

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Roger Gough

Leader of the Council

DECISION NO:

21/00120

For publication Yes

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 Kent-based third-party projects that are awarded GBF by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's Accountability Board.

Act as the accountable body for third-party projects within Kent's administrative 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:

Getting Building Funding was announced by Government on 10th June 2020. The funding is part of the Government's plan to deliver upgrades to local infrastructure and boost skills and help fuel a green economic recovery by investing in shovel-ready housing and infrastructure projects, creating jobs and supporting economic recovery.

Eight Kent-based projects have previously benefitted from a GBF award.

In November 2021, the SELEP Accountability Board removed one of East Sussex's GBF projects from this programme. This meant £3.5m of GBF became available to be reallocated to alternative projects on SELEP's GBF reserve project pipeline.

This key decision is required to enable grant agreements to be entered into so that additional Government funding may be secured for Kent-based projects on SELEP's reserve GBF pipeline. Due to the terms and conditions of the Government's Getting Building Fund, this funding can only be spent on these specific projects.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Previously Kent County Council took decisions 20/00085 and 20/00086 in September 2020, and decision 21/00005 in February 2021 which enabled the investment of GBF into three Kent County Council-delivered projects and five 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 13 January 2022.

Any alternatives considered:

If Kent County Council were to choose to not enter into a grant agreement for the GBF projects 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:

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signed

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date

Name: