

**Kent County Council**

**Equality Analysis/ Impact Assessment (EqIA)**

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

**Name of decision, policy, procedure, project or service:** Kent County Council's decision to note 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) 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 EqlA is for KCC's proposed decision to note 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 EqlA as part of the assessment.

As this decision is to note and adopt the individual schemes that have been awarded funding, this EqlA screening has considered the outcomes of the individual scheme EqlA 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 note 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 <b>brief</b> 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
<b>Age</b>	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.
<b>Disability</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Sex</b>	None	None	None	None.
<b>Gender identity/ Transgender</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Race</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Religion and Belief</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Carer's Responsibilities</b>	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 note 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 on scheme impacts 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 and impact 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**

