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## Summary of decisions taken at a meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held in Committee Room 1 at County Hall at 10.30 am on Friday 26 July.

Published on Friday 26 July 2024. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Wednesday 31 July 2024 it can then be implemented.

Please note that this is a summary of decisions taken at the meeting only. A full account of proceedings will appear in the minutes of the meeting which will be published on the Council's website by Tuesday 13 August 2024.

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### Present:

Cllr Lee Scott	Chair, Essex County Council
Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Simon Curry	Medway Council
Cllr Lee Watson	Thurrock Council
Cllr Anne Jones	Southend-on-Sea City Council

### 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Kevin Bentley (substituted by Cllr Lee Scott)
- Cllr Harinder Mahil (substituted by Cllr Simon Curry)
- Cllr Daniel Cowan (substituted by Cllr Anne Jones)
- Simon Cook

### 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 16 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

In respect of Agenda Item 6, Cllr Anne Jones declared that a close relative works for C2C.

### 4 Questions from the public

There were no public questions.

## 5 Getting Building Fund Update

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Programme Closure Lead, the purpose of which was to update the Board on the Innovation Hub: Diversification of Chatham Town Centre project and to consider whether the Getting Building Fund (GBF) funding should remain allocated to the project.

### **Resolved:**

1. To **Agree** that the GBF funding can be retained against the Innovation Hub: Diversification of Chatham Town Centre project, providing that should there be any challenge to this decision, including any request for clawback of the funding from MHCLG, that any costs arising in respect of this risk are agreed to be shared by all SELEP Local Authority partners.

## 6 Stanford le Hope/London Gateway and Grays South LGF project update

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer the purpose of which was to update the Board on the Stanford le Hope/London Gateway and Grays South Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects.

### **Resolved:**

1. **To Note** that with respect to the Stanford le Hope/London Gateway project, the Section 151 Officer of Thurrock Council has provided the required assurances, as set out in section 3.7 of the report, to the Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body, meaning that delivery of the project can proceed as agreed, including the temporary transfer of £5.4m of LGF from the Grays South project, subject to the full funding package of the Stanford le Hope project being agreed in October 2024.

2. **To Note** that with respect to the Grays South project, it has not yet been possible for the Section 151 Officer of Thurrock Council to provide the required assurances to the Accountable Body due to further work required to agree the preferred delivery option which will determine the historic and future funding position.

3. **To Note** that the Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body will continue to engage with the Section 151 Officer of Thurrock Council to ensure that the required assurances can be provided.

4. **To Note** that following the closure of SELEP, Essex County Council is expected to retain accountability for the LGF allocated to on-going projects within the Greater Essex area, including the Stanford le Hope/London Gateway and Grays South projects.

5. **To Note** the intention for a Greater Essex Partnership Board to be established as a Local Authority Joint Committee following the transition of LEP functions to Upper Tier Local Authorities and to ensure on-going monitoring and oversight of delivery of the SELEP legacy capital programmes within Greater Essex.

6. **To Agree** that should the required assurances not be received by the Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body in respect of the Grays South project that future decision making in respect of that project can be undertaken by the Accountable Body; noting that the intention is to determine any decisions required via the proposed joint committee arrangements planned for the Greater Essex Partnership Board.

## 7 Finance Update

The Board received a report from Lorna Norris, Senior Business Partner, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the provisional outturn position for the SELEP Revenue budget for 2023/24 and to agree a budget for 2024/25 following the delay in the closure of SELEP.

### Resolved:

1. **To Note** the provisional revenue net cost of services for 2023/24 of £172,000 set out in Table 1 of the report;
2. **To Approve** the provisional outturn position for the SELEP revenue budget for 2023/24 in Table 1 of the report, including the net contribution from the Operational Reserve of £66,031;
3. **To Approve** the movement in reserves set out in Table 5 of the report;
4. **To Note** the draft summary statements for the 2023/24 accounts in Appendix A of the report which will be subject to external audit and final approval by the S151 Officer of the Accountable Body by October 2024.
5. **To Approve** the 2024/25 Budget, including the planned use of Reserves and Capital Balances in Tables 7 to 9 of the report respectively.
6. **To Approve** that the final outturn position and use of reserves for 2024/25 can be agreed by the S151 Officer of the Accountable Body following completion of the Transition Agreement.
7. **To Note** that the residual revenue reserves will be allocated to the respective upper tier local authority partners, in accordance with the decisions taken at the February 2024 Board meeting, following completion of the Transition Agreement.

**8 Future meetings dates**

The Board noted that no further meetings were scheduled