

CHEADLE TOWNS FUND

INTERIM BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Date	5 th June 2020 at 3.30pm	
Venue	MS Teams	
Present	<p>Mary Robinson, MP - MP for Cheadle, Conservative</p> <p>Cllr. David Meller - Councillor Cheadle Hulme North, Labour</p> <p>Rob Munroe - Chair of Cheadle Village Partnership</p> <p>Dr Viren Mehta - Cheadle Medical Practice</p> <p>Simon Elliott - Head of Rail Programme, TfGM</p> <p>Christina Shepherd - Cities & Local Growth Unit, BEIS & MHCLG</p> <p>Caroline Simpson - Corporate Director of Place, Stockport MBC</p> <p>Robert Goulsbra - Head of Development and Regeneration Stockport MBC</p> <p>Michael Fisher - Development and Regeneration Manager, Stockport MBC</p> <p><i>Guests:</i></p> <p>Luke Delahunty -Director, SQW</p> <p>Donald Ross -Managing Consultant, SQW</p>	
Apologies	<p>Marge Falconer - Executive Director, BMI Alexandra Hospital</p> <p>Cllr. Tom Morrison - Councillor Cheadle Hulme North, Lib Dem</p> <p>Suzanne Jones - Cities & Local Growth Unit, BEIS & MHCLG</p> <p>Stuart Bradley - Stockport President GM Chamber of Commerce</p>	
Item		Actions
1	Welcome and Introductions	
	The attendees present introduced themselves	
	Apologies received as above.	
	Decision made that in Marge Falconer's absence that Caroline Simpson and Viren Mehta would co-chair the meeting.	Agreed
	CS was requested by the Board to confirm that SB would be able to attend future meetings	Action CS
2	Actions from Last Meeting & Update by Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	<p>CS provided an update on progress since the last Board meeting on commissioned activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQW commissioned 17/04/20 to undertake consultations, prepare the Town Investment Plan and the supporting economic business case • Transport specialists Pell Frischmann commissioned 15/04/20 to undertake an Outline Strategic Business case for a new station and also to submit a bid to the New Stations Fund 	Noted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Plan developed by the Cheadle Village Partnership and updated In May to take account of Covid-19. Local market research specialist DJS commissioned 15/05/20 to provide expertise in preparing an on-line public questionnaire and to undertake the analysis. Approximately £49k of the Capacity Fund still to be allocated by the Board, as required, to support the TIP. 	
	CS reminded the Board that the Council hosts a landing page on behalf of the Towns Board and that the Council is tracking suggestions made by the public via the My Town web site.	Noted
	CS thanked those who were able to provide a letter of support for the New Station Fund application due in today. MR confirmed that a letter of support had been sent.	Noted
	CS explained that GMCA have suggested that each Town Board should be supported by a GM Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) representative, in Cheadle's case Lou Cordwell. MR supported the proposal citing the importance of linking into the GM economy. VR agreed. The Board agreed to invite Lou Cordwell to the next Board meeting in an advisory capacity and then to decide her role from thereon.	Noted Action CS
3	Town investment Plan Presentation by Luke Delahunty, SQW	
	LD introduced SQW and their role in supporting the Board to consult, propose projects and develop a coherent Town Investment Plan and a supporting economic case.	Noted
	Based on SQW's initial desk based assessment LD outlined Cheadle's threats and opportunities and potential structural changes ahead such as digitisation and home / local working by skilled workers. It is important the TIP is not constrained by the new context [of Covid-19] but is aware of this.	Noted
	LD suggested that SQW could pick up further discussion in future board meetings or bilaterally with Board Members after.	Noted
	MR noted the empty former Exchange Building on the high street and asked SQW for other examples of areas from which Cheadle could learn from.	Noted
	LD described a range of projects but noted that not all are transferable to Cheadle. The key success factor has always been leadership.	Noted
	Business/employment incubation space could be explored to support new businesses and jobs.	Noted
	LD highlighted that for the TIP and the Towns Fund bid to be successful the project(s) put forward have to be truly transformational and have to have account to the Government guidance. Better to consider a smaller number of projects, but they must be transformational.	Noted

	SE to provide work undertaken so far by TfGM that could assist SQW with an evidence base, regarding changing market and propensity to travel.	Action SE
	RM asked about the process of moving from a vision to a plan, suggesting a list of interventions to come from stakeholder consultations and then a workshop with the Board to agree a preferred list based on impact and affordability.	Noted
	LD noted still waiting for revised Government guidance. The process once the Board have agreed on high level vision would be: detailed evidence gathering, bilateral consultation with stakeholders and public. What do businesses and the public want to see. Following that to consider options more fully with workshops and assess against constraints and budgets.	Noted
	The Board agreed to CS suggestion of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQW hold 121 consultations with the Board members • SQW produce a weekly programme / route map showing the work flow from now to the TIP 	Action LD
4	Station Study Update by Simon Elliot, TfGM	
	SE provided an update on the station feasibility work, initial timetable modelling complete and demand modelling complete. Next steps are further stakeholder engagement and to look at cross border timetabling into Cheshire.	Noted
	New Rail Station Fund Round 3 submission today 05/06/20. Advised there could be a match funding requirement. Health warning to flag that detailed timetable modelling is required to demonstrate no adverse impact on existing services.	Noted
	SE provided an update on the Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund for dualling the Mid Cheshire Line. Feasibility funding was not successful but positive feedback was received suggesting a potential opportunity if there is another funding round.	Noted
	The Board asked how they could best support the wider ambition to dual the railway line. SE replied that they now have more information to support a future application for dualling and that a workshop with DfT would be useful. SE and MR are involved in the workshops. SE to update the Board at the next meeting on further feedback from DfT.	Action SE
	CS mentioned that the Cheadle TIP will need to be co-produced for both MHCLG and DfT. The Minister of Transport's support will be important.	Noted
	MR mentioned the benefits to GM of increased capacity that dualling could bring.	Noted
	VM mentioned that the capacity of the local road network is restricted.	Noted
	SE mentioned that TfGM are undertaking a snap survey to assess the impact of Covid-19 on how people may travel in the future. This may point to increased use of local centres rather than the regional centre.	Noted

5	Update of Community Consultation by Rob Munro, CVP	
	RM updated the Board on the commission of local market research specialist DJS who are currently designing the public questionnaire. It will be on-line to be supplemented with postal surveys, physical displays, local radio and schools and colleges.	Noted
	RM confirmed that the questionnaire directly asks about a new station and that other questions may identify issues that a station could help to resolve (e.g. congestion).	Noted
	DM suggested that the station can deliver additional benefits such as encouraging walking and cycling.	Noted
	There is a need to consider a potential station as a driver to deliver other projects. But it is beneficial and prudent to consider other proposals such as a business park.	Noted
	RM confirmed that the questionnaire will contain environmental related questions as well questions on the challenges facing and options to improve Cheadle.	Noted
	RM mentioned that the CVP have formed a sub-group with a range of key skills and experience to help deliver the wider Engagement Plan and to promote the questionnaire.	Noted
	<p>VM raised the need to engage with hard to reach people, especially difficult when face to face to currently prohibited.</p> <p>RM stated that three responses are planned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheadle FM is specifically part-targeting an elderly clientele not using computers; 2. There are proposed local collect and drop points but also at supermarkets, etc.; 3. Publicity at the former Exchange building will increase profile. <p>VM offered use of his medical practice and suggested that other local practices and pharmacies may also assist.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Action RM & VM</p>
6	Town Fund Guidance & Timetable Update by Christina Shepherd, Cities & Local Growth Unit	
	<p>CH confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further Towns Fund guidance to be published soon; • submissions are likely to be in three waves, probably end of July, end of October and next March; and • Arup have been appointed as strategic advisors and are fact finding at the moment. 	Noted
	<p>DM asked how much should the TIP take account of the post Covid-19 situation</p> <p>CH confirmed that whilst Covid-19 will have an impact and the TIP proposals should take account of it, the focus is still on long term transformational change and should still focus on sustainable regeneration, productivity and growth.</p>	Noted
	<p>MR asked how Arup are funded.</p> <p>CH said there will be no local impact on budgets</p>	Noted

	LD asked about Arup's day allocations CH replied that it depended on each town's needs	
7.	Looking Forwards by Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	CS summarised the immediate actions as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take on board further Towns Fund guidance • Develop the Station's Strategic Outline Business Case • Feedback from DfT on the New Station Fund submission • Launch 4 week public survey across • CVP to support public engagement • SQW to complete wider consultations 	Noted
	CS suggested: The Board decide which wave to submit later on when the TIP is more developed Proposed setting monthly Board meetings going forwards. VM proposed Fridays at 3.30pm was a suitable time.	Noted Agreed
	CS to update Marge Falconer, Cllr Tom Morrison and Lou Cordwell outside of this meeting CS to confirm Stuart Bradley's future availability	Action CS
	Next meeting now arranged via MS Teams for <u>Friday 3rd July 2020 at 3.30pm.</u>	Action ALL

Abbreviations:

BEIS – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
CVP – Cheadle Village Partnership
DfT – Department for Transport
LEP – Local Economic Partnership
MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
SMBC – Stockport Metropolitan Council
SOBC – Strategic outline Business case
TfGM – Transport for Greater Manchester
TIP – Town Investment Plan