

## North East Local Enterprise Partnership Investment Board

19 November 2020

### **Present:**

#### Members:

Andrew Moffat  
Gillian Hall  
Mark Thompson  
Cllr Bruce Pickard

#### Observer

Cllr Tracey Dixon

#### Advisors:

Ian Richards  
David Furness  
Jason Hobbs

#### NTCA Officers:

Janice Gillespie  
James Skelly

#### LEP Officers:

Helen Golightly  
Paul Woods  
Ray Browning  
Matt Ebbatson  
Ben McLaughlin  
Claire Prospert

#### Minutes:

Brenda Joyce

### **1 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair, Andrew Moffat, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

No apologies received.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Gillian Hall declared an interest in items related to ports as a Port of Blyth Commissioner.

Bruce Pickard declared an interest as a cabinet member on North Tyneside Council with responsibility for the North Shields master plan proposals, and the moving of the ferry landing (item 5a) is one of the projects in that plan.

David Furniss declared an interest in the GBF applications for the Tyne Ferry Landing (item 5a) and the Acquisition and Repurposing of the Skills Academy for Sustainable Manufacturing and Innovation (Item 5e).

Mark Thompson declared an interest in the Holborn 2 GBF and EZ application (Item 5c).

### 3 **MINUTES OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD 15 OCTOBER 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

### 4 **MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS LOG**

As a Technical Clarification to the CPIF Pilot Programme approval, Matthew Ebbatson reported that approval for CPIF Pilot Programme includes £200k of re-allocated NEIF Grant not re-allocated LGF as set out at the meeting on the 15 October 2020.

In respect of the State Aid issue raised at the previous two meetings the Investment Board was advised that further information was expected by the end of the month (action 03/20-1).

The Chair asked for the Covid item to be closed off (action 05/21-1).

Regarding the EZ refresh this was open ended due to the delayed Comprehensive Spending (CSR) review and depended on the CSR timetable (action 09/20-1).

**ACTION (ref 11/20-1):** A further column would be added to the Action Log to provide a percentage figure of completeness.

### 5 **PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL BY INVESTMENT BOARD**

#### (a) **Tyne Ferry Landing - GBF application**

**This report was strictly confidential as it contained commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and was not for wider circulation.**

The Investment Board received a report summarising a business case for the Cross Tyne ferry landing renewal and relocation to the North Shields Fish Quay to access £5.685m of Getting Building Fund (GBF) grant.

**The Investment Board RESOLVED to approve a grant award of £5.685m from the Getting Building Fund with conditions**

**(b) CPIF Pilot Velocity - GBF application**

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At its meeting on 15 October 2020, the Investment Board agreed to establishing the Commercial Property Investment Fund Pilot Programme to utilize up to £2m of Getting Building Funds and £200k of North East Investment Fund to accelerate suitable commercial industrial and office developments. The approval of the Pilot Programme was subject to each project within the pilot being considered for approval by the Investment Board as the relevant full application comes forward. Following review of the existing pipeline, the first full application had been developed and appraised. This report outlined the project and recommendations for approval as a result of appraisal.

**The Investment Board RESOLVED to approve the Velocity 194 for Getting Building Fund grant from the CPIF Pilot Programme subject to conditions.**

**Investment Board RESOLVED to delegate final sign off of these conditions to Chief Executive of the North East LEP in consultation with Chair of the Investment Board.**

**(c) Holborn 2 Enterprise Zone Phase 2 - GBF and EZ application**

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The purpose of this report was to provide Investment Board with the outcome of the appraisal of the Holborn 2 (EZ) phase 2 application from Port of Tyne and recommended approval of the grant request..

**The Investment Board RESOLVED to approve funding, comprising of the Getting Building Fund and EZ funding, subject to conditions:**

**(d) Kingsway North, Team Valley Industrial Units - LGF application**

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At its previous meeting the Investment Board agreed to defer a decision on this project to allow late information from the applicant to be considered. This report had been updated following consideration of the additional details presented by the applicant and a further review of the development funding gap by the external appraiser.

**The Board resolved to approve a grant award subject to conditions:**

- (e) **Acquisition and Repurposing of the Skills Academy for Sustainable Manufacturing and Innovation (SASMI) - NEIF application**

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This project was a proposal seeking North East Investment Fund loan finance. This had arisen as a result of discussions between the applicant (Sunderland City Council) and the North East LEP as to what support the LEP may be able to provide in securing a strategically significant project to the region in the form of the Driving the Electronic Revolution (DER) research and development facility.

**Investment Board RESOLVED to support a North East Investment Fund Loan subject to conditions**

- (f) **COVID Response Fund - VCSE Mini programme call outcome - LGF**

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In support of the North East Covid 19 Recovery Plan the Investment Board in July 2020 agreed a capital budget from the local growth fund programme of £778,000 to support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to help the sector contribute to a green economic recovery and to support young people. This opportunity to bid was open to VCSE organisations with operations in the North East LEP area to help deliver short-term projects i.e. by 31 March 2022 and that engaged local communities.

**The Investment Board RESOLVED to: -**

- 1) Approve the nine top ranking projects listed in Appendix 1, with a total allocation of £734,425 from the approved budget allocation.**
- 2) Approve a budget increase of £254,925 on top of the initial allocation of £778,000, using identified savings in the LGF programme, bringing the budget to £1,032,925 and enabling projects ranked 10-12 be approved.**
- 3) Agree to the reserve projects set out in Appendix 1 being brought forward and supported with an additional £218,000 from resources released from the Kingsway North project budget allocation, bringing the overall total to £1,250,925, further helping to maximise capital expenditure in 2020/21.**
- 4) That final grant conditions be determined on each project under the officer scheme of delegation and to note the conditions highlighted in regard to each project in Appendix 1.**

6 **GBF PROGRAMME - TIMELINE FOR PROJECTS AND BUDGET**

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This report updated on progress with the implementation of the £47m GBF budget allocated to the North East in July 2020.

**The Investment Board commented on the issues highlighted in the report and RESOLVED to support proposals to take forward to the LEP Board.**

7 **COVID-19 UPDATE (VERBAL UPDATE)**

**This update was strictly confidential as it contained commercial information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation and was not for wider circulation.**

Ray Browning provided a verbal report. Update reports on the LGF programme and the EZ would be brought to the December meeting as data was currently being collected. The LGF report will cover where the programme is in terms of Covid and how it has impacted on projects.

8 **FORWARD PLAN**

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Noted.

9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 7 December 2020, 2:00 – 4:30pm