

Stocksbridge Town Deal Board

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 8th December 2022, 10:00am

LOCATION: Towns Fund Office, Stocksbridge Library, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge

CO-CHAIRS: Miriam Cates
Ilan Sanderson (Interim)

ATTENDEES:

Board members attending:

- Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (GS)
- Chris Bell, Don Valley Railway Trust (CB)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge Town Council

Also attending:

- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Matt Dixon, Constituency Officer Manager (MD)
- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit) (ST)

Apologies:

- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit) (ST)
- Colin Blackburn South Yorkshire MCA
- Kate Martin, Executive Director City Futures, SCC
- Neil Curtis, Community representative
- John Crawshaw, Crawshaws Butchers
- Yuri Matischen, MD MLSBG
- Dave Cates, Redemption Media



Minutes

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

Previous minutes agreed with no issues arising

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

No interests declared

3. **Item:** Scheme of delegation – Membership review, changes to roles and remit and confirmation of interim chair arrangements

Howard Varns

HV outlined proposed changes to the governance structure to reflect the latest updated guidance received from Government (November 2022) and to make the best use of Board members' time as the projects move to their delivery phase. Proposal is made to move Board meetings to a bi-monthly occurrence, with additional thematic/ project specific Board workshop sessions in the interim month. Board to have flexibility to set the agendas/ themes and additional meetings can always be arranged. Proposal also made that each project has a Towns Fund Board "project sponsor" which is embedded within each live project to assist with delivery and engagement.

The structure of stakeholder engagement will therefore change, and the project sponsor will be embedded into the project group. Projects will manage impacted stakeholders. The Programme will manage general engagement with those groups, parties and lobbyists that are interested but not directly impacted. Project specific drop in sessions for key stakeholders and interested parties will be arranged and take place in-person on the high street. Board wants to ensure the focus of these energies is on Stocksbridge residents and businesses.

HV felt there was a gap that board should consider addressing and that a representative of the Manchester Rd businesses would be a helpful addition to the board – which will become increasingly important when work starts in this part of the town to reflect the concerns and views of the 50-plus impacted businesses.

HV proposed that as we move from commissioning to delivery, it would make sense for CB to step away from the board. CB does not have a direct interest or link with Stocksbridge and was initially a member of the board due to being a represent the Don Valley Railway Group, however this is now being

potentially funded by the Restoring Your Railway Fund and isn't within the TF's remit. HV outlined that CB's place on the board could be better served by a local business representative. It was also noted that it would also be a good opportunity for the board's composition to be more reflective, if possible, of Stocksbridge in terms of demographic.

CB said that he had worked in the initially infrastructure group and had an interest in the work of the Board and had close links to parties that had an interest in the options that were being developed around the trails and cycling project and felt he represented that project and those interested parties and lobbyists. Members discussed the relevance and appropriateness of CB's continued membership of the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board. CB agreed he should step down from the STFB. Members thanked CB for his hard work and contribution. HV said he would continue to liaise with CB and is available for discussions at any time and would arrange a meeting to review the the trails project with CB. The Board looked forward to ongoing positive engagement. CB left the meeting.

IS said that it was his intention to step back as Co-Chair, he has held the interim position for circa 18 months and fully intends to stay as an active member of the Towns Fund Board. IS will continue to bring his interest and expertise to the Town centre developments.

MC thanked IS for sharing the Chair role and noted that he had done an excellent job. A replacement Co-Chair will be nominated from the existing members.

HV asked AH to engage with local group and use the Towns Fund platforms to encourage approaches from local business representatives to take up a position on the board. Members agreed unanimously to accept CBs resignation and to look to fill the post at the earliest opportunity with a local business representative.

The remaining changes to the Scheme of Delegation for the TF Board were outlined and reviewed. These reflect the changes to membership and meeting frequency and stakeholder engagement. These were accepted by Board and will now be put in place.

Action: AH

4. Item: S & R Committee Report – Key issues to resolve is agreeing the strategy for managing budget uncertainty/ tender risk

Members welcomed the announcement of the funding from Government and welcomed and noted the outcome of SCC's Strategy and Resources Committee meeting which took place on Monday December 5th with unanimously agreed to accept the funding. This confirms the position of SCC as responsible authority for the funding and the projects.

HV updated members on the ten Towns Fund projects and went through the BCR Ranking.

A complexity that needs practical consideration as we seek to mobilise projects is that many contractors are currently holding prices for 30 days only which is making approvals and planning and mobilisation more difficult. The Council's view is that phasing or batching the projects provides a much more deliverable approach and will ensure certainty, especially for those projects that Board deem are of the highest priority to Stocksbridge.

Board were also asked to consider the tender risk and impacts of inflation on budgets as projects approach the market.

Board were also asked to reflect that an additional funding bid to the MCA is being made which should provide additional funding headroom in the programme but this won't be confirmed until summer 2023. Confidence is high that the funding will be secured and this could greatly assist with the delivery of projects that are sequenced later in the Board's list of priority.

It was agreed that a phased approach to starting work was the correct strategy with members agreeing the following projects would be prepared first for planning (where applicable) and tendering:

- Community Hub
- Manchester Road Placemaking (incl Shop front grants scheme)
- Accessibility (connecting the town)
- Hopper Bus scheme
- Oxley Park Phase 2
- Rivers

5. Item: Programme Issues and Project Funding

HV noted that specific conversations would be needed with key stakeholders i.e. The Cricket Club around the new multi sports pavilion and how that project is timed and managed. This project needs to be reviewed.

The Trails project is significantly overbudget in its current form and will need to be reviewed by Board.

It was noted that once the SYMCA grant is received (Between £1.8-£3 mill Gainshare grant) this will relieve pressure on budgets.

HV added that phasing is going to be key to understanding costs and budget pressures and we need to manage time expectations to ensure the full package of projects can be delivered and that the SYMCA additional funding is a critical interdependency and factor in delivering the how programme.

The advantages to phasing projects in batches, linking the mobilisation of some projects to the confirmation of MCA money, is discussed and agreed.

High Street: IS asked HV to investigate options around the factory shop as a priority. The Board would like this building to be central to the scheme of

works on the high st and it currently may be left behind which would be a real missed opportunity for the regeneration effort that is planned.

Action: HV

6. Item: Spend to date (appendix) Howard Varns

As per HV's document – which was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting.

7. Item: AOB ALL

None for this meeting.

8. Item: Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd February 2023, 10:30am