

CHEADLE TOWNS FUND BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Date	14 th May 2021 at 3.30pm	
Venue	MS Teams	
Present	Marge Falconer - Executive Director, BMI Circle Health, Alexandra Hospital Mary Robinson, MP - MP for Cheadle, Conservative Cllr. David Meller - Councillor Cheadle Hulme N. Labour Cllr. Tom Morrison - Councillor Cheadle Hulme N. Lib Dem Rob Munro - Chair of Cheadle Village Partnership Sharon Seville - President, GM Chamber (Stockport) Caroline Simpson - Deputy Chief Executive, SMBC Simon Elliott - Head of Rail Programme, TfGM <i>Observers / Presenters</i> Rosie Jenkins - Cities & Local Growth Unit, BEIS & MHCLG (advisor role) David Hodcroft - GMCA Robert Goulsbra - Head of Development and Regeneration SMBC Michael S. Fisher - Development and Regeneration Manager, SMBC Oliver Williamson - PA for Mary Robinson MP	
Apologies	Dr Viren Mehta - Cheadle Medical Practice	
Item		Actions
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	MF chaired the meeting Apologies received as above CS introduced the agenda which is to focus on the Project Confirmation process and agree indicative budgets Actions from last meeting to be picked up during agenda items	Noted
2.	Project Confirmation Update Rail Station, Simon Elliott, TfGM	
	SE outlined progress in responding to DfT / MHCLG queries required to accompany the Project Confirmation. 1) A Station Working Group has been established and meeting held. This shows key rail partner involvement. 2) The timetabling work proves that the Mid Cheshire Line can support a station at Cheadle. However, further work will be required to account for wider capacity issues. 3) A review of the Station cost estimate is now complete.	Noted

	4) Heads of Terms are agreed in principle for the station land. 5) An addendum to the Project Confirmation explains the funding position, provides options for delivery and a realistic programme. SE explained that the outcome to the New Station Fund was still awaited.	
	SE - presented a visual of what the Station might look like CS - raised a discussion point around communications MF - agreed that some communications would help to keep public interest going DM – agreed it would be good to share the image but with a note of caution that there is still a lot of work to do MR – agreed that any messaging should be caveated TM – agreed that expectations should be managed RM – suggested a half-way house with a semi-public soft launch of the image to the next CVP meeting The Board agreed to RM's suggestion RJ – suggested that a good trigger for a press release would be when the Board receive a letter of confirmation from BEIS MR – suggested using a Ministerial quote SE - requested Board approval for the Project Confirmation and then submission on 17th May 2021 and to progress subsequent feasibility work. Board agreed.	Noted Action: RM / MSF Agreed Action: SE / MSF
3.	Project Confirmation Eco Business Park, Caroline Simpson & Robert Goulsbra, SMBC	
	CS - introduced the scheme, an exemplar Eco Business Park, c.90,000 sqft and potentially supporting some 200 jobs. CS - mentioned that the project had gained support at the Stockport Economic Alliance and was already generating market interest. RG - summarised the expert team that had been put together to support the project confirmation process. He explained the concept design and the low carbon options being explored. These include a menu of increasing levels of energy efficiency for the industrial sheds, the office elements and the innovation hub. CS - explained that the Towns Fund is required to bridge the funding gap for the investment in eco technology. Rents would be at market rates.	Noted

	MR – asked where the remaining funding would be sourced. CS - confirmed that the intention is that this would be sourced from the Council's capital resources (subject to securing Towns Fund and approvals). The Council would regard the Eco Park as a long term investment. MR – said that she supported the project and would prefer the highest eco specification that is feasible and viable. MF – supported the scheme SS – mentioned that industrial sustainability is a growing area of interest and welcomed a local exemplar. RG - explained that the specification would attract high end occupiers who would be more likely to pay a premium. SS - asked about timeframes. RG replied that submission for planning would hopefully be by the end of the year. CS - asked the Board to support £4.0m to £4.6m TF grant towards the scheme subject to final costings and appraisal options. CS requested Board approval for the Project Confirmation submission Board agreed.	Noted Agreed Action: RG/MSF
4.	Project Confirmation Active Travel, Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	CS explained that some Active Travel works were already included within the Accelerated Fund package and the Station project. A prioritisation exercise, based on creating strategic routes, deliverability and the fit to existing / proposed cycle infrastructure, supported the following two schemes: - link from new Rail Station to the High Street - link north / south Bruntwood Lane to Brookfield's Park and then onto the High Street. CS - understood that there will be less funding than originally envisaged in the TIP submission. However, there is now a good pipeline of project ideas to help seek other resources in the long term. RM - offered assistance with local consultations when the projects got to that stage. RM - reiterated his preference for a link to the station from the west end of Cheadle High Street if feasible. MSF mentioned that this was being investigated. CS asked the Board to support £1.0m to £1.6m TF grant towards Active Travel subject to final costings and to support the Project Confirmation submission. Board agreed.	Noted Agreed. Action: MSF

5.	Indicative Budgets & Stage 2 Funding, Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	CS - explained that after fully funding the Station from Towns Fund there remained £5.64m to allocate between the Eco Park and Active Travel projects. CS - suggested that the Board approve the indicative budget ranges, and then upon final feasibility work, the precise budget allocations would be delegated to the Chair of the Town Board, along with authority to sign off the three Project Confirmation submissions, w/c 17th May. Board agreed. MF - confirmed that she was happy with this suggestion MR - also agreed CS - confirmed that an email would be sent to Board members with the final details. CS - outlined to the Board that the estimated cost of the Stage 2 feasibility work, planning submissions and business cases was £410,000. Around £60,000 Towns Find Capacity Funding remains. The Council has agreed to commit up to £350,000, as required, to ensure that the Stage 2 work is completed. RJ – mentioned that cost pressures are common across many Town Fund areas.	Noted. Agreed Action: MSF / CS Action: MSF / CS Noted
6.	Accelerated Fund Project Update, Michael Fisher, SMBC	
	MSF – provided a progress summary of the Accelerated Fund projects. Progress is summarised below:	Noted
	Jubilee Diamond Park: <u>Path Upgrade</u> - complete <u>Equipment</u> – on order expect delivery in April <u>Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)</u> - works started 29/03/21 <u>Learn to Ride</u> – delivery due to start in May / June following the SuDS project.	Noted
	Active Travel: <u>Ashfield Road</u> - detailed design complete. Likely to be on site early summer. <u>School Streets pilot</u> - start on site expected late May / June. <u>High Street Parklet</u> - Parklet ordered but delays with manufacture. Installation likely to be July / August.	Noted
	Other Projects: <u>Digital Information Point</u> - supplier selected. Supply and installation summer and then commissioning to follow. <u>Councillor Lane</u> - Due to complete end of May. <u>Abney Hall Park</u> - Wildlife improvements complete.	Noted

	DM – raised the issue that some people were not complying with the one-way system at Brookhead Drive. A site visit has been arranged with SMBC Highways. RM asked for any templates from the software supplier for the digital information points when available.	Noted Action: MSF
7.	Looking Forwards, Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	CS summarised the next steps as: • Share the project Confirmation material with the Board before submission • Board to approve the suggested project budget allocations • Authority delegated to Chair of the Town Board to approve final project budgets and to sign off the three Project Confirmation Forms • Continue key tasks on the Station, including the Station Working Group and Land Deal • Inform Board of any news on the New Station Fund submission • Progress Stage 2 development of each project • Going forwards, keep Board informed of progress on project and business case development, at key stages. RM - mentioned that a local representative would be useful to help with any design details concerning the station project. MR - agreed the need for local input into the project to complement the Station Working Group. CS - agreed to consider how best to involve people in the process.	Noted Action: MSF Noted Action: MSF
	Next Towns Fund Board meeting was arranged for <u>Friday 2nd July 2021 at 3.30pm</u> via MS Teams.	

Abbreviations:

AF – Accelerated Fund (Towns Fund)
BCR – Benefit Cost Ratio
BEIS – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
CVP – Cheadle Village Partnership
DIP – Digital Information Point
DJP – Diamond Jubilee Park
DfT – Department for Transport
Green Book – a five point business case tool used by Government
HMT – Her Majesties Treasury
HoT – Heads of Terms

LEP – Local Economic Partnership
MCL – Mid Cheshire Line (railway)
MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
NR – Network Rail
NSF – New Station Fund (Round 3)
PF – Pell Frischmann
RJR – Restoring Your Railway (Ideas Fund)
SMBC – Stockport Metropolitan Council
SOBC – Strategic Outline Business Case
SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
SuDS – Sustainable Drainage System
TfGM – Transport for Greater Manchester
TIP – Town Investment Plan
ToR – Terms of Reference