

# North East Local Enterprise Partnership Investment Board

7 December 2020

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

**Present:**

Members:

Andrew Moffat  
Gillian Hall  
Cllr Bruce Pickard

Observer:

Lucy Winskill

Advisors:

Ian Richards  
David Furness  
Jason Hobbs

NTCA Officers:

Janice Gillespie  
Katy Laing

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 Investment Board Chair, Andrew Moffat, welcomed everyone to meeting. He went on to welcome the Chair of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, Lucy Winskill, and introductions were made.

Apologies were received from Councillor Dixon and Mark Thompson.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

David Furniss declared an interest in the GBF application for Gateshead Urban Core.

### 3 **MINUTES OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

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

With regard to State Aid Gillian Hall updated the meeting on discussions with officers and whether it would have any impact on processing capabilities. Matthew Ebbatson had been advised by DWF that the LEP should keep within existing rules and exemptions.

Paul Woods (action 11/20-5) in relation to the SASMI building some information had been received and further clarification was being sought.

Gillian Hall (action 03/20-1) asked why it was taking so long for the North Bank of Tyne State Aid position to be sorted out. Ben McLaughlin advised that the finalised State Aid position was not yet know.

Regarding the 'Progress against past approvals' document Ben McLaughlin advised that the stages involved were ensuring pre-conditions were met, the drafting of the funding agreement and the funding agreement being signed by both parties and therefore active. The funding agreement drafting stage tended to take the longest.

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

#### (a) **Newcastle City Centre Transformation - GPF 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 presenting the key findings and investment recommendations following the independent appraisal of the final business case submitted by Newcastle City Council for the City Centre Transformation project.

**The Investment Board RESOLVED to approve a capital grant from the GBF programme budget subject to conditions.**

#### (b) **Gateshead Urban Core Infrastructure - GBF application**

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The Investment Board received a report summarising a business case for the Gateshead Quays Link Road to access Getting Building Fund (GBF) grant. The project was included as part of the GBF programme of 18 projects earlier in 2020, with an allocation of £5m included in the programme budget. Further to receiving the business case in October, Mott MacDonald were appointed to undertake the independent appraisal of the project. This report presented the outcome of the appraisal and resulting recommendations for approval to Gateshead MBC.

**It is RESOLVED that the Investment Board approve a grant award from the Getting Building Fund with conditions**

**(c) Green Energy Accelerator programme**

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The Investment Board received a report summarizing a business case for the Green Energy Accelerator Programme to access a £1.155m mix of LEP grant funding over the next three years.

**RESOLVED - The Investment Board approve the use of LEP grants to provide match funding contribution to this programme, subject to conditions.**

**6 PROGRAMME UPDATES**

**(a) GBF Programme update**

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The Investment Board had received a full update on the GBF programme on 19 November and therefore this report provided a brief update on a few developments since then.

**Investment Board RESOLVED to note and comment on the issues highlighted in the report.**

**(b) LGF Programme update**

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The Investment Board received a report outlining budget and KPI forecasts for 2020/21, latest programme risks, specific project highlights and the MHCLG dashboard submitted to Government for qtr. 2 2020/21.

**RESOLVED - Investment Board commented on matters raised and noted the report.**

**(c) NEIF Programme update**

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The Investment Board received a report which provided a high-level update on the current position of the North East Investment Fund (NEIF) and highlighted where key delivery risks existed. A copy of the CPIF report and presentation circulated to the North East LEP Board on 3 December was attached for information.

**RESOLVED – Investment Board noted the report.**

**(d) EZ Programme update**

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The Investment Board received a report setting out the current position in relation to the Enterprise Zone programme, particularly focusing on the delivery of the EZ Development Fund and progress in developing the Enterprise Zone sites.

**RESOLVED - Investment Board noted the progress in delivering the Enterprise Zone sites.**

**7 COVID-19 UPDATE**

**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.**

In March 2020 the LEP Board agreed to form a budget of up to £5m using internal resources to help respond to COVID-19. So far, a budget of £4.4m had been allocated to support a range of response and stimulus measures with most of this coming from the LGF programme and a balance of £0.5m from the NEIF programme. Progress on these initiatives was summarised in this report.

**The Investment Board RESOLVED to:**

- 1) **Note and comment on the progress made on the initiatives supported with the COVID Response Fund budgets and ongoing impact of COVID 19.**
- 2) **Receive a further COVID 19 update report at the end of the financial year.**

## 8 **FREEPORTS OPPORTUNITY**

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The Investment Board received a verbal update on the on the Freeports opportunity which had gone to the North East LEP Board last week.

## 9 **FORWARD PLAN**

Five projects were now scheduled to come forward in January.

It was suggested that the proposed meeting of the Investment Board in February would be useful if Members were amenable to confirm it. The Chair said that it was needed and that everyone's time was much appreciated.

It was proposed that the regular monthly update reports move to the February agenda to enable the focus at the January meeting to be decisions around approvals and a Freeport update.

## 10 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

On behalf of the North East LEP Board, Lucy Winskell thanked all Investment Board Members and the Executive Team for their enormous amount of hard work and time commitment.

Andrew Moffat wished all Investment Board Members and the Executive Team a happy Christmas.

## 11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 14 January 2021, 2:00-4:30pm