

Stocksbridge Town Deal Board

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 10th February 2022, 13:00 – 14:30

LOCATION: Miriam Cates Office, Fox Valley Way & via Microsoft Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Miriam Cates
Ian Sanderson (Temporary)

ATTENDEES:

Board members attending:

- • Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- • Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- • Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge Town Council (JG)
- • Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal & Governance, SCC (GAD)
- • Matt Bartle, South Yorkshire MCA (Colin Blackburn's replacement) (MB)
- • Chris Bell, Don Valley Railway Trust (C Bell)
- • Dave Cates, Redemption Media (DC)

Also attending:

- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Joy Grant, Project Support Officer, SCC (JCG)

Apologies:

- • Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth)
- • Justin Homer, Area Lead, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth)
- • Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre
- • Tammy Whitaker, Head of Property, SCC
- • John Crawshaw, J W Crawshaw Ltd

Minutes

- 1. Item: Welcome and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and discuss any issues arising** Miriam Cates

MC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Previous Actions:

MC has contacted the Minister and reported that it is very unlikely that any money that has not been spent by the finish of the project can be carried as a reserve fund.

HV has started to engage properly with the Council in terms of occupancy, the Council's potential role in that and the community capacity building. HV and GAD had a session today with the Executive Director of Finance and there is still work to do in terms of approaching the Co-operative Executive to move things forward.

Place making – HV is awaiting advice from the Council's legal department in terms of what mechanism will be used.

Hydrotherapy Pool – HV has done some reprofiling work with STo.

Post 16 Hub – A change process has been put in place.

- 2. Item: Governance Declaration of interest – to declare any interests in items on the agenda -** Miriam Cates

GS declared an interest in the Leisure Centre, and hydrotherapy pool.

JC declared an interest in land ownerships.

CBell declared an interest in anything related to his employer, Highways England.

- 3. Item: Project Updates (See Appendix 1 – Excel shows update) Howard Varns**

Details of all projects were listed in Appendix 1 which was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting

Community Hub & Library – moved from red “not affordable” to amber

- Agreed to go for the 25 + 30 sq. foot variant. IS sent a follow up note to HV with a revised image showing the design template with arched windows. HV reported that RLB have confirmed that it is deliverable within the £8.5m budget. This will enable the rest of the high street works to reactivate in terms of land acquisition and David Ambrose is currently engaging with property owners

- A report will be put forward to the Co-operative Executive in March. GAD added that the report is not siloed to the CPO as it asks for approval for the project so a scheme will need to be in place for that approval. The need to acquire and to use CPO if they are unable to buy by agreement. She clarified that the delay was because the direction of the scheme had only just been confirmed.

Action: HV

IS asked HV to circulate the latest cost plan.

Sports Hub – RAG rating Amber

- HV reported that the issue is that cricket pavilion is currently £80/90k over budget and there are some tensions with stakeholders around this. Stakeholders to be provided with a list that they can have input on later in the programme. HV outlined that there is now an outline design and confirmation that the cost work that is assured and accounted will be delivered within budget.
- HV said that the local authority would want to engage in the local supply chain and could assist in getting local organisations in touch with SCC's commercial teams. IS added that this process needs to be communicated to people so they know it is not a closed shop.
- GS said that in terms of the planning the area that has specifically been chosen now for its size and location is essentially self-contained and does not impinge on what was originally a football pitch.
- HV said we are seeking to get the updated prices so we know we are inside the funding that is assigned to the sports project.

Action: JG to talk to the Chair and Secretary of the cricket club to help clear up any misunderstandings.

Oxley Park

HV outlined that the Oxley Park project is generally on track.

- The 3G pitch has been reviewed by the planners and colleagues are confident that we will work through line by line and mitigate any problems. AH reported that the consultation on Tuesday was not well attended for the leisure centre and Oxley Park. AH said we need to spell out that the 3G pitch is being moved. AH to put more comms out. GS said that increased use of the skatepark will rule out anti-social behaviour because of activity and lighting.
- JG said that in terms of the approach with residents the police had turned up for the whole consultation, gave advice around issues, and reported that there had been no problems there over the winter period. JG said she would get some first-hand feedback at the next Oxley Park Steering Group.

Active Travel

HV reported that they are seeking to get revised prices to get inside the funding that is assigned to the Sports project.

Hydrotherapy Pool – RAG rating is Red

HV reported that the Hydrotherapy Pool was £200k over budget but this is now £150k. GS/HV to undertake a strategy to strip costs. HV suggested a review of the cost plan and assurances that there are some contingencies in that to understand the way forward and to see to what extent this can be descoped or certain aspects phased to prepare the business case and scheme design and cost within the current extended funding.

- GS highlighted that the hydrotherapy pool is an important project for the whole of Yorkshire because there is nothing quite like it and that this facility could only become sustainable if it were offered across a much wider area and he wanted to move it forward without detriment to the other projects.
- HV outlined that there is about £1.9m unallocated to projects but the costs need to be right on each project.
- GAD clarified that in terms of the risk if a grant is given to the Leisure Centre, then the risk moves away from council in theory but in the case of the accelerated funding project the council stepped in. GS said the reason it was not delivered was because of a VAT issue. IS that we do have to focus on the reallocation of monies to see if it works or not. GAD added that from the Council's perspective it would be better if the leisure centre delivered it. IS suggested that GS and HV provide a reason VAT caused an issue last time and provide assurances that it will not happen again.
- GS's strategy is to move money assigned to Oxley Park for things that are either not happening or could be done differently to plug that gap to provide this project with contingencies.
- MC outlined that the reasons why the costs have gone up so much are because of inflation and rising cost prices and because the of scope creep.

Action: IS asked HV to re-circulate by Wednesday the reallocation of all the funds for the projects with the best information that he has got to hand and then people can make reasonable assumptions.

Rivers

HV reported that the feasibility should be back in April.

Buses

- HV said there was 800K of revenue budget to procure some of the services to deliver the service aspect at bid stage. All operators including SPCT are interested. HV suggested that this is paused for a few weeks pending Stagecoach's planned services changes in April.
- MC reported that last week the government announced an increase in funding for buses for the MCA but she would be amazed if they cut that service. If they did, it would completely cut off Stocksbridge which goes against the public service obligations and she was not sure it was eligible for STF money because much of that route is outside Stocksbridge and Deepcar which is the ringfenced area for this project. The whole point of the bus project is to improve connectivity within the town centre to connect people in remote and difficult to access areas without cars so they can shop in Stocksbridge.
- MC to try and get a meeting with the PTE. MC said If the route is not commercially viable and needs long term subsidy that is not appropriate for the towns fund either because the whole purpose of the business plan for the buses is that there is 2/3 years of kick start funding to build up enough passengers to make it viable long term.
- CBell said that the way in which the Supertram link works now is in a bidirectional route to better serve local services now and services that are proposed are certain to abstract traffic from the Supertram link. He suggested talking to the PTE or the MCA to open negotiation because there might be things that could work to support the local services as well as the long-distance services because the Supertram link does do part of the function in terms of getting that link from outer Stocksbridge to inner Stocksbridge.
- HV suggested waiting for the operator's illustrative route and then bring back to test with Board and then potentially consult on this.

Post 16 Hub – RAG rating Red

HV outlined that a lot of work was undertaken late last year to provide Minerva Trust with projections for housing growth and future pupil numbers.

- DC & AH provided representation for the Post 16 Hub at Minerva's Board who did not think the scheme was viable for them so there is currently no end user for the project.
- Following Minerva's decision, the Post 16 Hub is not going to be delivered in the way that was anticipated. HV outlined that following recent discussions the plan was to maintain both the capital investment within Stocksbridge and maintain the education and skills output with the proposal being to deliver these at the Community Hub with the condition to gage and get some FE facilities to scope it out. DC added that whilst it was disappointing that this provision was not at Stocksbridge High School it meant more efficient spending in a building that is already being delivered.

- HV has had discussions with STo around allocating the £1.9m into the Community Hub project but pushing it to Year 3 to provide the flexibility down the line to move it across the programme.
- STo recommended that if the Board agree it and the S151 can sign it off then as things materialise this can be changed along the way. DC added that if the objectives are transferred from one discreet project to another project. i.e. the objectives are the same then with Post 16 Hub the outputs need to be as close as possible to that.
- HV said that there is some latitude to ensure that the project can still be delivered with the right Provider. Northern College is one Provider but it needs to be decided how other outputs are provide the. AH suggested going back to Northern College with the proposed offer to see if they are still interested. HV said this would enable him to provide the funder with information on the end user and re-scoping this project.
- AH suggested for the website this project should be renamed the Education and Skills Hub.

Action: HV and DC to put together a project plan around a Service Provider and how to engage and substantiate if there is demand.

4. Item: Finance Update

- HV reported that there had not been much movement on the finances since last month except for further fees.
- Appendix 6 shows the reprofiling which pulls money from next year into this year.

5. Item: Business Case Deadlines Howard Varns/Amanda Holmes

HV reported that deadlines have been pushed back with varying submission dates up until August as outlined in the appendix.

6. Item: Board Nominations Amanda Holmes

AH reported that there were seven applications, with three excellent candidates who fitted the criteria. The Panel will make recommendations to the Board at the next meeting. HV highlighted that in the best interests of the Board the new members will need to engage with the delivery, community engagement and advocacy to support the fundamentals already in place.

7. Item: Communications Update Amanda Holmes

- The communications update was provided under Item 3.

8. **Item: AOB – St Matthias Church**

ALL

MC reported that the church are going to retain the building and another local church is about to take on the management of it. They are going to raise money to refit it and start a church service there again. Space will also be made available for future community use and they already looking at redeveloping this.

DC highlighted that the church would underwrite all the work so use of the building would be without any liability.

CBell said that it was a positive contribution from the church and it was good that they were willing to take the financial risk.

Action: DC to organise meeting with the Church for further updates.

9. **Item:** Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10 March 2022, 12:00-13:00hrs