

# Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.06/19

Date: 24 May 2019

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the Local Growth Fund bid for Britton Farm Gillingham in response to the request of the Committee on 28 March 2019

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## **Britton Farm**

### **Conversion of redundant supermarket space to office accommodation**

The specification for this part of the project has been agreed with KMPT, the prospective tenants, with work towards a lease, subject to planning permission, now being progressed. A planning application for change of use has been submitted. It is anticipated that the works will be started in the summer and completed this calendar year. Parking provision for KMPT which allows 50 public car park spaces to be retained during the week, has been agreed.

### **Residential**

The planning permission for 44 flats on the site of the current loading bay area, was agreed at March Planning Committee. Discussions with registered social landlords to acquire the site after completion are on-going with two offers having been received. The tender for the construction contract has been sent out. Works are anticipated to start in the summer with completion next year. A separate parking area has been developed for the residential property.

### **Start-up business space**

A bid for £1.89m Local Growth Fund (LGF) funding was submitted to SELEP in October 2018. Funding would enable the development of up to 18 business incubation / acceleration units on the first floor, and contribute to the residential development and public realm improvements. The SELEP Investment Panel will meet on 28 June to prioritise projects to fund from the current Growth Deal period underspend. Before this time, the federated boards, including KMPE, are asked to indicate which of their projects are considered the highest strategic priorities.

Total funding available is not yet known, and will depend on current LGF-funded projects being cancelled, or delivering an underspend, but we do know the fund is very heavily oversubscribed. The funding of prioritised projects will therefore be an ongoing process. All funding is required to be spent by March 2021, and officers have indicated that confirmation of funding as late as February 2020 could still allow the project to complete in time. There will be separate parking for the start-up businesses.

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