

Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT) Group and Town Deal Board

Wednesday, 21 July 2021

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Henry Smith MP, Steve Burston, Marie Ovenden, Toby Shaw, Tony Middleton, Neil Cooper, Vikki Illingworth, Adam Godfrey, Councillor Steve Wraight, Peter Rainier, Louise Blackwell, Dave Savage, Steve Turner and Darren Ford.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (18th May 2021) were accepted, noting that with regard to the Town Centre Cultural Quarter project, Adam Joolia has shared examples of comparable work in Worthing relating to an enlivenment programme on the high street, and offered a follow up meeting with Nigel Tidy (NT) to discuss.</p>	
<p>2. Crawley's Economic Recovery / Latest Information</p> <p>Headline information (CBC) - Lynn Hainge (LH) presented the latest headline information for Crawley including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UC claimant count in Crawley has fallen to 7.8% (May 2021) but is still higher than in May 2020 and remains the highest in West Sussex. • Youth unemployment remains high at 12.2% (940 people aged 18-24) • Crawley currently has 9,500 residents on furlough (scheme ends in Sept) • Since start of the pandemic, Crawley BC has paid out over £25.6m in business support grants including £3.63m in discretionary grants. <p>In summary, a 'mixed' picture but with clear signs of recovery on the ground including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Gateway started on site June 2021; completion July 2022 • Manor Royal Highways Improvement Scheme to start on site shortly • Planning permission granted for City Fibre exchange • Station Gateway – planning permission granted April 2021 • New Town Hall 'Create Building' well underway – phase 1 completion Spring 2022 • County Buildings demolished June 2021 – WSCC developing business case to bring site forward for mixed use regeneration. • Crawley Draft Economic Recovery Plan out to consultation – all comments invited by 10 September <p>Gatwick Airport Economic Value Report – Richard Lennard (RL) presented an overview of a recently published report on Gatwick's Economic Value. Narrative key themes include a stronger local economy, investing in talent, a sustainable future and investing to kickstart local growth.</p> <p>In 2020 the airport represented 36,700 jobs and £2.1bn in GVA through economic activity on site, in supply chains and to businesses close to Gatwick. By 2028, the airport expects to generate 50,000 new jobs and £8.4bn for the region.</p> <p>When asked if the projected increase in jobs is in anticipation of meeting passenger forecasts by 2028, RL confirmed that it is an ever-changing picture, however the airport expects passenger figures to recover over the next three years, building back the jobs lost during the pandemic whilst also creating new</p>	<p>ALL</p>

ones. CM thanked RL for his presentation.

Town Centre BID – Simon Cuckow (SC) provided an update on behalf of the Town Centre BID, highlighting the following:

- New BID Manager in post, Wendy Bell, supported by Rachael Hughes as Operations & Enlivenment Officer. Both have been busy meeting key stakeholders and town centre businesses and co-ordinating BID activities.
- First major event taking place from 14 August, in partnership with Creative Crawley, with a full enlivenment programme being developed to April 2022.
- Town Centre Ambassadors appointed through 'The Welcome People'; to be mobilised in August.
- New footfall monitoring system to be procured – will provide data for existing and new businesses and enable to BID to measure impact of events programme.

Manor Royal BID – Steve Sawyer (SS) reported that Manor Royal remains relatively quiet, likely due to a combination of factors; reduction in office space and changes to how people are using that space. Lots of changes on the ground with a number of key buildings being demolished to make way for new logistics/warehousing space e.g. Churchill Court. As a result, Manor Royal is going to look and feel different to 'pre-pandemic' but this will bring new people and new investment to the area (including a number relocating from Croydon)

Peter Smith (PS) confirmed that planning permission has been granted for logistics buildings on the former Virgin building site and the former GSK site on Napier Way. Clem Smith (CS) highlighted that these sites were previously vacant so the developments will result in a net gain in jobs coming to Crawley.

Referring back to LH's presentation on the headline figures, SS reported an inconsistency between the number of vacancies being advertised and the level of unemployment locally. With some businesses struggling to recruit, this may change once the furlough scheme ends, or could suggest a skills mismatch within the local market.

The BID is making good progress on the [Micro-Parks](#) project with the first 'rabbits' arriving on site. SS is also working on a brief to deliver the first Superhub in Manor Royal, through the Crawley Growth Programme.

Ana Christie reported that businesses are experiencing global supply chain issues, particularly within manufacturing and construction. Costs have escalated by 200-300% in some cases and this is further impacting businesses and end users. Development and construction projects may have a longer project timeline, given the shortage in supplies and materials as well as labour.

Shelagh Legrave confirmed that the Chichester College Group is to receive funding to run skills 'boot camps' in the construction industry, working with East Surrey College. This will help deliver short courses to fill skills gaps in that sector.

Mel Munro (MM) confirmed that DWP is currently running sector based work academies across Surrey and Sussex for hospitality. MM invited Board members to contact Alison Barrett within DWP about 'Hospitality Rocks'. Additional information: Their Hospitality Focus Group has put together a plan for increasing job entries into this sector, launched on 19 July and continuing for 3 months. There will be 3 months of activity, focussing on this sector, which includes a rolling sector-based work academy programme (SWAP) run by East Sussex College. There will be jobs fairs, taster days, and recruitment days, and job centres will display hospitality vacancies.

[Gatwick Airport Ltd](#) – RL presented an update from the airport, confirming that 2020 saw 10.1m passengers compared to 46.6m in 2019. The airport is continuing

<p>to have positive conversations with a range of existing and new airlines about growth prospects including EasyJet, British Airways, Norwegian, Wizz Air, JetBlue, Corendon and Condor.</p> <p>Operationally, it is a constantly changing picture with countries moving between the different traffic light systems and quarantine and testing requirements presenting major challenges for the airport and passengers. Passenger numbers are expected to increase into August but still only around 25% of normal levels.</p>	
<p>3. Feedback from MHCLG to the Project Summary Documents</p> <p>NT referred to the Town Deal Grant Offer letter which had been received from MHCLG confirming the £21.1m offer, subject to the outcome of the spending review from 2022/23 onwards. Internal discussions suggested that this was unlikely to affect the fund allocation for Crawley.</p> <p>The funding is subject to the submission of Project Summaries, following development of Business Cases. These should be written as soon as possible, notifying the Towns Fund of expected submission dates, noting that Towns Fund Partner support ends in October. Compliance with Public Sector Equality Duty and provision of monitoring information on a six monthly basis is mandatory.</p>	
<p>4. Town Deal Stakeholder & Community Engagement Plan</p> <p>NT referred to the draft stakeholder and community engagement plan that had been circulated before the meeting and thanked everyone who had been involved in its development to date. A key task will be to engage with the whole community, including under-represented groups, as stated in the Heads of Terms offer.</p> <p>NT highlighted the role that all members of the Town Deal Board can play in raising awareness of the Town Deal within their own business networks and social media forums, for example by using #TownsFund (@MHCLG on Twitter) or referring to the website Towns Fund Invest Crawley.</p> <p>SS suggested adding a 'Marketing Assets' page to the document that pulls out social media tags/hashtags, rules, phrases and logos for all to use.</p> <p>Kathryn Ripley (KR) offered to support the engagement plan by using Community Ambassadors to target hard-to-reach groups, focusing on the key messages and advocating the use of plain English.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board approved the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan.</u></p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>NT</p> <p>KR</p>
<p>5. Next Steps / Timeline</p> <p>NT explained that the next step is to develop full business cases (based on the HM Treasury Green Book for the 5 case model). NT presented a project timeline for business case development which had been discussed by the Sub-Group Chairs earlier this week. This shows the development of (3A) MR Gigabit Scheme and (1C) Green Business Infrastructure Grants as the first to be developed.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board approved the proposed timeline for business case development.</u></p> <p>It was proposed that a Project Initiation Document (PID) is developed for each of the 10 projects and NT referred to the PID template which had been circulated before the meeting. Key risk areas include the need to identify project scope (and agree areas which are out of scope), outputs and outcomes, risks and their mitigation. In addition, to reaching an agreed definition of projects in more detail, PIDs would also help identify gaps in information, before working on the full business cases. The deadline for development of the PIDs was proposed as the end of September (date of the next Town Deal Board). CS stated that this was an</p>	

<p>ambitious but necessary target if we are to keep on track.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board approved the Sub-Groups to progress development of PIDs for sign off at the next Town Deal Board meeting in September, and approved the fast tracking of the Green Business Grants (1C) and Manor Royal Gigabit (3A) projects.</u></p> <p>It was proposed that external consultancy resource is required to develop most of the business cases, using the Capacity Funding which was provided last year by the Towns Fund. SS suggested that some projects may need specialist, technical support, over and above generalist consultancy support.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board approved the procurement of specialist, technical consultancy support in order to progress business case development.</u></p> <p>CM thanked NT for the tremendous effort he has made in getting the Town Deal to this point.</p>	
<p>6. Any Other Business None</p>	
<p>7. Date of the next meeting 29 September 2021 from 9.30am</p>	<p>LH</p>