

Town Deal Board and Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT)

Wednesday, 14th December 2022

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome, apologies and minutes of the previous meeting Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from Councillor Atif Nawaz, Councillor Michael Jones, Paul Mcconalogue, Paul Rolfe, Tony Middleton, Suzanne Holloway, Adam Godfrey, Jo Ward, Ana Christie, Henry Smith MP, Dave Savage and Daran Bennett.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (2nd November 2022) were accepted.</p>	
<p>2. Economic Headlines</p> <p>Gatwick Airport – Richard Lennard (RL) presented an economic update from the airport including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passenger traffic volumes have seen a significant improvement from last year• Most popular routes include Dubai, Dublin, Barcelona and Malaga• Largest carriers are Easyjet, British Airways, Wizz Air and Vueling.• Inaugural Economic Summit on 3rd November hosted over 120 delegates with a focus on how the region could better define and promote its economic identity.• Launch of a new inward investment platform www.investgatwickdiamond.co.uk• A second economic summit will be held in 2023 – date to be confirmed. <p>CM thanked RL for his presentation and commented on his own recent experience of travelling through Gatwick Airport and how the journey through security went particularly smoothly. RL acknowledged that this was down to the airport's swift and proactive approach to recruitment.</p> <p>Emma Smith (ES) from DLUHC expressed an interest in finding out more about the Airport Economic Zone (AEZ). RL explained that the Coast to Capital LEP were commissioned to undertake research in 2020/21, including comparator information, to explore what a Gatwick AEZ could look like and this was presented at the summit. Full details of the report and a video of the summit can be found by visiting www.gatwickairport.com/economy.</p> <p>Manor Royal BID – Steve Sawyer (SS) presented an update from Manor Royal including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive news includes practical completion of the Base including opening of the latest micro-park and welcome to Dolby Medical (Palladian building).• Key challenges include prolonged approvals of funding, planning and the impact of water neutrality, broadband connectivity, energy standards and prices, business rate re-valuations and road conditions.• Manor Royal BID Annual Report 2021/22 has been published• Ahead of the next BID term ballot in February 2023, Manor Royal BID has published its New Business Plan proposal for the next five years.• Manor Royal BID remains fully supportive of the Towns Fund delivery programme and its new Business Plan is aligned to its objectives, particularly around 'Infrastructure & Facilities' which the Towns Fund is specifically helping to deliver through the Micro Park projects.• The recent AGM also saw the soft launch of the Local Energy Community with the Brighton Energy Cooperative appointed as delivery partner. This project is moving at pace and will increase all forms of renewable energy on Manor Royal.	

- The Business Plan will be sent to all Manor Royal businesses in early January, followed by a showcase event and ballot launch on 31st January – all are welcome to attend.
- The BID ballot closes at 5pm on 1st March with the result being declared thereafter.

Emma Smith thanked SS for his update and for being candid about the in-train delivery challenges being faced by delivery partners. ES will ensure this is fed back to the Towns Fund team at DLUHC.

Town Centre BID – Wendy Bell (WB) presented a [short video](#) highlighting the recent 'Creepy Crawley' enlivenment programme that was delivered in the town centre during October. WB reported a 22% increase in footfall from the previous month (compared to a 5% drop UK average and 1.5% drop in the South East). This demonstrates that the month-long event was a success, delivering something uniquely different to other towns in the area. Other updates include:

- Small businesses are continuing to struggle and the cost-of-living crisis is having an impact locally.
- The BID Ambassadors have recovered over £55k of stolen stock and have been operating beyond the BID area to help local businesses. Additional CCTV has been deployed in Church Walk.
- Business rate re-valuations – Town Centre BID has a slightly different concern to Manor Royal as a result of rates for retail premises being reduced – whilst positive news for businesses, this could have a considerable impact on the amount of BID levy received. The BID budget for 2023/24 is being reviewed.
- Event Plan for 2023 is being finalized in preparation for the AGM on 18th January

Crawley College - Vikki Illingworth (VI) presented an update including:

- Recent success for Crawley College students at a national skills competition with gold, silver and bronze medals in foundation skills for woodworking.
- Ongoing challenges with staff recruitment particularly in higher technical skills
- Institute of Technology is progressing through planning.
- Plans for a 5G immersive classroom through investment in the STEM Centre
- Curriculum development to include net zero training hub

Clem Smith (CS) asked if the college has sufficient resources in place to support the net zero training hub. VI confirmed that they will draw on skills from other colleges within the Chichester College Group, as required, to provide sufficient flexibility and support.

Alan Moore (AM) asked what the timeline for the net zero training would be. VI confirmed they are hoping to begin delivery from February 2023.

Crawley Town Hall & Create Building – Lynn Hainge (LH) presented a summary of the new Create Building which has achieved practical completion on The Boulevard. The nine-storey building includes a new Town Hall and five floors (77,000 sq ft) of Grade A commercial space, a new public square, district energy centre and public realm improvements. The first Full Council meeting in the new building will take place this evening and Crawley BC staff will move across over the coming weeks and months. Further information about the commercial space can be found at www.shw.co.uk.

3. Towns Fund outstanding business cases

Manor Royal Gigabit Project - Nigel Tidy (NT) reminded the Board of the background to this project and that specialists had been commissioned earlier in the year to test the market for a delivery partner. A business case has not yet been submitted to DLUHC however the market testing exercise has confirmed that, if we proceed to the market, there would be clear and considerable interest. Further consideration of who owns and maintains the assets and an assessment of subsidy control implications is still required however the Town Deal Board is recommended to submit the business case to DLUHC as it stands, as we are keen to move forward.

<p>ES provided a steer that the Town Deal Board should go ahead and submit the business case.</p> <p>SS expressed strong support for the principal of improving broadband speeds in Manor Royal and is keen to work closely with the project team on the practical implementation of the scheme.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board endorsed the submission of the business case to DLUHC.</u></p> <p>Cycle Route – Clem Smith (CS) referred to a previous Town Deal Board meeting where this project had been discussed, reiterating the overarching objective of providing a cycle route between the key employment areas of Gatwick Airport, Manor Royal and the town centre.</p> <p>£2m from the Towns Fund has been ringfenced for the scheme which is further supported by Crawley BC through its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).</p> <p>Since the Crawley Towns Fund Investment Plan was submitted, the Government has established Active Travel England and published new cycling infrastructure standards, which have increased the cost per metre for such projects. This means that the Towns Fund monies will be used to deliver a specific section of the route, rather than all of it.</p> <p>West Sussex County Council (WSCC) recently published concept design proposals for a segregated cycle route along Northgate Avenue (from Manor Royal to the town centre) and public consultation demonstrated strong support for the scheme. It is proposed to work up a joint business case to use the Towns Fund allocation to deliver this section of the route (phase 1) and undertake design development for phase 2, linking the whole route from Manor Royal to the Eastern Gateway. This will facilitate a further bid to Active Travel England to secure match funding to deliver phase 2 of the scheme. CS suggested the business case be developed between now and March 2023 and requested approval from the Town Deal Board for this approach.</p> <p>SS endorsed the project and highlighted its links to the Woolborough Lane linear park, requesting the need for close integration between the two projects. CS agreed.</p> <p>Nick Burrell expressed support for the proposal, confirming that WSCC is keen to progress the business case as soon as possible, also reflecting SS’s comments about integration.</p> <p>Sally Brown asked about the timeline for delivery of phase 1 and whether road closures would be required. CS will come back to the Town Deal Board with the details however it is estimated that the design work would be undertaken during 2023, with construction from 2024 onwards.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board endorsed the recommendation set out by CS, with development of a joint business case and submission to DLUHC by March 2023.</u></p>	<p>NT</p> <p>CS/NT</p>
<p>4. Towns Fund project updates</p> <p>Crawley Homes green retrofitting – Alan Moore presented an update on the project, confirming that Mears and Wates have been mobilised to begin installing the retrofitting. Initial surveys have been undertaken with a plan to install retrofitting across two residential blocks per week. Predicted savings of 597kg (£561) per flat have been estimated.</p> <p>Invest in Skills - VI reminded the Board that the business case has not yet been signed off by DLUHC pending a review of value for money. The learner outputs for the project have been reviewed and updated, as set out below.</p> <p>As a result of the delay in obtaining sign off, the financial spend profile for this year has reduced from £1.35m to £400k. VI sought approval from the Board to submit a new Project Adjustment Request (PAR) to DLUHC, reflecting these changes.</p>	

Output	Business case	Project adjustment request
Amount of capacity of new education and training facilities	450 m2 construction hub	800 people
Learners/students/trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses.	200	550
Learners/trainees/students enrolled at improved education and training facilities.	200	370
Learners/trainees/students enrolled at new education and training facilities.	0	180
Number of apprenticeships	100	100
Learners enrolled in new education and training courses	0	200

The Board endorsed the submission of a PAR to DLUHC.

Towns Fund Programme update – NT confirmed that the six-monthly monitoring report for the period April – Sept 2022 will be submitted to DLUHC later this week. NT expressed thanks to everyone for their input to the report and for their ongoing work on all projects.

A press release to confirm that 7 out of the 10 Towns Fund projects have been approved will be published in early January. [*post meeting note – the press release can be viewed at [Seven Towns Fund projects worth millions approved | Invest Crawley](#)*]

CM thanked NT for his update and for the excellent work he continues to do in support of the Towns Fund programme.

5. Town Deal Board – the future

At the last meeting, CM invited attendees to consider the future of the Town Deal Board and whether any changes are required as we move into programme delivery and implementation.

NT confirmed that DLUHC has published a supplementary guidance paper on ‘the role of Town Deal Boards in the delivery phase’ and suggested this is shared with the Board for consideration and comment.

ES reflected on the importance of maintaining a balance of proportionality to the way we work and bring people together, whilst keeping in mind the original ambitions of the Investment Plan. Other Town Deal Boards that ES is working with, are very similar to Crawley and ES would urge the Board to undertake site visits and bring residents and users in to demonstrate how transformative projects can be.

NT to circulate the DLUHC guidance note to the Board for comment

6. Any Other Business

Crawley Growth Programme - Nick Burrell referred to the Crawley Growth Programme (CGP) and how this is closely aligned to some of the Towns Fund projects e.g. Station Gateway and the Bus Station. WSCC and CBC are looking to refresh the CGP in 2023 and will be looking at how the two programmes can work together, going forward. NB introduced Dipo Iafinhan as the new Growth Programme Delivery Manager for WSCC to the Board.

Date of the next meeting - 8th March 2023.

NT

NT

NT

NT / ALL

LH