

Kent County Council
Equality Analysis/ Impact Assessment (EqIA)- Draft

Directorate/ Service: Growth, Economy and Transport/ Economic Development

Name of decision, policy, procedure, project or service: Kent County Council's decision to endorse and act as the accountable body for projects within Kent County Council's geographical boundaries that receive Growing Places Fund (GPF) approval from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Accountability Board.

Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer: Sarah Nurden

Version: 1 – Initial Screening

Author: Theresa Warford

Pathway of Equality Analysis: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 17 July 2020.

Summary and recommendations of equality analysis/impact assessment.

Context

The Growing Places Fund (GPF) was established by the Government in 2011 to promote economic growth, create jobs and build houses in England. The funding was distributed to local enterprise partnerships (LEPs)¹ to allocate to local projects accordingly to investment criteria set by the LEP. GPF is a revolving capital loan scheme – with repayments reinvested in new local projects.

SELEP has now received £12m in repayments from existing GPF schemes, which is now available to reallocate to new projects. On 12 June, the SELEP Accountability Board considered full business case applications for new schemes which met its reinvestment criteria. Five Kent schemes were awarded funding.

Aims and Objectives

Local Enterprise Partnerships bring together local partners (namely local businesses, local authorities, universities, and further education colleges) in the pursuit of economic growth. Kent County Council has been a partner in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) since its inception in 2011.

Summary of equality impact

This EqIA is for KCC's proposed decision to endorse and act as the accountable body for projects within Kent County Council's geographical boundaries that receive Growing Places Fund (GPF) approval from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Accountability Board.

Kent County Council has been a member of SELEP since its inception in 2011. As a member KCC has been able to access competitive funding schemes to prioritise its strategic aims within regional and national agendas, and influence strategy formation.

Individual schemes go through an assessment process including a full business case which in turn includes an EqIA as part of the assessment.

As this decision is to endorse and adopt the individual schemes that have been awarded funding, this EqIA screening has considered the outcomes of the individual scheme EqIA assessments undertaken as part of the formal application and assessment process.

Adverse Equality Impact Rating **Low**

Attestation

I have read and paid due regard to the Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment concerning Kent County Council's proposed decision to endorse and act as the accountable body for projects within Kent County Council's geographical boundaries that receive Growing Places Fund (GPF) approval from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Accountability Board.

Head of Service

Signed:

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

DMT Member

Signed:

Name: David Smith

Job Title: Director, Economic Development

Date:

Part 1 Screening

Protected Group	Please provide a brief commentary on your findings. Fuller analysis should be undertaken in Part 2.			
	High negative impact	Medium negative impact	Low negative Impact	High/Medium/Low Positive Impact Evidence
Age	None	None	None	The individual schemes will help deliver the outcomes of KCC's strategic objectives to promote affordable and accessible housing and transport connections to enable access for all ages to housing and employment opportunities.
Disability	None	None	None	None
Sex	None	None	None	None.
Gender identity/ Transgender	None	None	None	None
Race	None	None	None	None
Religion and Belief	None	None	None	None
Sexual Orientation	None	None	None	None
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	None	None	None
Marriage and Civil Partnerships	None	None	None	None
Carer's Responsibilities	None	None	None	None

Part 2

Equality Analysis /Impact Assessment

Protected groups

From the initial screening, it is not anticipated that any protected characteristics will be negatively impacted by KCC's decision to endorse and act as accountable body to SELEP GPF approved schemes.

Information and Data used to carry out your assessment

This is an overarching decision that will allow KCC to enter into a third-party agreement to help unlock £12m of GPF to invest in capital schemes across Kent to support housing and employment growth. Data analysis will be included as part of the scheme business case.

Who have you involved consulted and engaged?

As part of the funding award each scheme will need to provide a full business case supported by data analysis and demonstrate robust consultation with directly affected communities and key stakeholders.

Analysis

The delivery of schemes will have a positive impact for all Kent residents, by increasing choice and opportunities to access a range of housing and access to improved transport infrastructure will increase accessibility to employment and other key services such as health whilst growing a sustainable economy.

Adverse Impact

After completing the initial screening grid, it indicated that the decision will not have a significant negative impact on any of the protected characteristics. Individual schemes that are delivered will be subject to an individual Equalities Impact Assessment which will be reviewed as the schemes are taken forward for delivery to ensure that no protected characteristics are adversely impacted.

Positive Impact

The aims and objectives of SELEP will enable planned housing growth and transport infrastructure that will benefit all Kent residents.

JUDGEMENT

- **No major change** - no potential for discrimination and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken

Internal Action Required **YES/No**