

Bolton Towns Fund Board

4.00pm, Thursday 22nd October 2020

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Belinda Beaver	BB	Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
Cllr. David Greenhalgh	DG	Leader, Bolton Council
Cllr. Martyn Cox	MC	Deputy Leader, Bolton Council
Cllr. Akhtar Zaman	AK	Bolton Council
Tony Oakman	TO	Chief Executive, Bolton Council
Gerry Brough	GB	Director of Place, Bolton Council
Paula Connor	PC	Project Officer, Bolton Council
Paul Whittingham	PW	Assistant Director Economic Development, Bolton Council
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
Roddy Gauld	RG	Octagon Theatre
Pete Courtie	PCo	Arts Council (Observer)
Tim Vaughan	TV	Moorgarth
Jonathan Seddon	JS	Seddon
Baroness Newlove	BN	University of Bolton & Bolton College (Vice-Chair)
Rosie Jenkins	RJ	MHCLG
Amanda Halford	AH	GM LEP
James Gordon	JG	Gordon Moon Properties
Holly Harrow	HH	Homes England
David Hodcroft	DH	GMCA
Anoush Darabi	AD	Metro Dynamics
Samantha Elliot	SE	Bolton Council
Shane Green	SG	Metro Dynamics
Laura Boardman	LB	Principal Project Officer, Bolton Council
Suzanne Hall	SH	Principal Marketing Officer, Bolton Council
Caroline Hansell	CH	Principal Project Officer, Bolton Council
Phil Lamb	PL	Principal Project Officer

Apologies

Eamon Boylan	EB	Chief Exec, GMCA
Ibby Ismail	II	Bolton Solidarity
Michelle Horrocks	MH	Head of Economic Development, Bolton Council
Yasmin Qureshi MP	YQ	Bolton South East
Chris Green MP	CG	Bolton West
Darren Knight	DK	Bolton CVS
Marc Watterson	MW	Arup
Wirin Bhatiani	WT	Bolton CCG
Sue Temperley	ST	Job Centre Plus (JCP)
Alex Gardiner	AG	Metro Dynamics

Notes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

BB welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all of the virtual meeting protocols. She added that the chat transcript will be circulated after the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Actions Arising

BB noted that the presentations had been circulated after the last meeting as agreed. The only action from the last meeting was asking Board members for feedback on the story board narrative for the TIP. These were to be sent to MHo within 10 days of the last meeting. BB noted no comments or feedback had been received. She acknowledged that MHe had provided some feedback today via email and advised that based on his comments a paragraph would be included in the introduction of the TIP that would confirm the commitment to addressing climate change, net-zero development and long-term sustainability.

4. Town Investment Plan (TIP) Part One

BB reminded Board Members that the purpose of the session today was to formally approve the TIP for submission to MHCLG on 30th October.

BB introduced PC who gave a brief overview of feedback from the Check and Challenge Session that was held with the Towns Hub on 12th October. PC advised the Board that the purpose of the Check and Challenge session was to provide an honest evaluation of the TIP and share best practice from the first cohort to ensure that the TIP was going in the right direction and ensure that Bolton's TIP is the best that it can be on submission. PC advised that overall good feedback had been received. PC outlined that it was felt that there was a strong focus on Cheadle Square and well linked evidence of need to the projects. It was also noted that there were good linkages to other strategies such as Bolton Vision 2030 and that we have a strong and well-engaged Board in Bolton – it was highlighted that this needed to be drawn out more within the TIP.

Some sections at the time were still to be drafted and it was felt more statistics and evidence of need was required plus information on delivery models considered especially around the Wellsprings project. It was also felt more information on outputs, outcomes and finance were required. These were issues that the team were working on and fine-tuning in the background. PC advised that comments have been addressed in the final draft. PC asked if RJ wanted to add anything on the matter. RJ confirmed that this was an accurate account of comments she had.

BB thanked PC and introduced AD to give a brief overview of the TIP content. AD advised the Board that the Towns Fund aims to unlock economic growth in the 101 towns that are to benefit from it. Bolton Town Centre had been looked at in this context i.e. what are the factors that are impacting on Bolton's economy, how can the town's strengths be built upon and how we can encourage the economy to grow. AD said Bolton had been doing this for some time

through the Bolton Economic Strategy. He explained that the narrative came out strongest here. It appears people come to shop in Bolton but not to trade or do business. As retail is in decline there is a need to encourage a different offer to the town centre. The TIP looks at how Bolton can move forward such as the night-time economy – making Bolton a place where people want to stay and want to visit.

AD offered to answer any questions. GB stated that he would be very interested to get views from the Board.

RG made an observation that there has been much discussion around environmental sustainability, he felt it was important to build active travel into the proposals and show commitment to the issue. He also felt it was important that the £4 million investment pledged from the Arts Council for the Octagon should be mentioned. PCo echoed RG's comments to reference this investment. He also mentioned that a Project Initiation Document (PID) had been developed for the Cultural Strategy.

DG thanked all involved in working on the TIP for their work. He felt it reflected the priorities, the right projects had been selected and that it had captured the priorities of the consultation that was carried out. He stated he was very pleased with the four projects that were going forward and felt it was a very strong submission.

BB asked Board Members if they did not agree with anything included in the TIP to let their views be known now. No comments were received therefore the proposal to submit the TIP to MHCLG on 30th October was approved by the Board.

5. Next Steps

BB explained that once the TIP is submitted to MHCLG there will be a period where the documents are being reviewed. Once there is a positive outcome Heads of Terms will be agreed followed by development of a full Business Case. It is not clear what the timescale of the process will be as yet. BB asked RJ if she could advise how long the process will take. RJ said it would be approximately two months but that she will keep in touch with MHo throughout the process.

6. Role of Board Going Forwards

BB went on to say that assuming that the result is positive there will be development of full business cases for each project. She explained that the Board has a role but whilst in the review period the frequency of meetings will reduce, probably to a quarterly basis. There will likely be a meeting that will provide a progress report to keep the Board engaged. BB felt the Board may have a role to play in developing the business cases and that their input may be required.

BB formally thanked all the Board Members for their contribution and for the passion they have shown for improving Bolton.

7. Any Other Business

PC informed Board Members that she was seeking letters of support from partner organisations and Board members to submit with the TIP. She thanked those who had returned them already.

Bolton Council

BB asked for delegated authority from the Board to put together a press release to coincide with the submission of the TIP. There were no comments received therefore delegated authority was granted. BB informed the Board that she would be working with the Council Team to put together the press release. Board Members comments may be sought on this.

There were no further items raised. BB once again thanked all the Board Members and reiterated that the draft TIP had been approved for submission at this meeting. She looked forward to seeing all for a progress meeting.