



GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership

Board Paper – 18th August 2020

Agenda Item 5b	Growth Deal Programme Update to end of Q1, Financial Year 20/21
Paper Author & contact details	Barry Bodin-Jones barry.bodin-jones@gfirstlep.com
Supporting Papers	5b (i) Growth Deal Progress Dashboard up to end of Q1 5b (ii) Growth Deal Project Summary Table 5b (iii) Growth Deal Forward Look July 2020 (Rev 28)
Confidentiality	Growth Deal Progress Dashboard, Growth Deal Project Summary, Forward Look are public documents.
Purpose	1. To inform the Board of: - Progress to date of delivery of the Growth Deal Programme 2. To inform the Board of - Key highlights and issues arising for the Programme
Summary	<p><u>Local Growth Programme</u></p> <p>The Total LGF Programme funds total £101.7m. (Please refer to <i>Growth Deal Progress Dashboard</i> supporting paper)</p> <p>To date we have out turned £92.55m This equates to 91% against profile. Actual spend to date is £64.64, achieving 64% against programme. The lag between these 2 figures is where we have out turned funds to approved schemes with funding agreements under the delegated transport schemes arrangements with Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>Spend on all projects is managed effectively and mechanisms have been discussed and agreed at Programme Management Group meetings about how the Accountable Body can effectively utilize its freedom of flexibilities with S151 Officer consent to ensure that the full value of the LGF funds will be reported as spent within Programme.</p> <p>Confirmed jobs created to date from the programme are 2117. Jobs outcomes are tracking below the original forecasts, partly as a result of delays to some of the component projects of the Growth Hub Network and related activities and also likely to be partly as a consequence of a ‘tight’ labour market and the impacts COVID-19.</p>

Total **expected leverage for the programme** is well above target both in terms of direct match confirmed to date and also 'follow-on' investment with a total leverage now expected in excess of **£355m**.

Almost **22,000m² of new or refurbished skills/learning space** has been created to date with some additional space for the Growth Hubs which will bring the figures in line with forecast.

Housing completions (52 to date) as a result of the opening of the first phase of the Blackfriars student accommodation, based on a pro-rata conversion for student units in relation to homes of multiple occupancy (HMOs). In addition there are 3 units for the Merrywalks project. The majority of the housing unit starts will occur towards the end of this financial year as the Innsworth and West Cheltenham sites are developed.

Please refer to the *Growth Deal Project Summary* supporting paper. By looking at the bottom line on this summary, which indicates our original commitment to Government in our Growth Deal, by comparison to the current actuals and forecasts, it can be noted that we will have exceeded these delivery commitments by the end of the Programme.

Major highlights for this Q1 period as follows :-

- **Growth Hub:** Re-opening of Growth Hub facilities across the Network are currently being assessed by individual partners.
- **Forest of Dean** – Construction has now resumed. opening planned for Autumn 2020 depending on Recovery.
- **Cheltenham** – The opening has now been delayed to Spring 2021. Cheltenham Borough Council have ring fenced the funding required to ensure the Hub can open.
- **Farm 491:** Farm 491 gained four new members in June bringing the total to 62. The Farm491 offices reopened to tenants on 15th June with a range of safety measures in place.
- **Berkeley Cyber Security:** During June the Interim Project Evaluation Report was completed and received by GFirst LEP.
- **Cyber Park (WCTIS) and WCWCI:** The MOUs for both projects were signed by 30th June 2020 and Contractual Commitments and Outturn were reported in 20/21 Q1 BEIS Reporting. This totals £6.895m for Phases 3&4 and £1.6m for WCWCI project.
- **A40 Innsworth Gateway:** 22nd June the project secured approval from Highways England to commence work on Longford Roundabout with a start date identified of 20th July 2020.
- **Gloucester Railway Station:** Currently work is being undertaken in liaison with the Accountable Body to complete the Funding Agreement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloucestershire Airport Anson Park: Currently the Funding Agreement is in the final stages of development and is with GCC lawyers. • Hartpury Tech-Plate: Agri-tech has continued to engage with industry through online and virtual methods and is continuing to receive a good level of engagement and interest with a number of future projects and initiatives being explored. • Merrywalks: The main construction work in the indoor Borough Market style market has been completed and a number of traders are now starting to fit out their units. The market is well over 60% let. • A419 Corridor: Project substantially complete with a site presence in July to complete the final footpath layer. • Lydney Cycling Improvements Scheme: Positive feedback received from various members of the public now that the scheme is complete. • Gloucester SW By Pass: The proposed Public Inquiry date for the CPO (19th May) has been postponed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) as a result of the ongoing global pandemic. GCC are in weekly contact with DfT casework team in an effort to understand when a new date will be set. If all objections can be resolved/withdrawn ahead of any new inquiry date, this public inquiry will not be necessary. • Cheltenham Spa Railway: GWR have confirmed that they have been successful in terms of being awarded £700k DfT Funding. This combined with contributions from GCC and the NR/GWR funding package provides the funding required to complete the cycle path element from Cheltenham Spa Railway Station to Lansdown Road, which can then link into the WCTIS schemes seamlessly. <p>The Cheltenham Cyber Park scheme remains both the most significant opportunity and challenge for the programme. The impact of successfully developing the scheme would be transformational for the Cheltenham and wider Gloucestershire economies and could create a ‘model’ urban extension that could also significantly help with Gloucestershire’s efforts to address some of our demographic challenges.</p>
<p>Implications, impacts or risks</p>	<p>Growth Programme Delivery and outcome risks for the programme are managed via the joint LEP/Accountable body Programme Management Group and close liaison with the LEP Board Risk Champion.</p> <p>The Cheltenham Cyber Park scheme presents the most significant risks in terms of delivery of the programme going forward due to its size and multi partner complexities.</p>

Agenda Item 5b

Decision required	None required. The Board is asked to note the current position.
Recommendations	N/A

For further information points raised in this Board paper, please contact Barry Bodin-Jones
barry.bodin-jones@gfirstlep.com