

Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board (STFB)

DATE & TIME: Monday 28 April 2025, 9.30am

LOCATION: Stocksbridge Town Hall, the Arc, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge, S36 2DT

CO-CHAIRS: Dr Marie Tidball MP, Yuri Matischen

ATTENDEES:

Board Members attending:

- Yuri Matischen, Stocksbridge resident - Co-Chair (**YM**) (Active Trails Representative)
- Marie Tidball, MP for Penistone & Stocksbridge -Co-Chair (**MT**) (Hopper Bus Representative)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Stocksbridge and Upper Don, SCC (**JG**) (Oxley Park Representative)
- Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership (STEP) & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (SCLC) (**GS**) (Sports Hub Representative)
- Hilary Osborn, Stocksbridge resident (**HO**) (Joint Community Representative)
- Tony Goddard, Liberty Steel (**TG**) (Joint Education & Skills Representative)
- Mark Hible, Sheffield City Council (**MH**) (Joint Community Representative)
- Liz Sedgwick, Valley Medical Centre (**LS**) (Health Representative)
- Kathryn Giles-Bowman, Stocksbridge business owner(**K G-B**) (Joint Shopfronts Representative)
- Gail Larking, Stocksbridge Business owner (**GL**) (Joint Shopfronts Representative)

Also attending:

- Michelle O'Neill, Acting Programme Manager, SCC (**MO'N**)
- Sean McClean, Director of Regeneration and Development, SCC (**SM**)
- Johnny McQuillin, Finance Officer, SCC (**JM**)
- Leigh Sanders, Communications Team, SCC (**LS**)
- Cllr Ben Miskell (observing) (**BM**)
- Lynne Bettison (PA to MP Marie Tidball in the Constituency) (**LB**)
- Jonathan Harty, Chief of Staff to MP Marie Tidball (**JH**) (via Teams)
- Rosie Patel (PA to MP Marie Tidball) (**RP**)

Apologies:

- John Crawshaw, Stocksbridge business owner (**JC**) (Placemaking Representative)

- Charlotte Coleman, Sheffield Hallam University (**CC**) (Joint Education & Skills Representative)
 - Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (**IS**) (Community Hub 519 Representative)
 - Kate Martin, Executive Director City Futures, SCC (**KM**)
 - Justin Homer, Area Lead, South Yorkshire Cities & Local Growth Unit (**JH**)
 - Heather Langdale, Cities & Local Growth Unit (**HS**)
- (Note: Due to a restructure, Justin and Heather will no longer be attending the meetings)

Minutes:

- Melanie Crawford, PMO, Service Support Officer, SCC (**MC**)

Item 1: Welcome, confirmation of minutes & issues arising

MT welcomed people to the meeting. This item (confirmation of minutes) was not covered in the meeting. An email has been sent to the Board with no objections received, therefore they are accepted as a true record.

Actions from previous meetings (ref STF action tracker):

Not covered at this meeting. Action tracker circulated to Board.

Item 2: Governance and declarations of interest

Declarations of Interest update:

Several forms received, SCC officers to check if any are outstanding and circulate forms.

MHCLG Compliance checks-internal review:

The report went to Transport, Regeneration and Climate Committee in March and was approved. Action closed

Item 3. Hopper Bus update

MON provided an update on progress advising that the routes have now been agreed using the feedback provided by the Board. Launch date has slipped slightly due to lead times for ticketing machine and is now expected to be the end of May.

MT expressed her thanks to the team for moving this forward and further commented that the bus needs to be promoted to ensure it is well used and a success for the community.

Item 4. Finance and Funding Updates -Jonny Mcquillin.

JM provided an update on the financial position of the programme. A new report has been developed for financial monitoring that will be circulated to the board each month. The content of the report is to be treated as **CONFIDENTIAL** as some of it is commercially sensitive and must not be shared outside of the meeting.

Figures were shared in the meeting including actual and forecast spend.

MT informed the Board that YM and herself had met with SM and JM last week to go through the finances in detail.

ACTION – JM to circulate report to Board after meeting.

MT requested that any work that has been done on projects that are not proceeding to delivery with the current funding be shared so that the community have ownership and can pursue other funding to support future delivery. Suggested that this information be held on the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Website with any confidential or sensitive information redacted.

JG also requested that a breakdown of what the funding had been spent on be shared with the Board.

SM informed the Board that a meeting had been held with Upper Don Trails Trust and info shared re surveys and design work.

JM noted that there is granular detail in the report around fees, grants and other payments per year and month.

ACTION – SCC Officers to produce report detailing work that has been done on projects not proceeding and to collate all survey and design information to put onto the website.

The Board discussed the need to secure match funding for the projects.

MT expressed her frustration that the previous co-chair did not pursue match funding as a lot of opportunities have now been missed noting that the people of Stocksbridge have not had maximum value for this opportunity. Most other Towns Fund boards across the country have worked to bid for match funding and in some cases have secured more than £20m. MT advised that she has allocated some funding to employ a consultant, Alex, to look at potential funding opportunities and research what other Towns Boards have done to see what opportunities can be found for Stocksbridge.

It was proposed that the Board allocate some revenue funding to employ someone through the Council to identify funding and draft bids on behalf of the Board. This notion was largely supported by the Board. It was requested that Alex present findings to date to the Board and agreed an online meeting would be set up in 2 weeks to do this.

There was a challenge to Council Officers as to why the post should be paid for by the funding and not the Council. It was noted that the funds being targeted cannot be accessed by the Council and that this is a standard approach for community-based projects and regeneration. It was also noted that the Council has secured an additional £3.6m of funding from sources they can access.

There was a concern from some Board members about the risks in spending money on a fundraiser with no guaranteed outcome.

MT reassured the members that it is not unusual in schemes of this nature to build in spend for this purpose. An example is Barnsley Youth Zone which has attracted funding and built a charitable structure to carry out the work. There could be opportunities to apply for funding through new national schemes such as Pathways to Work or to set up a Youth Hub or Mental Health hub. The 519 building could be pivotal in providing a focus for this.

The mechanism for recruiting to this position was discussed and it was requested that a briefing note be produced for the board to explain how this would work.

Cllr JG noted that the Board need to establish the expectations and outputs for the post to ensure the best outcomes and value for money.

ACTION – SCC officers to set up meeting for Alex to present finding to the Board and draft briefing note to circulate to Board members.

Decision – The Board endorse recruiting to the proposed role.

JM asked the Board if a different approach to budget management should be taken whereby each project is given a definitive budget to work within.

A discussion was held around this with significant focus on the cost of Placemaking on Manchester Road and priorities for the board.

A key discussion was around the potential cost of the highways work and what budget would be left for other changes to the high street.

SM reminded the Board that if the highway is touched as part of the scheme, it must be brought up to current standards.

MON noted that if the highways element were to be removed the forecast programme would likely shorten, but the delay in definition of the scheme will lead to delay.

It was noted that the Placemaking scheme would have a significant visual impact and the potential to enhance the environment for the whole community, therefore sufficient funds should be committed to avoid compromising this.

It was noted that the funding deadline is March 2027 and decision needs to be made urgently to prevent further delays to projects. The Board agreed that a further finance meeting was required in 2 weeks to go through this. The meeting can be held online.

**ACTION – SCC Officers to draft report detailing costs for the schemes.
Meeting to be put in online for 2 weeks' time.**

Programme and Project Update-Michelle O'Neill

Phase 1 Projects

Stocksbridge 519, Skills & Education Hub [Business planning; fit-out status/budget]

MON requested that a small working group be established to decide what is going into the building once complete and for business planning

YM suggested IS, TG, MT, CC and HO form this group, report decisions to MON and keep the Board informed. This was supported by the Board.

TG advised that they are looking at some additional funding through STEP Development Trust. There is a proposal to deliver employability skills at the Venue. Some of this could potentially be transferred across to the Hub

It was noted that the working group would need to liaise with the library and with SCC Employment and Skills team and Youth Services to look at how the provision could complement what already exists and avoid duplication of services

A register exists of community assets which can be circulated to the working group.

ACTION – LS to circulate Community Asset document.

Working group to be established.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – GS declared an interest as he is the Chair of the Board of Trustees for STEP Development Trust.

Town Centre Placemaking

Discussed above.

Shopfront Improvements

Working group to be established to move this forward, suggested members LS, IS, KG-B and GL, endorsed by the Board.

Next steps are delivery of an exemplar scheme, design is ongoing (now at detailed design stage). Capital approval will be received at the end of June which will allow the Council to go to tender, when legal, technical and other aspects are in place.

MON clarified that windows would be replaced under the scheme and there would be an upgrade above the canopies consisting of a clean and tidy up of fascias, but no change in terms of construction. It was noted also that no changes could be made that affected the electrics unless these were up to standard and this was the owners' responsibility.

Connecting Our Town [Wayfinding, parking]

MON advised that there is a need to confirm location of site compounds for contractors, if carparks are not to be used resurfacing can be instructed. Cllr JG noted that it is preferable not to use carparks for compounds due to shortage of parking in Stocksbridge and the disruption it causes, this was reinforced by other members of the Board.

ACTION – SCC Officers to look at options for site compounds and bring back to the Board.

Oxley Park Improvement project

Noted the EV chargers still need to be connected, this should be progressing shortly following installation of new distribution board at the leisure centre.

3G Pitch

Football Foundation are progressing. No further updates at this time.

Phase 2 projects:

Sports Hub – Sports Pavilion

GS has sourced a quote from a local supplier for building a pavilion to meet English Cricket Board (ECB) standards to inform any funding bids. Ongoing discussion is taking place with ECB around potential match funding.

Tracks and Trails Project

The Upper Don Trail Trust has provided a list of potential areas the Board may be able to help them to secure funding for: YM to circulate

6. Communications and Engagement-Leigh Sanders

Leigh Sanders has now been appointed to replace the work previously undertaken by Helen Spivey. Leigh is getting up to speed with the programme and will be in touch with Board members for discussions around communication strategy and plans.

ACTION

LS to provide figures for website views and engagement stats.

LS to set up meetings with Board members to discuss communications plan.

7. Any Other Business

HO advised she has been working on a funding bid to the lottery fund bid for the public art element of the scheme. The proposal includes working with all 6 schools in Stocksbridge area to produce a mural for the library, story book, performance space and sculptural pieces for the public realm. Hilary requested approval from the Board to engage with schools to progress the project.

DECISION – Board approved plan and bid and are happy for HO to commit to working with the schools.

Date of next meeting: Fri 13th June 2025, 10.00 am, Stocksbridge Town Hall