



Cumbria  
**Local Enterprise**  
Partnership

## Cumbria LEP Investment Panel

### MINUTES 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**09:30– 11:00 Conference Room - The MintWorks, Highgate, Kendal**

1)	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p><u>IP Members</u> Rob Johnston Peter Hensman Simon Sjenitzer David Southward</p> <p><u>Officer Attendance</u> Graham Haywood Sami Falou Corinne Watson</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Apologies received from Jackie Arnold, Pam Duke, Eleanor Farrell and Alison Hatcher</p> <p>In Jackie Arnold's absence, Rob Johnston took the Chair.</p>
2)	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No declarations of interest were declared.</p>
3)	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meetings</b></p> <p>It was noted that the incorrect minutes were attached with the papers. The minutes for May 2017 would be circulated with the papers for the next meeting.</p>
4)	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
5)	<p><b>Programmes Update</b></p>



The paper on the performance of the programme to date was presented.

The following key areas were discussed;

- The Connecting Cumbria Programme will spend its gainshare funding first in order to reduce the level of Growth Deal required in 2017/18. The Programme has already delivered 80% coverage across Cumbria and is now targeting the more difficult areas.
- On the South Ulverston scheme, the Panel were informed that the North Lonsdale Terrace project was delayed due to ongoing land ownership issues. The County Council is undertaking further design works on the scheme which could lead to increased project costs. The Panel noted that should costs increase beyond the scope of the existing Growth Deal allocation, a formal request would need to come to the Panel for its consideration.
- The Panel noted Newton Rigg's request to vary the terms of usage of the SPIE training centre. The Panel agreed with the request however asked that should the contract require variation that it comes back to the Investment Panel for its information. **The Panel also requested information on any impact this will have on the outputs.**
- The Panel noted that the Port of Workington project currently is categorised as having a RED rating. Network Rail and the County Council have been unable to agree a contribution agreement or the liabilities for cost overruns. Significant effort has been expended to enable the project to start. The Panel noted that they would like to make a decision on whether the project should remain part of the Programme by November 2017.
- Ulverston – the Panel were concerned that the current profile of the project at the end of the Growth Deal period represented considerable risks but noted the importance of supporting Ulverston at the current time to unlock economic opportunities. **The Panel requested an update on the timescales for the**



**development of the Full Business Case by November 2017.**

- The Panel discussed the Carlisle Airport project. It was noted that contract discussions were underway between County Council and the Airport. The Panel were also informed that the DfT Development Funding will not be released until the runway improvements have been successfully delivered. **The Panel agreed that securing the DfT funding should be a project output rather than a pre-condition.**
- Lillyhall North – the original business case was based on estimated costs which are now increasing substantially. A number of options are being looked at including bespoke flood protection measures as well as developing the Lillyhall site without an anchor tenant. The Panel were keen to look into these options further. The Panel were also informed that the SANI scheme which has helped previous projects including McVities should enable the delivery of flood protection measures. **The Panel noted that new business cases would need to come to the Panel for consideration prior to any agreement.**
- Carlisle – the Investment Panel noted that work was underway to develop the full business case. The Panel also noted that the provisional Growth Deal funding allocation was made on the basis of the delivery of business units which could secure match funding through the ERDF programme. The full business case will be brought to the Panel once finalised.
- KPMG are reviewing the Whitehaven business case and it is anticipated that it will be brought to the Panel at its October meeting for consideration and recommendation to the LEP Board.

**The Panel requested that the following changes be made to future Programme Updates;**

- **Individual projects within Programmes receive a RAG rating.**
- **A 'next steps' column be added to the summary table.**



6)	<p><b>ESIF Programme Update</b></p> <p>The Panel received an update on the performance of the ESIF funding streams.</p> <p>The Panel was keen to address the potential reputational impact on Cumbria should funding not be spent. They noted that certain issues including the exclusion of the nuclear sector, as well as lack of local match funding prohibited bringing forward projects of suitable scale.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to continue to promote the funding opportunities through their networks.</p>
7)	<p><b>CIF Revenue Coast Line Paper</b></p> <p>The Panel agree to the provision of an additional £50,000 of CIF Revenue towards the completion of the Coast Line study.</p>
8)	<p><b>CCC ERDF Funding Request</b></p> <p>The Panel noted the importance of delivering the ERDF funding, they also noted that the proposed project aligns well with the aims of the Connecting Cumbria programme.</p> <p>The Panel sought a view on whether the project would be disadvantaged by not delivering the required outputs for 'new enterprises supported' or 'new enterprises supported to deliver new to the firm products'? The Panel was informed that DCLG have advised that their focus is on the achievement of the 'number of enterprises receiving support' target and this proposal seeks to over-deliver against this which should be positively viewed.</p> <p><b>The Panel agreed to Cumbria County Council's request to utilise £181,000 from the Connecting Cumbria programme to act as match funding for its application for ERDF funding support.</b></p>
9)	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting 09:30, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, Redhills.</p>