

Town Deal Board and Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT)

Wednesday, 21st September 2022

Meeting Notes

| ITEM | ACTION |
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| <p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to John Willett from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioners Office (PCC) and Fouzia Harrington from the Sussex NHS Commissioners. Both had been asked to attend for the discussion on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund however CM invited them to join the Town Deal Board going forward as key community representatives.</p> <p>CM also welcomed Councillor Atif Nawaz to the meeting as the new Cabinet member for Planning & Economic Development at Crawley Borough Council and Vice-Chair of the Town Deal Board.</p> <p>Apologies received from Paul McConologue, Andrew Green, Tony Middleton, Peter Rainier, Sarah Bosley, Adam Szczotka, John O'Mahoney, Adam Godfrey, Vicki Illingworth, Mark Streater, Daran Bennet and Dave Savage.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (29th June 2022) were accepted, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Technology Business Grants – tender documents are being drawn up to procure the services of specialist business advisors to support delivery of this project. Once finalised, these documents will be shared with members of the Town Deal Board. • Levelling Up bid– CS has circulated to the Town Deal Board via email, the summary document for project 'DIRECT' – a £10m bid for funding which would enable the regeneration of Crawley's town centre core to be completed. The bid was submitted in August and we expect to hear the outcome later this year. | <p>LH</p> |
| <p>2. Economic headlines</p> <p>Henry Smith MP (HS) – HS welcomed news of new businesses opening on Manor Royal, acknowledging that water neutrality remains a challenge. HS referred to the cost-of-living crisis and, whilst media coverage tends to focus on the impact on householders, it is a major issue for businesses too. Details of a new government support package for businesses will be announced over the next 48 hours.</p> <p>Gatwick Airport (GAL) – Richard Lennard (RL) presented an economic update from the airport highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - significant recovery in monthly passenger levels rising from 0.8m in January to 3.8m in July 2022 and a return to profitability too. - Traffic forecasts revised to 32.8m in 2022 and 39.9m in 2023. - Recruited 400 new security staff. - GAL remains confident in its long-term recovery, although there is uncertainty around the mid-term; this being their biggest challenge. - Longhaul network continues to grow including new airlines e.g. Norse, Bamboo. - Significant increase in capital investment planned over the next 18 months to increase resilience and improve customer experience. - Resurfacing of the central section of the main runway has been completed. - Inaugural Gatwick Economic Summit on 3 November. - Further information can be found at www.gatwickairport.com/economy. | |

Manor Royal – Steve Sawyer (SS) highlighted the following:

- EVRI (formerly Hermes) has opened in the business quarter and is indicative of the business type moving into Manor Royal
- Jet Masterclass Pilot Training moving into Gatwick 33 on London Road
- Northwood Park, opposite L3 Commercial – new development coming forward
- Crompton Way – planning application in to demolish existing buildings and erect 3 new units. SS reflected that whilst it is positive to see new investment coming in, the proposal will displace 5-6 smaller businesses and they are unlikely to find similar space within Crawley, exacerbating the need for more 'grow-on' space in Manor Royal.
- Manor Royal BID hosting People Conference next week and a jobs fair with DWP on 20 October – both in direct response to issues facing local businesses around recruitment.
- SS referred to the Crawley Growth Programme and Towns Fund projects which are being delivered, thanking Crawley Borough Council and West Sussex County Council for their support.
- Manor Royal Highway Improvement project (phase 2) is on site and will improve public realm, walking and cycling facilities on Gatwick Road.
- Towns Fund micro-parks – a number of sites have been delivered with more to come; design work underway for site on Woolborough Lane.
- Project Bolt (formerly the Base on Fleming Way), new 236,000 sq ft logistics space development includes micro-park.
- MR BID currently in 5th year of second term; six months away from ballot. Final stage of consultation underway before new Business Plan launch on 10th November for the next five years - plan includes significant focus on sustainability.
- Biggest challenges for Manor Royal are broadband connectivity and the quality of the environments (roads and pavements).
- A tender process for the set up and delivery of the Local Energy Community (LEC) closes on 7th October for a soft launch at the end of October and first installation of energy-saving assets forecast for spring.

Town Centre – Wendy Bell (WB) reported the following highlights:

- Successful 'Summer of Fun' programme including Make Music Day in July that attracted an additional 5,000 people to the town centre.
- Aura's Odyssey saw positive support from the community and a real buzz in the town centre with Metrobank reporting their busiest Saturday opening. Louise Blackwell expressed thanks to Arts Council England for supporting this event.
- About to commence '[Creepy Crawley](#)' month with a range of activities for all ages planned for every weekend in October.
- Christmas plans well underway including a Bavarian style market.
- BID Ambassadors are having a significant impact with more than £50,000 in stolen stock being returned to retailers.
- Biggest challenge is what can be done to support smaller businesses – BID is running a pilot scheme to help businesses save money on utility bills.

Crawley College – Paul Rolfe (PR) presented [an update](#) including:

- Chichester College Group (CCG) has merged with the Greater Brighton Metropolitan College Group making it the fifth biggest college group in the country with over 25,000 learners and 2,500 staff.
- New Executive Board in place with focus on bringing quality to the Brighton provision and maintaining OFSTED 'outstanding' status across the Group.
- 100% T-levels pass rate this year for Crawley College, further supported by apprenticeship opportunities.
- Institute of Technology – PR leading the project in partnership with employers and education providers; to be built on the car park on Crawley College campus. Currently developing legal agreements before moving to planning. Challenged by increasing construction costs, however the CCG is grateful to the DfE for providing additional funds to support this.

- Towns Fund 'Invest in Skills' – work continues while we await confirmation of the funding from DLUHC.
- Biggest challenge for the CCG is staffing and the ability to recruit technical experts to deliver education programmes.

Department for Work & Pensions – Hollie Frampton and Chris Greenland introduced themselves to the Board. DWP is pleased to be supporting forthcoming job fairs with Gatwick Airport (27 September 10-2pm) and Manor Royal (20 October 10-2pm)

3. UK Shared Prosperity Fund

CM welcomed Ian Duke (Deputy Chief Executive, Crawley BC) to the meeting. ID referred to the briefing paper which had been circulated with the agenda, setting out the proposed approach for the future use of Crawley's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). ID highlighted the following

- UKSPF forms part of the Government's Levelling Up Agenda.
- Crawley has been offered £1m, to be spent over three years (£150k in 2022/23)
- The framework is wide but needs to follow a set of priorities, missions, interventions and outcomes – a complex matrix which must be specific to our local needs.
- The paper seeks approval for the suggested approach and not the final allocation of monies.
- Evidence base focuses on disparities and inequalities within the borough, using Local Super Output Area data, identifies three priority areas as Broadfield, Bewbush and West Green.
- Proposal to use the Year 1 funding to undertake engagement sessions with key stakeholders from statutory, voluntary, community and business sectors to identify key needs and barriers, understand what is already happening (to avoid duplication and identify opportunities for enhanced provision) and inform potential areas of focus to be delivered in Years 2 and 3.
- Proposed approach recognizes the impact of the cost-of-living crisis by suggesting using Year 1 funding to increase the capacity of the voluntary sector to support residents with fuel poverty, debt management and access to food.
- Suggested interventions are intended not to spread resources too thinly in order to achieve the greatest impact locally.

ID thanked those Board members who had already responded to the briefing paper and agreed there is value and sense in supporting the areas we are seeking to target.

John Willett (JW) thanked ID for the detailed paper and presentation and expressed support for the suggested approach. JW offered assistance from the PCC with regard to engagement activities. ID confirmed that the PCC will be included in the Investment Plan as a stakeholder and thanked JW for his offer of support.

JW asked for details of the assessment criteria and decision making process, going forward. ID suggested that the initial stakeholder engagement process will seek to match priority activities with funding and this would be presented back to the Town Deal Board with the suggested approach for Years 2 and 3. ID referred to future governance and queried whether it would be the Town Deal Board or something different.

CM confirmed that the PCC and NHS Commissioners are very welcome to join the Town Deal Board on a permanent basis and suggested that the Board's remit for UKSPF is to support stakeholder engagement and communication.

SS thanked ID for the paper, recognizing the small amount of funding available and the limited time to respond. SS expressed support for the suggested approach and indicated the biggest challenge is knowing what will make a real difference in those

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| <p>communities. SS suggested a sub-group of the Town Deal Board is established to oversee this, rather than the whole Board itself.</p> <p>CM agreed that a sub-group makes sense and there may be some Board members who are particularly interested in the governance of this fund.</p> <p>Louise Blackwell expressed support for the suggested approach and welcomed the opportunity to be part of the engagement activity in Year 1.</p> <p>Adam Joolia agreed that this is a big brief for a relatively small amount of funding and is keen to see it add value to things that are already happening on the ground. ID confirmed that this will be part of the work planned in Year 1 i.e. to identify what is already happening and how UKSPF can add value and not duplicate effort.</p> <p>Emma Cross expressed support for the suggested approach and reported that Citizens Advice are seeing an increasing number of issues relating to the cost-of-living and evidence shows this is a long-term problem, particularly in the areas highlighted. EC welcomed the opportunity for further engagement on the UKSPF.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board expressed support for the proposed priority areas and suggested interventions. The Board were supportive of using the next six months to undertake targeted stakeholder consultation and for Crawley BC to submit the Investment Plan to Government (DLUHC), on this basis.</u></p> <p>CM thanked everyone for the discussion and offered further support from the Board, as required, acknowledging that this may be with key individuals rather than the whole group.</p> | |
| <p>4. Towns Fund and next steps</p> <p>Nigel Tidy (NT) reminded the Board that business cases for 8 of the 10 Crawley Towns Fund projects have been submitted to government, with funding approved for 7 of them.</p> <p>There are two projects which are outstanding; Manor Royal Gigabit Scheme and an arterial Cycle Route between Gatwick, Manor Royal and the town centre. Details of these projects and a programme update will be presented at the next Town Deal Board meeting.</p> | |
| <p>5. Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p> | |
| <p>6. Date of the next meeting</p> <p>2nd November 2022</p> | |