council to fund the delivery of the Bexhill Creative workspace project.

3.3 The Lead Member is asked for approval to delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to agree the terms of any agreements and to take all other necessary actions in respect of the above recommendation.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Elford and Earl-Williams.

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