

**Enterprise M3 Board**

**24 September 2020**

**Getting Building Fund Programme Update – Item 9b**

The Enterprise M3 Board is asked to:

**NOTE:** the current progress in delivering Enterprise M3's Getting Building Fund programme.

**1. Background**

1.1. Since the Enterprise M3 Board last met in July 2020, we were formally notified that Enterprise M3's notional allocation under the new 'Getting Building Fund' would be £13.3m and that this funding would come to the LEP across two financial years. Enterprise M3 submitted the very strong list of projects to take forward using this funding

1.2. The Getting Building Fund programme includes the following projects:-

1. Digital Skills	£2.1m
2. Gigabit EM3: Town and Rural	£4.5m
3. Creative Teach Growth Booster	£0.9m
4. Park, Ride & EV Charge	£5.6m
5. Clean Growth Programme	£0.2m (pilot)
	<b>£13.3m</b>

1.3. The list was submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> July, and we have not yet received the grant offer letter from Government which will confirm the funding and the terms. However good progress has been made on the development of the five projects and a summary is outlined in this paper.

**2. Getting Building Fund**

2.1. This report provides an update on each of the five projects

2.2. **Digital Skills** is a project being delivered by the consortium to advance the Digital Estate of six Further Education Colleges. The GBF capital investment will provide the necessary boost to make EM3 College ICT estates of sufficient specification to enable the sector to more effectively delivery their core curriculum, and modernise their curricula to support the application of the digital technologies, including degree/higher apprenticeships and in the professional development of academic staff. The project would represent an investment in every student studying in an Enterprise M3 College over the next five years.

2.3. A strong business case has been developed by the consortium and is currently being reviewed externally. It is expected that a report will be ready for approval by PMG in October outside of the usual cycle of meetings. The project will be able to commence shortly after approval and be delivered mainly in this financial year.

2.4. **Gigabit EM3: Town and Rural** is a major project to deploy gigabit-capable fibre spine along an initial route between Guildford and Basingstoke. PMG reviewed the comprehensive business case at its extraordinary meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September. PMG recommended further work to be undertaken ahead of November PMG and Board where detailed proposals will be presented and seek approval to fund.

2.5. There is a separate item on the agenda to consider the comprehensive Business Case and receive an initial report from external reviewer, AECOM.

- 2.6. **Creative Tech Growth Booster** project will extend the state-of the art technology base at RHUL, embedding it within the R&D and technical support team of StoryFutures/Academy, enabling us to drive support innovation and risk to accelerate the recovery of our world-leading creative industries from Covid19.
- 2.7. The EOI has been produced and reviewed externally by AECOM. At the PMG on 17<sup>th</sup> September it was agreed to approve the £0.9m spend against GBF
- 2.8. **Park, Ride and EV charge** based outside of Winchester, will provide 300 park and ride spaces with electric vehicle charging points, powered by renewable solar energy. This project was already in the pipeline, been through due diligence process and had been approved by the Board in May. The contract work is well advanced and is ready to be finalised subject to receipt of the GBF grant.
- 2.9. The **Clean Growth Programme** is a pilot programme to invest in renewable energy generation on public buildings, and innovative decarbonisation of transport and buildings. It is an investment of £200,000 into a pilot scheme for renewable energy and low carbon initiatives in the Enterprise M3 area that will kickstart a Green Recovery.
- 2.10. The launch of the **Enterprise M3 Clean Growth Fund** in August 2020 delivered with a mix of both LGF and the Getting Building Fund, with PMG agreeing to fund the first of these projects under the fund at their first meeting in September 2020.
  - The ClearBlue Project is the development and demonstration of the Heat Enabled Virtual Power Platform with anticipated carbon reductions of 130 tCO2 pa
- 2.11. We expect to see further projects announced in the coming weeks. These small-scale projects will be approved by the Chief Executive under delegated powers
- 2.12. A further progress update on the Getting Building Fund programme will be provided at the next Board.

Lee Danson,  
16 September 2020