**STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

**COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**18th July 2019**

**SSLEP USE**

**City and Growth Deal Programme Update**

**Programme Assurance Group Report**

1. **Introduction**

The report covers a programme summary only.

1. **Programme Update**
* 61 additional jobs reported in Q1 by Keele IC5.
* Comms /PR opportunities are being actively sought for those projects which will be at key stages (spade in the ground) and those holding opening events.
1. **Growth Deal – Grant Funding**
* **Reallocation of the £1.5m funding withdrawn from ROF Featherstone:**

SPMG (22nd May 2019) agreed a provisional allocation of the unallocated funds to the following schemes: -

* £1.2m to the Stoke Flood Alleviation scheme (against request of £1.4m)
* £0.260m to the Cannock and Silverdale Enterprise Centre extension project (against request of £0.340m)

These schemes were taken to Executive Board on 20th June to request approval of the SPMG recommendation to allocate funding.

**ACTION: Awaiting Executive Board decision.**

* **Funding Agreement – revision of Legal Agreement**

The Funding Agreement document is in the final stages of being revised and redrafted by the Legal team to reflect the move to company status, the need to tighten clawback arrangements and general updating. The new agreement, once signed off, will be applied to the new schemes:

* **Victoria Ground Phase 2**
* **Stoke-on-Trent Railway Power Upgrade**
* **Stafford Gateway land acquisition**
* **Blythe Park Extension infrastructure project**
* **The schemes to which approval is given for reallocation of funds from ROF Featherstone**

1. **Issues and actions previously escalated from SSLEP Programme Assurance Group to SSLEP Company Executive Board**
	1. **City East Link Road** (CELR) – formerly known as the Hanley Bentilee Link Road. A refreshed business case was due to be brought back to Programme Assurance Group in June for appraisal but has not been received to date
	2. **Etruria Valley** The project was escalated to Executive Board by the Programme Assurance Group based on continued slippage of the business case submission to DfT. The project promoter presented a detailed delivery/cost plan to Executive Board on 20/06/19.

The Executive Board agreed that the project promoter will:

* Provide regular progress updates to LEP Secretariat including: SoT confirmation of case submission to DfT; feedback from DfT on outstanding business case matters as this emerges and any issues arising.
* Bring a Scheme update back to November 2019 Executive Board meeting for consideration*.*
	1. **Stafford Western Access Route** - start of work delayed by a further 4 weeks. Start date is now 29th July, although mobilisation will commence a couple of weeks earlier.
	2. **Churnet Works**

Staffordshire Moorland District Council are still considering potential scheme changes with the developer. The project lead has been asked to provide a position statement for the Programme Assurance Group meeting on 30th July.

*4.5* **City Centre Access**

The scheme lead has reported that achievement of the target spend for the programme to 31st March 2020 will be challenging. Detail is to be brought to the next Programme Assurance Group (30th July).

1. **Outputs profiling and reporting**

Output and delivery profiles of active CDGD schemes are currently being reviewed. Work is taking place to ensure a more meaningful picture is collated and presented to the Executive Board as part of new dashboard reporting currently being developed. The Executive Board’s view is to be sought on format, content and frequency.

1. **Improvement Plan**

SSLEP agreed to commission a review of developer activity and planning approvals. CLGU are currently looking at outputs and how they can be reported. A review of outputs will need to tie in with this government review. At present there is limited capacity to carry this work. A request has been made to all partners to provide support and this work is ongoing.

**Report author** – Sharon Palphreyman – SSLEP Programme Manager

Date: 11.07.2019