

North East Local Enterprise Partnership Investment Board

16 September 2021

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Members:

Andrew Moffat
Gillian Hall
Mark Thompson
Cllr Carl Johnson

Advisors:

Ian Richards
Jason Hobbs

NTCA Officers:

Katy Laing
Janice Gillespie

LEP Officers:

Paul Woods
Ray Browning
Matt Ebbatson
Ben McLaughlin
Claire Prospert
Nicola McIntosh

Steer ED:

Josh Stott
Caitriona Lacy

Observer:

James Goodwyn-Lynch

Minutes:

Brenda Joyce

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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tracey Dixon, David Furness and Helen Golightly.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Carl Johnson as a new member of the Investment Board, and also welcome James Goodwyn-Lynch as an observer.

5 LGF AND EZ EVALUATION OUTCOME

Investment Board members agreed to change the order of the agenda to enable Josh Stott and Caitriona Lacy (Steer ED) to give a presentation on the highlights of their analysis and conclusions on the LGF and EZ Programmes Interim Impact Evaluation.

RESOLVED – That Investment Board received the presentation from consultants Steer ED and commented on the findings in the draft interim evaluation report.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Gillian Hall declared an interest as a Port of Blyth Commissioner.

Mark Thompson declared an interest in Item 6d and Item 7

3 MINUTES OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD 8 JULY 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS LOG

Regarding Action 01/21-4, relating to Subsidy Control, Ben McLaughlin would pick this up with Craig Winter.

Action 07/21-1, a report on the market demand for office space for the Economic Directors would be closed.

6 PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL BY INVESTMENT BOARD

(a) Battleship Wharf Link with Northumberland Energy Park, GBF

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.

This report summarised the business case and appraisal and asked for approval of a grant towards the Battleship Wharf link to Northumberland Energy Park (NEP) project, which was seeking to access Getting Building Fund in order to support the creation of a heavy haul link between the berth being created at NEP 1 and the berths at Battleship Wharf.

RESOLVED – That the Investment Board conditionally approved an award from the Getting Building Fund

(b) Panther Court, Drum Industrial Estate, CPIF Pilot

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.

This report summarised the business case received, and appraisal undertaken for the Panther Court development at Drum Industrial Estate. It outlined the project and provided recommendations in regard to its approval by Investment Board as a result of appraisal.

RESOLVED – That the Investment Board conditionally approved an award from the Getting Building Fund

(c) Ashwood Business Park variation, EZ

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.

This report summarised the request or access to additional Enterprise Zone (EZ funding) to meet increased costs in the infrastructure works at Ashwood Business Park.

RESOLVED – That the Investment Board conditionally approved an additional award from the Enterprise Zone programme

(d) North East Business Event Subvention Fund, LGF

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.

RESOLVED – That the Investment Board recommend the project go forward for consideration at the North East LEP Board

(e) Inward Investment Fund Variation, LGF/NEIF

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.

RESOLVED – That the Investment Board recommend the project go forward for consideration at the North East LEP Board

7 **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATOR FUND - UPDATE AND PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL BY INVESTMENT BOARD**

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The project Development Accelerator Fund was a £4m programme (sourced from NEIF reallocated from GBF underspend and retained EZ surplus) aiming to support the development of strategic regional projects in the regional project pipeline. The objectives of the Fund were to:

RESOLVED – That the Investment Board conditionally approved awards from the Project Accelerator Fund as set out in the report and to postpone the second call to early November

8 **PROGRAMME UPDATES**

(a) Getting Building Fund (GBF)

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.

This report confirmed the budget position following Qtr. 1 2021/22 project monitoring returns.

RESOLVED - That the Board noted the latest update on the GBF programme performance.

(b) Local Growth Fund

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.

This report provided an update on budget expenditure and KPIs following Qtr.1 project monitoring returns; the latest on lifetime budget uncommitted balances / prospective allocations; a project round up and an outline of recent communication/pr activity.

RESOLVED – That the Investment Board noted the latest programme update.

(c) North East Investment Fund

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.

This report provided an update to the Investment Board on the Commercial Property Investment Fund (CPIF) project, specifically updating on the current procurement of the Fund Manager.

(d) **Enterprise Zones (EZ)**

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.

This report set 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. This report now also included information on the forecast spend.

RESOLVED – That North East LEP Investment Board agreed to:

- **Approve the recommended schedule of presentations and discussion between the Investment Board and Local Authorities as set out in the report; and**
- **Note progress in delivering the Enterprise Zone sites**

9 **FORWARD PLAN**

Noted.

10 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 18 November 2021, 2:00-4:30pm