

CHEADLE TOWNS FUND BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Date	5 th February 2021 at 3.30pm	
Venue	MS Teams	
Present	Marge Falconer - Executive Director, BMI 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 - Stockport Vice-President GM Chamber of Commerce Caroline Simpson - Deputy Chief Executive, SMBC Simon Noakes - GMCA 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 Sue Stevenson - Head of Highways and Transportation, SMBC	
Apologies	Dr Viren Mehta - Cheadle Medical Practice Christina Shepherd - Cities & Local Growth Unit, BEIS & MHCLG Simon Elliott - Head of Rail Programme, TfGM Joe Hodgkinson - TfGM David Hodcroft - GMCA Lou Cordwell - GM LEP	
Item		Actions
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	MF chaired the meeting Apologies received as above Agenda introduced	Noted

	Abney Park wildlife Wildlife works have commenced.	Noted
	Ashfield Road – Cycling & Walking . Detailed design being progressed.	Noted
	Street Pilot -- Cycling & Walking Detailed design being progressed. MSF confirmed that the local school had been directly consulted, and responded in support, subject to access for teachers to reach the staff car park. RM raised the point again about having a design which could allow temporary access into Massie Street car park during one-off events. MSF confirmed that he was still consulting the Highways Team on this possibility.	Noted Action: MSF
	Parklets – Wilmslow Road & High Street Project in detailed design. MSF confirmed that, given the issues raised by residents regarding a Parklet on Wilmslow Road, that detailed design has only progressed for a Parklet on the High Street. This was agreed at the last Board meeting. Further consultation has now been completed on the High Street option. Once installed, piloted and lessons learnt then a parklet could be considered for Wilmslow Road under the main TIP. Savings that have arisen from undertaken one Parklet have been used to off-set minor cost estimate increases across the other projects. MF asked about the Parklet design. MSF confirmed that the design is baseless so the Parklet can be easily even adapted or relocated if required.	Noted Noted Noted
	Councillor Lane Improvements Project in detailed design stage. DM expressed his support for this project. DM asked if the bench to be installed can be on a trial basis in case of anti-social behaviour. It could then be relocated. MSF to raise with the design team.	Noted Action: MSF

	Community Digital Information Points MSF outlined the current specification for a Digital information Point on the High Street A road safety audit will determine the precise location and orientation. Quotes have been sought and are to reviewed w/c 08/02/21. Work is progressing to agree the preferred connection type, the content management system, back of office arrangements, the IT software and the possibility of advertorial income to off-set operational costs. This is to ensure that the DIP is sustainable, compliant with the Council's systems, and as a pilot, sets the standard for the future. MSF noted that costs are likely to be more than the current budget allocation and that this will be reviewed as quotes for other projects are received.	Noted
	MF explained that the current spend forecast was just within budget. Contingencies have been built into estimates. There will be further clarity once more quotes have been received. MF & DM – suggested that if there was insufficient budget then the specification could be descope.	Noted
4.	Rail Timetable Study Findings, Sue Stevenson, SMBC	
	Sue Stevenson introduced her role as Head of Highways and Transportation at Stockport Council and that she has been working with Simon Elliot of TfGM on the rail station project. SS outlined progress to date on the feasibility work and confirmed that there was no feedback yet from New Stations Fund bid submitted June 2020. SS explained that Rail Timetable Study is about showing what is possible to gain approximately two minutes on the Mid Cheshire Line to allow trains to stop at a new station in Cheadle. This principle is important to gaining NR support. The rail timetable study, using May 2020 timetable, shows that time can be gained by changes to service patterns further along the MCL. Current capacity restrictions at Chester and Manchester Piccadilly mean that these stations are not an option. SS explained that the timetable study is a technical piece of work that shows that trains could stop at Cheadle. SS explained that, outside the scope of the timetable study, there is also opportunity to gain time through further line improvements and would lift speed restrictions.	Noted

	SS explained that any suggested solutions will need to align with the wider strategy work being undertaken by the Manchester Recovery Task Force. Consultations finish early March 2021. Also, any potential solutions will need to be looked at in consultation with Northern Rail, the Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester authorities and Cheshire and Warrington LEP.	Action: SE
	CS suggested that it might be appropriate to arrange, with MR possibly, convening, a briefing between the MPs along the Mid Cheshire Line to show the wider benefits for everyone. MR agreed to this strategic approach and proposal. Stating that not well used stops may actually increase in patronage if the Cheadle station became available. Also, that dualling was the long term strategic solution for better stopping frequencies. MR emphasised the need for positive narrative that shows the benefit of having time savings across the whole line. MF agreed given that the whole point of the TIP is to make Cheadle more attractive. RM suggested that CVP could play a role in mobilising community support, as and when required. DM also stressed that any case needs to include the benefits of linking communities to the Town Centre Mayoral Development Corporation Area and Stockport Station / town centre. MR also raised the point that the station is a transport project within MHCLG's portfolio. Therefore, the wider socio-economic benefits of the station and line improvements also need to be stressed in any future business case.	Noted Action: MR with TfGM & SMBC
5.	Capacity Fund Update, Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	CS outlined the current position with the Towns Fund Capacity Fund with approximately £29.5k remaining. CS asked whether there would be any revenue support to assist with the Stage 2 business cases of the Towns Fund. Since the Board meeting an announcement has been made that Town Centre Partnerships can make the case for further capacity funding in line with demonstrating need. This is expected to be between £50,000 - £120,000 with a submission date of <u>17th February 2021</u>.	Noted Action: SMBC to assess and make a request

6.	Town Deal - Next Stages, Rosie Jenkins, BEIS	
	RJ confirmed that TIP submissions were still being assessed and recommendations to the Minister will be made shortly. Following any offer to the Town Fund Partnership there will be 2 months by which Heads of Terms need to be signed. A full business case, that is HMT Green Book compliant, for each project element will then require to be prepared within 10 months of the signing of the Heads of Terms. Summaries will require to be submitted and spot checks will be undertaken. RJ confirmed that the Delivery Partner Team advisory support will currently continue to October 2021. The Team will be in contact to discuss how they can support the Partnership. RM asked how the announcement will be managed. RJ confirmed that the announcement will be made centrally by Government. DM asked if the new revised Green Book guidance will be used. It was confirmed that this is the case.	Noted
7.	Looking Forwards, Caroline Simpson, SMBC	
	Next Towns Fund Board meeting was arranged for <u>Friday 5th March 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
 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

RYR – 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