

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Decision Title: Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund and Economic Development Fund change requests

Decision reference number: 01.02.21

Decision date: 18 February 2021

Background / reason for decision:

There is a requirement that all Local Growth Fund (LGF) grant funds are spent by March 2021 and also a condition that the Getting Building Fund (GBF) is spent within the financial year it was awarded, that being £6.85m in 2020/21 and £6.85m in 2021/22.

Owing to the need to manage scheme changes, including any necessary funding swops to ensure full grant spend, in advance of the next WECA / Joint Committee meeting, the following delegations to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives were granted at the 29 January 2021 meeting of the WECA / Joint Committee:

- Approval of changes to funding profile and programme for schemes within the current LGF, GBF, Economic Development Fund and Revolving Infrastructure Fund programmes
- Approval of the reallocation of funding for schemes in the approved LGF/GBF programme including swops with the EDF, and exceptionally the Investment Fund.

A number of recommended changes to schemes within the current Local Growth Fund / Getting Building Fund and Economic Development Fund programme were subsequently identified for approval. The key changes were:

Local Growth and Getting Building Funds:

*The Emersons Green Local Transport Enhancements, Umbrella and the South Gloucestershire Sustainable Transport Package projects jointly report reprofiling of £2.614m of LGF/GBF to 2021/22. In order to meet LGF spend profiles, it was proposed to swop these funds with EDF for the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension. Approval at this time will enable this to be picked up in the Quarter 3 grant claim.

*The Emersons Green Local Transport Enhancements and Umbrella projects are also in the GBF programme. Whilst this has an end date of 2021/22, given the requirement to spend half the programme award this year, this change has necessitated a request to MHCLG for the inclusion of an additional project in the GBF programme, that being the Bath Quays North Infrastructure Development Works. It should be noted that these changes do not alter the overall funding awarded to these projects, just the funding blend.

The Chief Executives of the West of England unitary authorities were consulted on these proposals and were in agreement with the decision.

Options considered:

Not applicable in relation to this specific decision, i.e. this was the option considered.

Decision:

Approval given to recommended changes to schemes within the current Local Growth Fund / Getting Building Fund and Economic Development Fund programme as follows:

Local Growth Fund / Getting Building Fund:

- **Emersons Green Local Transport Enhancements**
Milestones: 2-6 month slippage for 6 milestones including completion (to Nov 2021).
Spend: Swop of £1.913m of LGF for EDF with the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension receiving the LGF [Revised LGF/GBF total £3.137, profiled £918K in 20/21 and £1.318m in 21/22, EDF total £1.913m profiled in 21/22]
- **South Gloucestershire Sustainable Transport Package**
Spend: Swop of £551k of LGF for EDF with the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension receiving the LGF [Revised LGF total £2.244m and EDF £551K profiled in 21/22]
Scope: Reallocation of funding between package elements
- **Umbrella:** Swop a total of £150k of LGF for EDF with the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension receiving the LGF [Revised LGF/GBF total £3.332m and EDF total £353k profiled in 21/22]
- **Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension:** Swop a total of £2.614m of EDF for LGF with the South Gloucestershire Sustainable Transport Package (£551k), Emersons Green Local Transport Enhancements (£1.913m) and UMBRELLA project (£150k) [Revised LGF total £9.979m and EDF total £25.021m profiled £2.852m in 20/21, £13.84m in 21/22, £5.992m in 22/23 and £1.48m in 23/24]
- **Bath Quays North Infrastructure Development Works:** The reprofiling of spend for Emersons Green Local Transport Enhancements and Umbrella above has reduced forecast GBF spend overall below the 20/21 award. It is therefore proposed to add this additional project to the GBF programme subject to sign off by MHCLG. This project would receive GBF instead of LGF.

Economic Development Fund

- **Avonmouth Severnside Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defences:** reprofiling £5.557m into 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25. [Revised EDF total £63.9m, profiled £9.605m in 20/21, £12.935m in 21/22, £11.652m in 22/23, £8.18m in 23/24 and £17.151m in 24/25]

Consultation:

The Chief Executives of the West of England unitary authorities were consulted on this proposal.

Officer making decision: Patricia Greer

Position: Chief Executive

Report / appendices / background documents:

None