

<b>Economy and Property Committee</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024
<b>Report Title</b>	Extended Membership of the Levelling Up Fund Member Working Group (LUF MWG)
<b>EMT Lead</b>	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
<b>Head of Service</b>	Joanne Johnson, Head of Place
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Dean Radmore, Capital Programme Manager
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	That the Economy and Property Committee support the extension of membership to the LUF Member Working Group (MWG) as set out in section 3.1, and that officers revise the group's Terms of Reference to reflect this.

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report proposes an extension of membership of the LUF MWG to include Island representatives (whilst staying politically balanced) as unanimously recommended at the Shepness Area Committee on 20th Feb 2024.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 In January 2023, Swale's bid for £20,000,000 from the Government's Levelling Up Fund Round 2 was approved for the Sheerness Revival programme to improve health, education, leisure and employment opportunities and outcomes in Sheerness.
- 2.2 A report went to the Regeneration and Property Committee Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and it was resolved that;
- The detailed governance arrangements in the Levelling Up Fund Business Case be adopted
  - That the UK Leisure Framework be used to progress the Beachfields project to RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) stage 4
  - That the UK Leisure Framework be used to identify and recommend a delivery contractor for the Beachfields project
  - That upon the convening of an extraordinary meeting of the committee (if necessary), the contract be awarded.
- 2.3 The governance arrangements set out in the approved business case required setting up both Internal and External Stakeholder group meetings and also forming a LUF Member Working Group (MWG) with one Councillor from each political

group that can monitor and review papers relating to outputs/outcomes, spend and delivery.

- 2.4 The LUF MWG primarily has a monitoring and reviewing function (for outputs and outcomes, spend, delivery of the projects and delivery of the Communications and Engagement Plan) apart from approval of the Communications and Engagement Plan (which has already been completed) and approval of Project Adjustment Requests (PARs) if the delivery programme changes or the agreed outputs and outcomes change. PARs may be required further on in the project lifecycles with agreement from DLUHC.
- 2.5 The LUF MWG group meetings currently take place every 3 months ahead of the monitoring report submission date to DLUHC but can be convened more readily for urgent matters (see Appendix 1 for LUF MWG terms of reference).
- 2.6 The current membership of the LUF MWG is as follows;
  - Cllr Monique Bonney (Chair) – West Downs, Swale Independents Alliance
  - Cllr Lee-Anne Moore – Sheppey East, Conservative
  - Cllr Ashley Wise – Kemsley, Labour
  - Cllr Rich Lehman – Boughton & Courtenay, Green Party
  - Cllr Hannah Perkin – Abbey, Liberal Democrats
- 2.7 At the Sheppey Area Committee on 20th Feb 2024 it was unanimously recommended that the LUF MWG membership should be increased to include representation from island members (whilst staying politically balanced).

### **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 Options for increasing membership in line with the Area Committee's recommendation have been discussed by officers, and informally with administration and current MWG members. To best meet the objectives of increasing Island representation and maintaining political balance, it is proposed that the Economy and Property Committee support the extension of membership to the LUF Member Working Group (MWG) - to include a second representative who represents an Island ward from both the Swale Independents Alliance and the Labour Group (to be nominated by the group leads) - and that officers revise the group's Terms of Reference to reflect this.

### **4 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 That the LUF MWG membership stays with its current membership with one member from each political party on the group. This is not recommended because it does not align with the Area Committee's recommendation.
- 4.2 That the LUF MWG membership is expanded in an alternative form.

## 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The existing LUF MWG members and the Chair have been consulted and are positive to the expansion of the group.

## 6 Implications

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	Effective governance arrangements support Priority 5 of the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027 – Running the Council . This in turn will promote effective LUF delivery and respond to Priority 3 – Economy, Using the Levelling Up Fund as a catalyst for further regeneration on the Isle of Sheppey.
Financial, Resource and Property	None
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The current governance arrangements form part of the project business case.
Crime and Disorder	None
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None
Health and Wellbeing	None
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None
Equality and Diversity	None
Privacy and Data Protection	None

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – LUF Member Working Group – Terms of Reference