

**Company Executive Board Meeting**

**Thursday 18 February 2021**

**Getting Building Fund: Project List Progression Status**

1. A summary of the status of the prioritised Getting Building Fund (GBF) project list (at time of publishing) is presented as Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Getting Building Fund prioritised list status update**

LEP Ref No.	Description	Business case submitted	Appraisal complete	Approved by SPMG	Contract Signed	Delivery underway #1
2	Innovation Centre Seven Newcastle-under-Lyme (£6.1M)	●	●	●	●	
6	Health Innovation Centre Stafford (£2.89M)	●	●	●	●	●
3	New Enterprise Collaboratory Stoke-on-Trent (£500,000)	●	●	●	●	
10	Shire Hall Regeneration Project Stafford (£1.6M)	●	●	●	●	
11	Staffordshire Local Sustainable Transport Package (£651,000)	●	●	●	●	
7	Skills Equipment Fund Digital Skills Academy, Cannock and Tamworth (£550,375)	●	●	●	●	
8	Skills Equipment Fund Creative & Digital Industries Pjct, Stoke-on-Trent (£250,000)	●	●	●	●	
9	Skills Equipment Fund Digital & Construction Skills Pjct, Stoke-on-Trent (£120,000)	●	●	●	●	
4	'Powering Up Enterprise' Stoke-on-Trent (£2.8M)	●	●	●	◐	
5	i54 Western Extension South Staffordshire (£3M)	●	●	●	●	●
1	Drakelow Park Burton-upon-Trent (£5.05M)	#2	-	-		

#1 Onsite construction type activity (not project management/authorisations/licencing, etc)

#2 Inline with project proposal and D2N2 timeline set out in SPMG January papers. Project update to be brought to SPMG in March/April by project sponsor.

2. One of the original twelve projects on the GBF priority list has successfully secured alternative funding and is progressing without LEP intervention. SPMG are currently undergoing a selection process with the support of the Independent Technical Assessor (c/o Hatch) to select a project from the GBF contingency list to receive

grant of up to £190K. Details of the process are published in the SPMG [agenda pack](#) (Item 4) from the 1 February 2021 meeting.

3. In the matter of Drakelow Park, D2N2 LEP provided a formal update to SPMG at the 11 January 2021 meeting (for details see item 5 within the [agenda pack](#)). The position paper set out the following timeline for project approvals and are reproduced here for ease of reference:
  - i. Agreement of the land purchase to the end developer (Anticipated Jan 2021)
  - ii. Appointment of the main contractor for the project (Anticipated February 21)
  - iii. Submission of Reserved Matters Planning application (Anticipated March 21)
  - iv. Sign off of permits and environmental assessments (Anticipated March 21)
  
4. The time line set out above will be monitored by SPMG and updates provided by the Secretariat to provide briefings on the ongoing dialogue with D2N2 LEP. A process will be set out early in 2021/22 in case the Drakelow project has not got a clear pathway through to be being contracted by the end of Spring 2021, and as such presents a risk that the funding might not be defrayed by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 as required as part of the GBF grant conditions.
  
5. The options to be explored by SPMG will include the potential use of any ‘freedoms and flexibilities’ to extend grant payments past March 2022 that have been open to the LEP by UK Government (c/o CLGU/MHCLG) in relation to Local Growth Fund to reflect the ongoing Covid-19 situation. Other options to be considered will include drawing down on the remaining reserve project list (6 remaining from the 7 projects as shown in Table 2), re-engaging with the original 12 projects that scaled back into distinct phases during the GBF shortlisting stage (e.g. ic7 at Keele), and the practicalities of running a further process from either the long list of GBF, or a new call for projects. It might be if a further round of GBF is announced at the HM Treasury budget statement in March 2021, and a combination of all these options could be developed.

**Figure 2: Getting Building Fund project reserve list**

Ref No.	Description
13	Four Ashes Enterprise Centre *N/A* scheme progressing without GBF South Staffordshire (£1.5M)
14	PM Training – Cleveland Future Skills Hub Newcastle-under-Lyme (£1.0M)
15	East Gate Regeneration Stafford (£695,000)
16	Cornhill Enterprise Centres Leek, Staffordshire Moorlands (£575,000)
17	Church Street Gaming Hub Stoke-on-Trent (£450,000)
18	Gigabit Voucher Scheme Stoke-on-Trent (£450,000)
19	Skills Equipment Fund - JCB Rocester, East Staffordshire (£173,000)

6. SPMG will continue to update Executive Board at the March and April meetings around its risk mitigation actions. Likewise, the LEP Secretariat will provide updates to the Audit & Finance Committee on the status of the Drakelow project.
7. In terms of the grant award arrangements from MHCLG to the LEP, it is paid in two parts to cover 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively. The accountable body and the LEPs S151 Officer manage the technicalities of the capital budget over the 18 month GBF programme to enable SPMG to focus on the project approvals, contracting and delivery (including contingency planning) aspects.

**Preview for future SPMG Updates: Local Growth Fund**

8. An update regrading defrayment of the residual Local Growth Fund will be provided to the Executive Board at the March/April 2021 meeting once final figures are confirmed with project sponsors.

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**On behalf of:** James Leavesley  
**In the capacity as:** Chair of the SPMG