

# Stocksbridge Town Deal Board

**DATE AND TIME:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 10:30am

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

**CO-CHAIRS:** Miriam Cates  
Yuri Matischen

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **Board members attending:**

- Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- Yuri Matischen, MD MLSBG (YM)
- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (GS)
- Kate Martin, Executive Director City Futures, SCC (KM)
- Neil Curtis, Community representative (NC)
- Dave Cates, Redemption Media (DC)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge Town Council
- John Crawshaw, Crawshaws Butchers
- Gail Larking, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (GL)
- Kathryn Giles Bowman, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (KGB)

### **Also attending:**

- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Matt Dixon, Constituency Office Manager for MC (MD)
- Natalia Govorukhina – Finance and Commercial Business Partner (NG)
- Dermot Reader – Project Manager (DR)

### **Apologies:**

- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit)



# 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:** Welcome new board members Gail Larking and Kathryn Giles Bowman  
Howard Varns

MC and the whole board welcomed GL and KGB to the group and introduced themselves to the new board members. GL and KGB will work in a shared role to represent the Manchester Road businesses which will be particularly important as the projects progress through the next phase of delivery. Both have worked in businesses on Manchester Road for several decades and seen many changes in the area. They are looking forward to working with the board as the projects start on site.

HV said that an induction session for the new members would be organised and NC and YM would also be invited.

**Action:** Organise a date for board induction session – AH

4. **Item:** Project Sponsors

As discussed at the previous board meeting sponsors have now been appointed to each project and monthly project team “catch ups” will be organised. These are already scheduled for the Library and Community Hub project. The board approved and agreed that the sponsors should be as follows.

- a. Community Hub – Ian Sanderson
- b. Place-making – John Crawshaw
- c. Shop frontage scheme (precinct area) – Gail Larking & Kathryn Giles Bowman
- d. Bus project – Miriam Cates
- e. Hydrotherapy project – Yuri Matischen
- f. Post 16 Hub – Dave Cates
- g. Rivers and Flood Alleviation – Neil Curtis
- h. Walking and Cycling Infrastructure – Julie Grocutt & Yuri Matischen
- i. Accessibility project – Kate Martin
- j. Oxley Park – Julie Grocutt
- k. Sports Hub projects – Graham Silverwood

GS raised the issue of monthly sponsor meetings and HV said that these would be put in place with project leads across all projects when the projects commence. These will coordinate with workshops and board (scheduled just before these dates)

**Action:** Schedule monthly project sponsor meetings as projects come on-line  
– AH

## 5. Item: Project Update

HV reported that SCC was now in receipt of all funding from DLUHC and provided an update on the Gainshare Funding from the MCA. SCC has been allocated additional funding and cases are being developed for a number of projects in the city. An additional £1.2m of funding for Stocksbridge High Street has been requested. If this additional funding bid is not successful it may be necessary to cut back some of the planned projects across the programme.

**Community Hub:** HV outlined the latest position on the Community Hub. This was discussed in detail at the workshop session, which was held two weeks ago, and the position has not significantly changed, though detailed surveys on the current library building have now started. HV reported that he is

awaiting a valuation on one of the properties the TF board would like to acquire, and the board agreed that this needed to be expedited to accelerate the process. Land acquisition is progressing across the site and July will be a key month in this regard. KM said that these matters would be reviewed at SCC's Regeneration Board on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Procurement was discussed and it was agreed that the larger projects would probably need to go through the SCC framework while smaller projects could work outside the framework. All agreed that contractors should be encouraged to use local sub-contractors and an enabling "meet the buyer" event could be organised.

**Action** - Outstanding valuation report to be chased – HV.

**Placemaking (including shopfront scheme):** DR is now working on the precinct shop front scheme and is working with AH on engaging with the local businesses. DR has been in post for a short time and provided an update on progress and what he will be prioritising.

**Oxley Park:** The project's central focus is on creating a new skate park facility in Oxley Park, along with drainage adaptation, screening and improved access & walkways. The final cost plans are completed, design team meetings are taking place and the development of tender documents, and the final Business Case is underway. It is expected that contracting is completed in quarter 3 2023 and work will commence in quarter 4.

**Sports Hub:** The Sport Hub project is made up of four sub-projects. These are the development of: a new Cricket Pavilion, a new 3G pitch in Oxley Park, and a grant for facility improvement to Stocksbridge Rugby Club and Stocksbridge Park Steels.

HV reported that the grant agreements for the Sports clubs' contracts are undergoing subsidy control advice is pending from independent lawyers. Once subsidy control checks are signed off and the grant terms agreed with the sports clubs, the grants can be issued.

The 3G pitch project is currently short of circa £500K funding, which would deliver an 11-a-side pitch in the preferred location. The Council is confident that this match-funding can be secured from the Football Foundation, and this will hopefully be confirmed during the summer but the change on location could impact this timescale. HV added that the 3G pitch would be delivered via CDS who would also deliver the skatepark in the Oxley Park P2 project. HV added that ecology surveys have identified that a large bat colony's habitat is situated in the woodland next to the proposed site. As these are a protected species, Officers are now working through the implications and mitigations of this issue.

HV talked through the legal/ funding agreement that needs to be put in place with the Cricket Club to unlock the development of the new pavilion. There

was a discussion about the best way forward with project managing and the funding mechanism for the project and it was agreed that an early discussion should take place with the CC. It is expected that the ECB will act as delivery partner.

**Action:** organise a meeting with the project sponsor, HV and the CC.

**Hydrotherapy Pool:** The Board has previously requested that the Leisure Centre re-refresh its Business Plan for the new facility. This followed concerns about the increased energy prices which would affect running costs and potentially affect viability. This has been provided and also reviewed by the Board Sponsor (YM). YM confirmed he felt the updated Business Plan made the project viable and added that he had sought external confidential industry opinion. All agreed that this would be a great asset in the town and that it should go forward. HV said he is speaking to Lisa Firth about appointing a project manager for the hydrotherapy pool.

**Action:** Update on PM appointment for the project – HV

**Rivers and flood alleviation scheme:** SCC has a draft tender document however some issues raised regarding conflict of interest which needs managing. Client Officer is engaging an advisor to assist with the project.

**Buses project:** The tender pack has been drafted, and a press release is ready to go. Subsidy control assessments have started but cannot conclude until there is a resolution of the concessionary fares issue. This is administered by the PTE/ MCA, and we are awaiting their feedback.

**Action:** Miriam, Julie and HV to meet with MCA urgently

**Post 16 Hub:** This project will come on stream once the Hub building has been completed and opened. The funding is ring-fenced, and it is expected it will be utilised to grant fund an education provider.

**Cycling and walking trails:** options for this project are currently under review and scope changes to the project's original concept are being considered with the aim optimising TF investment for locals and visitors and maximising Stocksbridge's natural assets. Since the last board meeting the project team have met with Yorkshire Water at Underbank Reservoir and are developing plans to potentially work together on a project to upgrade this area as a recreational destination. This would involve creating a crossing from Bramall Lane for safe walking / cycling from the centre of Stocksbridge and a major upgrade to user/ visitor infrastructure and a significant increase in accessible trails/ bridleways. And a new off-street visitor parking facility. It was discussed that there was real merit in this project and it would build on the Outdoor Town

in the Outdoor City brand. It was agreed that YW should be asked to attend a workshop in June to discuss in more detail.

**Action:** invite YW representatives to June workshop once date confirmed – AH

6. Item: Communications Update

AH has updated the Comms plan and is organising the next engagement sessions for local businesses in June. Board will be keep informed of progress.

7. Item: Financial update (appendix)

Natalia G

As per NGs document which was circulated ahead of the meeting to everyone prior to the meeting.

8. Item: AOB No items for discussion

9. Item: Date of Next Meeting (Workshop) to be confirmed.