

Stocksbridge Town Deal Board

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 10th March 2022, 12:00 – 13:00

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

CO-CHAIRS: Miriam Cates
Ilan Sanderson (Temporary)

ATTENDEES:

Board members attending:

- • Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- • Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- • Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal & Governance, SCC (GAD)
- • Dave Cates, Redemption Media (DC)
- • Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership (STEP) & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (SCLC) (GS)
- • Chris Bell, Don Valley Railway Trust (C Bell)
- • John Crawshaw, J W Crawshaw Ltd (JC)

Also attending:

- Howard Varns, Senior Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Matt Bartle, South Yorkshire MCA (MB)
- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth) (STo)
- Joy Grant, Project Support Officer, SCC (JCG)

Apologies:

- • Julie Grocutt, Deputy Leader, SCC



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.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Actions:

Action: HV

HV reported that in terms of the cost plan for the Community Hub building, more information needs to be carried out on the RIBA 2 designs so there is nothing to share as yet. RLB have declared that there is sufficient contingency but as things move on the shop front scheme there is some flexibility

Action: HV

The project plan around a Service Provider for the Post 16 Hub is reported on under Item 3.

- 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 Manchester Road and land ownerships.

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

3. **Item: Project Updates (Appendix 1 – STF Projects Update 10 March)**

Howard Varns

Project updates were as listed in Appendix 1, emailed to everyone prior to the meeting with additional comments/key concerns outlined below:

- HV outlined that at programme level the key risk was about getting the funding before the deadline which has been extended but he was confident that this was on the right track.
- **Post 16 Hub** - There are some unknowns around the Post 16 Hub in terms of the flightpath to get the information that is needed.
- **Community Hub** - There is a lot of work still to do but there is a good team in place and the opportunity to do it.
- **Revenue Risks** – There are revenue risks on any activity such as the bus service and not just stopping when it runs out of funding (possibly in 3 years' time). There are the opportunity costs in terms of putting all the revenue allocation into one project and choosing to shelve another.
- HV and STo have managed to move the funding around to ensure that the scopes and the cost plans are within budget where there had previously been threats to various projects that had flashed red
- STo reported that the intention request was formally approved until August. The actual change request to the projects, the funicular funds and the changes to the community hub are going through a formal process. STo and HV to work on what seems reasonable and as long as things are within the financial year then it will be seen more favourably with the DLU.

Displaced Shop Owners

- HV highlighted the merits of any displaced shop owners being part of the regeneration and then finding a solution to negotiate this situation, with CPO being a last resort.
- HV suggested inviting the media to look at the plans on consultation day. Any displaced property owners can engage with SCC's property team to find a way through.

Action: MC, DC & HV

A meeting is to take place with St Luke's face to face on Thursday 17 March at MC's office to discuss the impact on their current Stocksbridge shop.

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

- GAD outlined that at the point that this goes to the market then the intelligence that comes back will indicate the best type of vehicle to run the Community Hub.

- IS added that there is the potential to set this up as a charity to reduce the risk and the quantum of cost and running costs could potentially be halved.
- GAD added that the Finance Co-operative Executive Member raised the issue to make sure that this is transparent and managed by this Board so it needs to be in the report and it needs to be clear that it is a risk that is being carried.

Action: HV

HV to explore if a charity could be setup to run the Community Hub and get some further advice on this.

Use of CPO

- The CPO will be passed at the Co-operative Executive and will be in the public domain now. GAD recommended that the best way forward was for details about the price to be left to SCC's officers to negotiate.
- **Shop Fronts** - CODA have started working up some new images and options and have got some more cost work done.
- RLB are going to instruct a building surveyor on STDB's behalf, subject to the consultation event with them which will be explaining what needs to be done in the context of the High Street. A survey is to be commissioned to understand where things are in terms of what is possible and what the costs would be to get the vast majority of shop owners and tenants engaged in the project.
- HV highlighted that local knowledge is needed in terms of the potential access, signage, car parking options and schemes. JC has sent through ideas which will be reviewed in terms of increasing car parking to support the High Street and also better signage.
- HV suggested further engagement with the Town Council and some discussions about maintenance to make street car parking better with line-by-line costs across each of the schemes by the end of next week.

Sports Hub – RAG rating Amber

- HV reported that a very constructive and positive meeting was held on the cricket pavilion and the costs are looking positive . the Project Manager has done some really good work and is close to completing and gathering all the information for the business case. This should be progressed quickly and hit the target of April.

Football hub - RAG rating Amber

- Update as outlined in HV's paper.

Oxley Park

In addition to HV's paper, GS highlighted that in relation to the leisure centre there is an element of that work that is not required in the same way as it was originally so there may be some fluctuation that could be considered in terms of a reduction in requirement. HV to speak to the Project Manager about that.

Active Travel – Trails

HV reported that the active travel project was fully costed but more work needs to be done with local businesses. The cargo bike scheme is an additional offer to support businesses.

CBell outlined that there are issues with what YW are doing with the rest of the projects and suggested that the letter of support to them should be rephrased to encourage YW to add value to the scheme where possible. Their scheme does not directly link with the trails and this was causing an issue.

Hydrotherapy Pool – moved to amber

- HV flagged that his one concern on the hydrotherapy pool was the confirmation of the VAT status. GS outlined that this is currently ongoing with the leisure centre's accountant.

Rivers

- Update as outlined in HV's paper.

Buses

- HV reported that the change that was expected in April has been delayed to September. There are concerns in terms of the reduction in service even though there are two community transport operators lined up because of problems engaging with the PTE. The PTE's network people need to develop a tender document and mail it out to the operators to see what level of service could be provided which may not be what was costed previously so this will be challenging.
- HV is hoping that the PTE do engage and provide some advice on where this goes. SCC's Head of transport is meeting with the PTE next week but the Leader of the Council and the MP may be asked to step in if these talks fail. Ideally the service needs to be operating around the town by late spring/early summer.
- CBell added that there are issues with viability in terms of pump priming because the PTE have to meet quite strict criteria. HV agreed that is their fundamental objection, they do not think that it would be sustainable and it will have to be unfunded when the initial funding runs out. DC added that it is already profitable so there is a question mark over their assessments because the Operator has already got two new

bus services to be profitable in a few months so evidence is needed to back up the PTE's assessments.

- CBell added that there was the option to fund them to a point of viability and this had been the case from his previous dealings with pump prime bids.
- HV said it was intended to pump prime the service , and with marketing support and awareness raising of it and the service level, the price of service level would become apparent with the tenders. It might be that the operator says it is not viable or they need to do something different.

Post 16 Hub – RAG rating Red

In addition to his paper, HV reported that there had been some positive movement but there are only 2 months within which to substantiate the Post 16 Hub. There are positive discussions with Northern College (NC) but there is no revenue money behind it. DC added NC had sent him an outline draft of costings but it is doubtful that there will be a net income from this initiative. NC outlined that there was funding for the places per pupil but they do not pay rent so are not factoring in other economies of scale and this could present the same problem as with Minerva Trust in getting the numbers up. DC suggested that they work out of SHS initially and then they can decamp out into the new building.

HV suggested that if there was sign up by a specific educational provider that wanted to be kitted out and fitted out to the space to be exclusively a learning centre for Stocksbridge then that would be different to a flexible white box. IS said it might be something that is done as part of an overall business that is collecting a fixed amount per foot from the rest of the building. If the space is used flexibly then income could be derived from other groups using the same space at another time of day. DC suggested there are lots of pots to explore and other education providers and there could be a Stocksbridge education prospectus where a number of providers provide a one stop shop.

Action: HV to progress this with STo offline.

4. Item: Finance Update

- See Item 2.2 of HV's paper and Appendix 1 which were emailed to everyone prior to the meeting.
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5. Item: Board Nominations

Amanda Holmes

See Item 3 of HV's paper which was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting.

CBell asked for an update on the board nomination on behalf of someone who had applied.

- DC, GS and JC were the Board members on the shortlisting team and informal interviews were held this morning with three strong and impressive candidates.
- The Panel have made recommendations for appointment which will be emailed to all Board members after this meeting.
- A key factor in the selection process was that any new Board members would need to buy into what has already been agreed by the present Board and also be a good local voice and advocate.
- AH said that all unsuccessful candidates would be informed once all votes are cast.

Action: AH

AH to circulate the recommendations for new board members via email with a deadline for when votes need to be cast.

6. Item: Communications Update

Amanda Holmes

- Appendix 5 outlines the consultation and engagement approach and was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting.
- AH asked for as many Board members as possible to support her at the consultation session on 31 March.
- AH to liaise with JCG to send a mail merge to all shop owners outlining the potential for the scheme and inviting them to either come to a meeting or meet on Teams. A database will then be built up of those who are interested. A schedule of meetings will be setup for those who are not close by to outline the way forward.

7. Item: AOB – Town’s Fund Letter of Support to YW

Chris Bell/ALL

See Appendix 6 for the draft letter which was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting.

Covered under Item 3 – Trails.

8. Item: Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th April 2022, 09:30-11:00hrs