

Stocksbridge Town Deal Board

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 30th September 2021, 10:00 – 11:30

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

CHAIR: Miriam Cates

ATTENDEES:

Board members attending:

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

Also attending:

- Justin Homer, Area Lead, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit) (JH)
- Sam Townsend, MHCLG (STo)
- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Tammy Whitaker, Head of Property, SCC (TW)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Joy Grant, Project Support Officer, SCC (JCG)

Apologies:

- Mick Hood, Liberty Speciality Steels
- Colin Blackburn, South Yorkshire
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge Town Council



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. The previous minutes were confirmed. A letter is to be sent to Mark Dransfield formally accepting his resignation and to place on record the gratitude of all board members for his contribution and hard work on the Town Deal bid and for his vision for the improvements to Manchester Road and that this stage in the process would not have been reached without his skills, knowledge and determination,

- 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, hydrotherapy pool and Item 6 – Project Change Recommendations.

- 3. Item:** Co-Chair Update and revision to the Scheme of Delegation - Miriam Cates

MC outlined that following Mark Dransfield's resignation a new Co-Chair needs to be found from the private sector.

- MC highlighted that the role of the Board is as a critical friend to the Council to be kept accountable for timing, deadlines and finances.
- The person appointed could become an ambassador for the investors and the measures but must buy into what has already been decided. It will also give the Board more representation and cover as well because someone coming in could be completely objective and with no connections to the projects which would be quite healthy for the Board as a whole.
- A list of skills, including high level skills in terms of governance to be drawn up along with names and ideas alongside them.
- MC suggested that there is a profile for each Board member on the website which invites people to join the Board if they feel they have additional skills to offer.

MC suggested a Chair rotation arrangement and following nominations, IS was voted in as the first temporary Co-Chair. This is to be reviewed at the November Board meeting.

Actions: HV & DC & ALL & AH

HV to draw up a list of required skills. DC to forward the Schools Trust list to HV as a point of reference.

MC suggested each Board member spend 10 minutes completing a skills audit to highlight the reasons why they are on the Board.

AH to update the website following MD's resignation.

4. **Item:** Overview of Each Project –

Howard Varns

- Status
- Project Owner
- Current Budget Allocation
- Strategic Risks & Deliverability Issues

The above bullet points were all outlined in HV's paper which was emailed to all Board members prior to the meeting for them to review and comment on.

HV highlighted deliverability issues on the following projects:

Cycle and Trails project - The green light on the is now an amber because of the cycle aspect of that project and there is an issue over who is going to run it.

- HV highlighted that in terms of the budget allocation of £3m for the cycle and trails, £1m was assigned for the cycle facility. The amber warning is because a third of the budget is not scoped.

Funicular - There are concerns regarding the deliverability of the funicular and previous discussions have centred on the land assembly.

Hydrotherapy facility - There is the issue of the change in scope to the hydrotherapy facility at the leisure centre and it needs a significant amount of additional funding.

Post16 Hub - There is a change in scope for the Post16 Hub which needs an extra £1m.

HV's Proposal - The proposal is to accept that the funicular can't be funded from towns fund money. Work with the funder will need to be based on trying to reallocate those monies into projects that require them to come up with a strong concept that retains some of the features of the funicular such as parking and access and connectivity links to the High Street.

HV reported that the costed options are expected by Nov/Dec which can then be used to populate the business cases and everything is on track for this to be done.

Actions: HV, Greg Challis & CBell

HV to go through these changes with JH, STo and colleagues and go through the project adjustment process and make sure everyone is happy with this and that the right outcomes are being delivered.

Greg Challis to be tasked with finding out what the commercial prospects are, prospective operators, and if there is a viable off-road route that could be advertised from a cyclable location and if it is worth pursuing at this point.

CBell to forward the PowerPoint map which was used for the bid to MC.

5. Item: Manchester Road Community Hub Howard Varns

- Pre-application Feedback
- Library Layout and Building Configuration
- Public Space

Item 5 is to be discussed at a separate meeting (date and time to be confirmed).

6. Item: Project Change Recommendations All

HV referred to the document that was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting and which had a few discussion points on.

Points 5 & 6 were HV's proposal to the Board.

Cycle Hub - Point 5 highlights the issue regarding the concept of a cycle hub. HV suggested seeing if there was a way to get that service/facility in Stocksbridge at the valley bottom and then look at something with YW who have some quite developed investment plans, particularly at Underbank that they could enhance and accelerate if there was the opportunity to provide some towns fund money to match what they're doing and to strengthen links at Underbank by providing car parking.

- HV suggested writing off the actual physical infrastructure for the cycle hub and trying to get an enhanced offer through a commercial partner. MC supported scrapping it in terms of the infrastructure for now whilst remaining cognisant of potential grant funding which would make it possible in the future.
- IS flagged that it allows for a part B which is to have an aspiration for the hub and link it to the train and the funicular. This would add more weight to the funicular as the link which has a cycle benefit as well as a transportation and parking benefit. HV suggested that once the cycle and trails are complete in 2 and a half years' time this will create the network aspired to particularly if YW can do their bit as well.
- MC suggested this could be given to the Council to ringfence for the future so they take applications from businesses who want the grant to operate a viable scheme.
- IS suggested a series of meetings with GC, Trek, YW and A N Other operator.

- CBell suggested a hub with all-encompassing facilities for cyclists along with a café.

Recommendations

- HV's main recommendation is on the pivot of the money around the funicular. The Board consented to that change to enable him to engage properly with both JH & STo on how this can be done.
- IS suggested that renegotiations take place with the landowner to safeguard part of the funicular route to enable HV to push this forward.
- All Board members voted to accept HV's recommendation number 6 on reallocating the funds. This was carried with a majority vote. GS did not vote on this item.

Placemaking - HV outlined that there is a proposal to bring the public realm in to the red line of the line that we think we can purchase via SCR which is in the process of being costed but is a significantly bigger public realm than was envisaged.

Shop Front Improvements - MC suggested taking some of the public realm money away and putting it in a pot for shop front improvements.

- HV added that there is such inflation on prices that would mean all the projects would need some more help.
- HV highlighted that there is an internal team and external consultants, RLB, and various colleagues working together on the place making.
- MC suggested that the designers must include a budget for shop front improvements in the redesign.

Community Interest Company

There are concerns within the Council about the commerciality of the Community Interest Company and they need to explore the ability with the funder to see if that could be operated.

- The Board needs to consider the concept of a CIC and whether there is still a desire amongst the Board to create one at some point in the future to take the land interest on the Manchester Road hub.
- This also has an impact on the Council's risk profile going forward. GAD needs to understand where the Board wants to go with this and ownership of the building going forward.
- If there is a wealth of community interest in putting some investment and support into making sure that the Manchester Road hub is something that provides a return for the community then that is a different proposition to if the Council is going to run and maintain this facility for Stocksbridge.
- As SCC have a library in that building, the purpose of it is as a community facility is harder if it becomes residential or office space. It all depends on what the community wants, what the Council's risk appetite is, and what the market interest is in this building.

Actions: HV

IS asked HV to scope out the end vision in no more than a half page proposal which outlines the business plan and where YW come into this.

7. Item: Communications Update

Amanda Holmes

- AH highlighted her weekly comms update which is emailed to everyone on a Friday. She asked if anyone could attend the consultation sessions to assist her, if possible.
- IS asked for the comms to be updated following the pause on the funicular and the reallocation of the monies.
- AH explained that they did sell the vision for the funicular and from a comms point of view it's more positive because the background to it has been made clear.

8. Item: Finance Update

Howard Holmes

Item 8 – Finance Update is to be discussed at a separate meeting (date and time to be confirmed).

9. Item: Any Other Business

Howard Holmes

- Document Submission Timeline (For Information)

10. Item: Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 4 November 2021, 09:00-10:00hrs