

MINUTES OF CHEADLE TOWNS FUND BOARD MEETING

Date	12 th February 2026	
Venue	MS Teams	
Present	<p>Board Members</p> <p>Brian Bradley - Chair, Director, IN Accountancy Matthew Worman - Head of Rail, TfGM Sharon Seville - President, GM Chamber (Stockport) Paul Richards - Deputy Chief Executive, SMBC Cllr. David Meller - Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North Cllr</p> <p>Observers / Presenters</p> <p>Matt Jones - Head of Capital Delivery, SMBC Paul Batho - Development Manager, SMBC Louis Manifould - Project Manager, SMBC</p>	
Apologies	<p>Christopher Palmiotto - Programme Support Manager, DfT Simon Elliott - Network Director - Rail, TfGM Robert Botwright - Procurement Director, Circle Health Phillip Gould-Bourn - Cheadle Village Partnership Jesse Garrick - Cities & Local Growth Unit, BEIS & DLUHC Laura Green - Head of Development & Regeneration, SMBC Tom Morrison MP - Member of Parliament, Cheadle ward</p>	
	Item	Actions
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	Introductions and apologies received.	
2.	Conflicts of Interest and Declarations Register	
	No conflicts were declared by those present.	
3.	Actions from Last Meeting / Board Matters	
	<p>GMCA representative (Simon Noakes) still needs to be replaced. PR to speak with GMCA about potential candidates for a suitable replacement.</p> <p>GP representative left Towns Fund board, 1 vacancy available. SS recommended the CEO of Cedar Pharmaceuticals. Details are to be passed onto BB/PR to assess suitability.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>SS/BB/PR</p>

4A.	Cheadle Eco Park Project Update: Paul Batho, SMBC	
	<p>The board were informed that there has been good progress reported since last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition completed and Building contract signed with Caddick Construction. • Anticipating a twelve-month build, commencing mid-March • Prestart risks are now rated green. Going forward, we will be working closely with partners to ensure a smooth delivery. • A timelapse video of the demolition, as well as CGI mock ups of the future site were shown to attendees. <p>Questions Raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start on site comms are to be produced, with input from BB. This will be shared once particulars are approved • Press release due to go out on Thursday 19th February 2026. PR to share with board members once published. 	PR
4B	Station Project Update: Matt Jones, SMBC	
	<p>The current situation with the station project was summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters sent to Rail Minister 12th December 2025 requesting decision on timetable proposal • Holding response received 19th January 2026 • Further engagement by SMBC and TfGM with DfT to ascertain position being put to the Minister • DfT have confirmed that advice to Minister requires several levels of sign-off, which can take time • There have been no further updates provided by DfT <p>Questions Raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM expressed frustration over lack of progress with DfT, an opinion shared by the board. • Is it time to issue a statement publicly? PR advised that writing a final letter to the minister informing them of the board's intentions would be the preferred way to start. • PR/MJ to draft letters to the Minister for Rail and MHCLG for approval from BB by Tuesday 17th February. 	PR/MJ/BB
5.	Looking Ahead/AOB	
	<p>Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timetable agreement • Station design • Conclude agreement on land • Planning condition discharges • Car park and off-site build • Station build 	

	<p>Cheadle Eco Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commence build contract <p>Next Board meeting date to be confirmed</p>	MJ
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