

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member, Economy, Transport and Environment
PART II

116. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING SCHEME UPDATE

1. On 4 November 2014, the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment gave authority for the continued development of the 2015/16 and 2016/17 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funded major schemes through the appropriate Business Case and Design processes. In relation to this, he confirmed the allocation of £7,050,000 for the Enterprise M3 LEP, and £7,253,000 for the Solent LEP for major transport schemes promoted by the County Council. The Executive Member also approved the commencement of advanced works (in Winter 2014/15) to support delivery of major schemes in 2015/16. Furthermore, authority was given to develop major transport schemes for submission to further rounds of the LEPs funding process and for implementation beyond 2017.

2. The establishment of LEPs is a key part of the Government's plans to support economic growth and job creation. The two LEP's in Hampshire, Enterprise M3 LEP and the Solent LEP, have both identified transport investment in their Strategic Economic Plans as one of the key ways to facilitate economic growth. Both LEPs have secured significant transport funding from Government in their respective Growth Deals for the County, with over £10 million of Local Growth Fund funding secured, to be used to support the delivery of major schemes in 2015/16, and over £90 million provisionally allocated for major schemes delivery up to 2019/20. These schemes include proposals for significant projects to ease congestion and improve capacity in a number of key areas in each of the respective LEP regions.

3. Both of the Hampshire LEPs have set out a requirement for a formal 'Business Case' to be submitted in respect of each scheme that funding has been allocated towards. In addition, funding profiles and Implementation Plans were required by both LEPs for submission to Government for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 schemes.

4. The financial arrangements for both LEPs vary in the need for a 'local contribution'. The Solent LEP have confirmed that there is no fixed need for any local contribution towards the schemes identified in the Growth Deal, but where available local and private sector contributions should be offered to enable funds to be spread more widely. The Enterprise M3 LEP have confirmed that whilst there is no specific requirement for a level of local contribution for any specific scheme, they are working on the basis of a 20 – 25% local contribution being made across the major scheme programme. The County Council contribution is funded through the Capital Programme and developer contributions.

5. As a result of the competitive process of bidding for major transport funding, it is imperative that the County Council continues to position itself to compete effectively. It is essential for the County Council to continue to develop a pool of potential major schemes in order to take advantage of future rounds of LEP Growth Deals and other funding opportunities as they arise.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Local Enterprise Partnership Funding Scheme Update (search item reference 6197)

COUNCILLOR SEÁN WOODWARD
Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment