

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Leader of the Council

DECISION NO:

21/00005

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject:

Further Investment of Getting Building Funding in third-party projects

Decision:

As Leader of the Council I agree to:

- Agree that the Getting Building Funding (GBF) will be used to support the third-party project that the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Board prioritised to receive GBF at its board meeting on 11 December 2020.
- That Kent County Council acts as the accountable body for third-party projects within Kent's geographical boundaries that are selected by the SELEP to receive GBF grant funding.
- Delegate to the Section 151 Officer the authority to sign on KCC's behalf a grant agreement or equivalent, where this is required to draw down funds following business case approval.

Reason(s) for decision:

The SELEP was awarded £85m from the Government's Getting Building Funding (GBF) to deliver 'shovel-ready' housing and infrastructure projects to create jobs and support economic recovery.

Some of this funding was awarded to 7 Kent-based priority schemes and full business cases were prepared. This led to one project seeking a lower amount than in the original Expression of Interest releasing funding to support further schemes. The next project on the reserve list was the St. George's Creative Hub project.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Previously Kent County Council took decisions 20/00085 and 20/00086 in September 2020, which enabled the investment of GBF into three Kent County Council-delivered projects and four third-party delivered projects within Kent.

This latest decision will be discussed by Members of Growth and Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 18 January 2021

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

If Kent County Council were to choose to not enter into a grant agreement for the GBF project selected by the SELEP Strategic Board, the GBF funding could be either (i) retained by central government or (ii) reallocated to other projects by the SELEP Strategic Board

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

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signed

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Date