

Coast to Capital Board Meeting No. 23 14 May 2015	Item No. 23.10
Report Title: Growth Deal Implementation Update	
Report by: Ian Parkes	

The Board is recommended to:

- NOTE progress on implementing the Growth Deal Programme
- NOTE the Executive Committee's endorsement of the Central Sussex College Skills Capital project for £826,000 LGF funding.

Summary:

1. Progress continues to be made on implementing the Local Growth Fund Programme.
2. All upstream documentation is up to date.
3. The Accountable Body Agreement and the Assurance Framework have been signed off with the Accountable Body.

We are currently finalising all the downstream grant agreements. Both ourselves and the Accountable Body are reviewing how this part of the process can be sped up.

Upstream agreements and sign-off

1. As mentioned last time, the grant offer letters from Government for the 15/16 Local Growth Funding, the Growth Hub and the 16/1 and later years funding have all now been received. The firsts year funding of £44,560,000 of Local Growth Funding and the Growth Hub Funding (first quarter) have been received by WSCC our Accountable Body and is in their bank account.

Governance and Assurance

2. The accountable body agreement with WSCC has been finalised and agreed and authorised for signing by the Executive Committee.
3. The Assurance Framework has been agreed between ourselves and the Accountable Body and confirmation provided to DCLG - this was a condition of funding. As part of the Assurance Framework, we will need to adapt and review some of our practices:
 - Review the Schedule of Delegated Authorities - this is due for review in any case
 - Review the terms of reference of the Executive Committee (on the agenda for this Board meeting)
 - Publish all Board papers and minutes relating to the Growth Deal on the Coast to Capital website, including all business cases and minutes of sub-committees and panels which consider the business cases. This is now in place.

Downstream

4. The format of the standard tripartite grant offer letter has been agreed with the Accountable Body and it has been issued to all delivery bodies. We are in the process of negotiating the individual final agreements for all projects. Both ourselves and the Accountable Body believe we are not moving fast enough through this stage and we are considering how we can speed the process. There is a risk of delay to project starts which we both wish to avoid.
5. The latest version of the Programme Management Book and Dashboard have been circulated. Directors can view the latest status for all projects. Each transport resilience and sustainable transport project now have their own individual entry, as does each of the approved Skills Capital projects.
6. Projects to note include:

Transport Resilience and Sustainable Transport – the Local Transport Body (LTB) has now made allocations in principle for these two packages which were delegated to it by the Coast to Capital Board. Martin Heffer's Infrastructure paper provides more detail on the approved schemes, and there is a page on each in the Programme Management Book. Each business case is also published on the Coast to Capital website should any Director wish to look at the full detail.

Skills Capital - the guidance and application for colleges to apply for the Learning Facilities Fund have now been issued, following consultation with the colleges, the Skills Funding Agency and the Coast to Capital Skills Capital Panel. This fund will be allocated on a formula basis linked to condition of existing college estate (as assessed by the Skills Funding Agency). The deadline for applications is 29th May. The total amount available in 15/16 is £1.45m

ASEAN Gateway/Life Science Cool Chain facility – this joint project with WSCC continues to develop well – there is good interest from the life science sector, logistics companies and specialist operators. The next stage will be to find a commercial partner (operator, developer or investor). The consideration of the business case, originally thought to be ready for May, will be put back to June or later. We need to get the business model right before we bring it to the International Committee (and WSCC) for approval.

A284 & A259 – the funding gap on the A284 is still unresolved. The business case for the A259 is not due until later in the year. Both of these schemes are important for the Coastal and wider West Sussex economy, and are linked to significant housing developments.

Project approval

7. The Executive Committee considered and endorsed the recommendation from the Skills Capital Panel for the following project:

Central Sussex College - Environmental and Construction technologies centre. Refurbishment and re-modeling of an existing college building. £826,000 in total with all to be delivered in 15/16. The full business case will be published on the Coast to Capital website as soon as commercially sensitive information is removed. Further detail about the project is summarized in the Programme Management Book.

Ian Parkes
May 2015