

Town Deal Board and Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT)

Wednesday, 2nd March 2022

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome extended to Helen Dhoot, Deputy Director of London & South East (DLUHC/BEIS).</p> <p>Apologies received from: Steve Burston, Henry Smith MP, Adam Joolia, Ana Christie, Vicki Illingworth, Paul McConnalogue, Alison Barratt, Mel Munro, Paul Scrivens, Neil Cooper, Richard Lennard, Nick Burrell, Louise Blackwell and Steve Turner.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (19th January 2022) were accepted, noting the following:</p> <p>Water Neutrality – Clem Smith (CS) reported that Crawley BC is making good progress with regard to development of a Water Neutrality Strategy and he will circulate a briefing note to members of the Town Deal Board shortly.</p>	<p>CS</p>
<p>2. Crawley Towns Fund Project update</p> <p>1B Invest in Skills – Julie Kapsalis (JK) presented a summary of the business case for the Invest in Skills project, highlighting the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4.5m Towns Fund investment to enable development of facilities and equipment to deliver new training programmes in construction, professional services and ICT/digital • Three project strands: a) Green construction skills, b) new FE curriculum & infrastructure and c) expanding HE/University level training and establishing pathways at level 4+. • Careful consideration has been given to the outcomes with regard to both the Towns Fund and Institute of Technology funding streams. • Project to be led by the Chichester College Group, overseen by the Invest in Skills Sub-Group and Town Deal Board. • Timeline anticipates delivery from September 2023 (subject to planning approval) <p>CM asked what is being done to encourage learners to access these training programmes. JK responded that the College has strong relationships with local schools to promote both current and future learning opportunities. Existing college students are actively encouraged to explore other courses and the College works with local employers to raise levels of aspiration (highlighting the Crawley Wall of Fame) and support apprenticeships.</p> <p>4A Town Centre Cultural Quarter – Nigel Tidy (NT) presented a summary of the business case for the Town Centre Cultural Quarter project, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £450k Towns Fund investment – one of the smaller projects however the business case demonstrates how ambitious we can be with the funding • Supported by up to £1m match funding from the Arts Council • Will deliver a test pop-up programme of arts and cultural events and 	

<p>provide site concept designs to visualise supporting amenities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project recognises that High Streets are changing rapidly and fast becoming centres for dynamic activities/experiences. • Project to be led by Crawley BC; delivery from 2022 onwards. <p>Steve Sawyer (SS) welcomed the presentation and referred to match funding from the Arts Council which will help to deliver a longer term, sustainable approach and develop a new reputation for the town in terms of arts and culture.</p> <p>Daran Bennett (DB) expressed support for the project as 'a great piece of the puzzle' and encouraged joined-up thinking to ensure that existing community groups are included.</p> <p>4B Manor Royal Business Environment Improvements – Steve Sawyer (SS) reported that the draft business case has been refined by consultants (Deyton Bell) and this will be shared with the Manor Royal Investment Sub-Group for approval. SS emphasised the importance and value of these new public spaces to local businesses. With four micro-parks already complete, the project team is working on the next phase of delivery.</p> <p>NT highlighted that each business case is required to demonstrate benefit:cost ratio (BCR) and that this project scored particularly well in terms of land value uplift (6.7) alone, without the other additional positive benefits around social and environmental and economic impact.</p> <p>1C Crawley Green Infrastructure/Business Grants – CS and SS presented a summary of the business case for the Green Infrastructure/Business Grants project and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2m Towns Fund investment delivered through two pillars • Pillar 1 will deliver grants to green tech small businesses and micro-enterprises – led by Crawley BC • Pillar 2 will deliver green infrastructure to existing premises in Manor Royal under a Local Energy Community (LEC) arrangement – led by the Re-Energise Manor Royal Steering Group. <p>The Town Deal Board endorsed these four business cases to be developed further, prior to consideration by Crawley BC Cabinet on 16th March 2022.</p> <p>Subject to Cabinet approval, the project summary documents for these business cases will be submitted to DLUHC by 23rd March 2022.</p> <p>CM expressed thanks to all contributors and welcomed the diversity of the projects being taken forward.</p> <p>Following Patrick Warner's move to Liverpool, the Town Deal Board requires a new chair for the Green Investment Sub-Group. If anyone is interested in taking up the role, please contact nigel.tidy@crawley.gov.uk to find out more.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>3. Crawley Towns Fund – Crawley Innovation Centre</p> <p>CS updated the Town Deal Board, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last Town Deal Board meeting, Crawley BC Cabinet and Full Council have given their approval for Towns Funding to be allocated to the Innovation Centre project. • Crawley BC has successfully completed the acquisition of commercial space in Crawley Business Quarter, Manor Royal - further information will be released in the coming weeks. • The Towns Fund summary document has been submitted to government and we are awaiting confirmation. 	

<p>Claire Mulholland (CMu) congratulated CS on the swift turnaround of the Innovation Centre business case and confirmed receipt of the summary documents. CMu is pressing for a quick response in order for the funding to be released and thanked CS, CM and the Local Enterprise Partnership for their work on this to date.</p>	
<p>4. Headline updates (latest state of play – Crawley economy)</p> <p>Gatwick Airport - Alison Addy confirmed that the south terminal will re-open from 27th March and a huge amount of preparatory work is being undertaken. Gatwick Airport has launched an extensive recruitment programme with around 400 roles on offer – more details can be found here.</p> <p>Town Centre BID – Wendy Bell reported that latest footfall statistics show Crawley performed favourably well in December compared to nationally. Figures for January were as expected and February has seen an improvement, along with dwell times.</p> <p>Manor Royal BID – Steve Sawyer referred to the extensive development taking place within Manor Royal, including the highway improvement scheme being delivered through the Crawley Growth Programme. In preparation for the third term ballot in early 2023, the BID is currently undertaking a mid-term survey to understand local business priorities and needs – this will inform development of the new Business Plan.</p> <p>Crawley Borough Council – Lynn Hainge highlighted two forthcoming events (click on the links for further information):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investor Tour 10th March • Employ Crawley Jobs Fair 16th March at Crawley Library 	
<p>5. Next Steps and Any Other Business</p> <p>Connected Crawley – Jeff Alexander (via the in-meeting chat) referred to a networking event taking place on 29th March at Freedom Works, Astral Towers. Register here to attend.</p> <p>Next steps – CM confirmed that the final five business cases will be presented to the Town Deal Board on 6th April. A communications plan will also be discussed.</p>	
<p>6. Date of the next meeting - 6 April 2022</p>	<p>LH</p>