

CHEADLE TOWNS FUND BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Date	5 th March 2021 at 3.30pm	
Venue	MS Teams	
Present	Rob Munro - Chair of Cheadle Village Partnership Mary Robinson, MP - MP for Cheadle, Conservative Cllr. David Meller - Councillor Cheadle Hulme N. Labour Sharon Seville - Stockport Vice-President GM Chamber of Commerce Simon Elliott - Head of Rail Programme, TfGM Caroline Simpson - Deputy Chief Executive, SMBC Rosie Jenkins - Cities & Local Growth Unit, BEIS & MHCLG (advisor role) <i>Observers / Presenters</i> Robert Goulsbra - Head of Development and Regeneration SMBC Michael S. Fisher - Development and Regeneration Manager, SMBC Oliver Williamson - PA for Mary Robinson MP	
Apologies	Marge Falconer - Executive Director, BMI Alexandra Hospital Dr Viren Mehta - Cheadle Medical Practice Cllr. Tom Morrison - Councillor Cheadle Hulme N. Lib Dem Simon Noakes - GMCA David Hodcroft - GMCA Lou Cordwell - GM LEP	
Item		Actions
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	RM chaired the meeting Apologies received as above Agenda introduced	Noted
2.	Town Deal Announcement and Next Steps, Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	CS outlined that Cheadle was one of forty five Town Deals announced in this week's Spring Budget. The good news is that Cheadle has been offered £13.9m. However, this is in support of three of the four proposed Investment Plan projects.	Noted

	CS explained that unfortunately the High Street Innovation Zone was not supported and that feedback on why is being sought by MHCLG. CS explained that the three supported projects, Rail Station, Active Travel and the Eco Business Park were altogether costed at £19.39m. This means that there is a £5.49m gap between the Town Deal offer and the overall cost estimate submitted. MHCLG have delegated the decision to as to how the Town Deal funds should be allocated to Cheadle Board, through the Project Confirmation process. CS also pointed out that MHCLG / DfT support for the Rail Station was subject to mitigating delivery risks and securing contingent funding. There are no special conditions for the other two projects.	
	CS outlined an option for Board members to consider. Namely, to prioritise Towns Fund resources to the Rail Station so that it is not reliant on other funding. That would leave £5.64m to allocate across Active Travel and the Eco Business Park projects. Options would then be explored on how these projects could either be scaled back and / or part funded through other sources.	Noted
	RM - supported the suggested approach given the strong support from the local public survey and the Board to date for the Station. DM - also agreed to prioritise the Station on the same basis, scaling back other projects if required. MR – reiterated that the Station was the key plank in the TIP submission and noted the conditions attached to the Town Deal offer. RJ – said that there would be feedback on the grant conditions from MHCLG, but that it may take some time. MR – asked whether Cheadle’s project conditions were usual. RJ – replied that the Station delivery conditions are standard for that type and scale of project. The other conditions were bespoke. SS – expressed concern of scaling down the Eco Business Park given the importance of net zero and economic growth to the Investment Plan and strategy.	Noted

	RM asked whether some of the Active Travel elements could be combined with the Station. SE – said that options for Active Travel would be considered in the OBC work. CS – recommended that the Station is prioritised but that all projects are worked up so that they are in the best position possible to ensure that full spend can be achieved. CS suggested to use the Capacity Funding and meanwhile SMBC would bridge the feasibility costs. CS suggested that the Board requests Mary Robinson MP to convene an Industry Working Group comprising, DfT, MHCLG, NR, TfGM, SMBC and other partners to progress the Station project. SS – agreed to this approach as it covered all basis. MR – agreed to the proposal to keep all options on the table and to progress establishing the Station Working Group. The Board agreed the actions outlined above. CS to debrief MF next week. RM supported the use of the remaining £26k Capacity Funding to progress the Stage 2 work. MR & CS agreed to approach BMI Circle Health to progress actions around land requirements. The Board agreed that MR help to progress the actions, via the Station Working Group, required as part of the conditional Town Deal offer. The Board agreed that the Chair and SMBC Chief Executive sign off the HoT by 17/03/21. RJ reiterated that submission of the business case is due 10 months after the HoTs are agreed.	Action: CS Action: CS Action: MR Noted Action: CS Noted Action: MR & CS Noted Action: CS & MSF Noted
	CS outlined the options to either descope the Active Travel work and / or seek other funding sources.	Noted

	CS mentioned the intention to commission property experts to undertake the feasibility work for the Low Carbon Eco Park and to assess what can be achieved with a revised budget.	Noted
	The Board agreed that the Chair and SMBC Chief Executive sign off the HoT by 17/03/21. RJ reiterated that submission of the business case is due 10 months after the HoTs are agreed.	Action: MF & CS Noted
	<u>Communications</u> CS outlined that a draft press release with quotes had been circulated and the host webpage updated. SS agreed to circulate the press release to Chamber members. RM – agreed to circulate the headlines among the community.	Noted Action: SS Action: RM
3.	New Capacity Fund, Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	CS explained that an opportunity had arisen since the last Board meeting to submit a request for further Capacity Funding of up to £120,000. A submission was made 17 th February 2021 based on the need to progress project design and detailed business cases. Feedback from MHCLG is awaited. The fund is to help cover work not provided by the Delivery Partner (Arup Team).	Noted
4.	Next Steps and Any Other Business	
	CS summarised the next steps as below: • Issue communications on the Town Deal Offer • Arrange signing the Town Deal letter • Invite partners to the Station Industry Working Group • Start commissioning work on the projects to redefine the budgets and outputs so that they are ready for Project Confirmation • Provide an update on progress with the Accelerated Fund Projects and Rail matters either before or at the next meeting.	Noted
	Next Towns Fund Board meeting was arranged for <u>Friday 9th April 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
HoTs – 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
SuDS – Sustainable Drainage System
TfGM – Transport for Greater Manchester
TIP – Town Investment Plan
ToR – Terms of Reference