

Bolton Towns Fund Board

3.00pm, Thursday 15th April 2021

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Belinda Beaver	BB	Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
Baroness Newlove	BN	University of Bolton & Bolton College (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Martyn Cox	MC	Deputy Leader, Bolton Council
Tony Oakman	TO	Chief Executive, Bolton Council
Gerry Brough	GB	Director of Place, Bolton Council
Michelle Horrocks	MH	Head of Economic Development, Bolton Council
Paula Connor	PC	Project Officer, Bolton Council
Paul Whittingham Council	PW	Assistant Director Economic Development, Bolton
Mark Logan MP	ML	Bolton North East
Mark Head	MHe	Bolton & District Civic Trust
Jon Lord	JL	Bolton at Home
Alec Colbeck	AC	Midia Group
Tim Vaughan	TV	Moorgarth
Jonathan Seddon	JS	Seddon
James Gordon	JG	Gordon Moon Properties
Holly Harrow	HH	Homes England
David Hodcroft	DH	GMCA
Helen Tomlinson	HT	Bolton CVS
Sue Temperley	ST	Job Centre Plus (JCP)
Susan Flynn	SF	GM LEP
Caroline Hansell	CH	Principal Project Officer, Bolton Council
Phil Lamb	PL	Principal Project Officer, Bolton Council
Keith Questel-Lewis	KQL	Programme Manager, Bolton Council
Marc Watterson	MW	Arup
Danny Collins	DC	Savills
Tom Burton	TB	Savills
Leila Mottahedah	LM	Cities & Local Growth
Jesse Garrick	JG	MHCLG

Apologies

Eamon Boylan	EB	Chief Exec, GMCA
Roddy Gauld	RG	Octagon Theatre
Pete Courtie	PCo	Arts Council (Observer)
Amanda Halford	AH	GM LEP
Cllr. David Greenhalgh	DG	Leader, Bolton Council

Notes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

BB welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all of the virtual meeting protocols.

2. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Actions Arising

BB noted that there were no actions from the previous meeting held on 22nd October 2021. BB asked if there were any comments on the minutes. No comments were made therefore the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. Update on Accelerated Funding – Public Realm

MH reminded the Board that MHCLG had awarded £1million accelerated funding and that the Board had agreed this would be spent on public realm. MH introduced PL who gave a presentation on where we are up to in terms of the accelerated funding. The improvements are to be centred on the former Odeon site. Improvements include tree planting and creation of a performance/event space. The images in the presentation are concept designs at this stage and final designs will be brought to the Board as part of the consultation process.

BB thanked PL for his presentation and asked the Board whether there were any questions. None were raised.

5. Progression to next stages and recap of Projects

MH gave a presentation outlining progress to date since submission of the TIP and a recap of the projects that were submitted in the TIP. MH reminded the Board that £25million of funding had been requested. We have been offered £22.9million. The Board were asked by email if they were happy to accept the funding and Heads of Terms by email. All responses from Board Members were in agreement to accept this level of funding. This means however that there will be a need to reprofile the funding across the projects. We have two months in which to do this and confirm to MHCLG which projects we will be taking forward.

MH reported that through a competitive tendering process Savills have been appointed to help develop the detailed business cases for each project. Savills are very experienced in this field and have worked with the Council on other schemes such as the Future High Streets Fund Business Case for Farnworth. MH submitted a letter to MHCLG on 21st March confirming that Bolton accepts the funding and associated Heads of Terms (HoTs).

MH went on to give an overview of the TIP priorities and a recap of each of the projects, their benefits, and the cost of each. MH ran through the HoTs for the benefit of the Board. MH went on to advise the Board that we had 12 months in which to submit the detailed business cases and the summary document that MHCLG require, and that stakeholder engagement would be undertaken throughout the process.

BB thanked MH for her presentation and asked the Board whether there were any questions. There were no questions raised.

6. Developing the Business Cases

MH introduced Danny Collins (DC) from Savills who will be working with officers and the Board to develop the full business cases for each project. DC expressed his delight to be working with the Board and stated that he felt that the chosen projects were good schemes. DC introduced Tom Burton who will be part of the core team developing the business cases. DC went on to give an overview of Savills role and the methods and approach that will be taken to developing the business cases.

Savills will be attending a site visit next week to look at each of the schemes. DC explained that we now have 12 months to develop and submit the business cases. DC gave an overview of

the five-case business model. He explained that it asks various questions at each stage i.e., how does the project align, the benefits that can be claimed, etc. DC explained it would be dependent on each project when the business case will be ready for submission.

BB thanked DC for his presentation and asked if there were any questions. BQL raised the issue that there are multiple activities happening within the Council. He stated that it would be useful to have a programme gant so that activities within the Towns Fund can be analysed against other priorities. DC explained that Marc Watterson (MW) would cover timescales in his presentation.

7. Role of the Board

MW gave a summary of what happens now the Heads of Terms (HoTs) have been accepted and how ARUP can support as a delivery partner. He advised that ARUP could put Bolton in touch with similar towns through Working Groups, etc. He also advised that Bolton did well in being offered £22.9 million and that it was quite common to get less than requested. Some towns have been offered much less than Bolton.

MW explained that officers and consultants now have two months to work on reducing the amount of funding across the four projects. He advised it is also a period in which the remit of the Board should be revisited i.e., do we need to set up Steering Groups, is the membership right, etc? MW provided the Board with an example of a Business Case time plan. The final business cases will need to be submitted no later than mid-March 2022. The projects can be progressed at different stages throughout the year for example the Wellsprings is likely to be accelerated so there is potential to bring this project forward. MW also advised that different consents (i.e., planning) can delay project start dates. The next steps, reprioritisation, etc were summarised for the Board.

BB thanked MW for his presentation and asked the Board if there were any questions. No questions were raised.

BB asked the Board for approval for officers, consultants, etc to move forward and reprofile costings on each of the projects. BB asked Board members to give a thumbs up if they were in approval. All Board Members present gave a thumbs up and therefore the Board gave their approval.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.