

# Crawley Town Deal Board

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

## Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b>1. Welcome, apologies and minutes of the previous meeting</b> Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from Vikki Illingworth, Steve Sawyer, Ana Christie, Andrew Green, Darren Ford, Wendy Bell, Ian Duke, Paul Scrivens, Louise Blackwell, Carolin Martlew, Suzanne Holloway and Neil Cooper.</p> <p>CM referred to the Terms of Reference for the Town Deal Board which state that all declarations of interest must be formally recorded. All Board Members will be sent a proforma which they must complete and return. In addition, Board members will be asked at the start of each meeting if there are any specific agenda items for discussion where conflicts of interest must be declared; these will be recorded in the meeting notes.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023</a>) were approved.</p>	<b>NT</b>
<p><b>2. UK Shared Prosperity Fund –</b> Georgina Bouette (GB) presented the briefing paper which had been shared before the meeting on a restricted circulation owing to the fact some Town Deal Board member organisations had submitted applications for UK Shared Property Funding (SPF) in the latest bidding round. Consequently, and in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Town Deal Board, those member organisations and their representatives withdrew from the meeting for this agenda item (Creative Crawley, Citizens Advice West Sussex, Crawley Community Youth Services, Crawley Community Action and DanceHub CIC).</p> <p>GB highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 2 SPF funding allocation includes £97,400 revenue and £11,00 capital</li><li>• As agreed at the Town Deal Board meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July, the SPF grants scheme was opened to local and voluntary groups to apply for up to £10,000 funding for initiatives which met SPF 'Communities and Place' outcomes.</li><li>• 12 applications for revenue funding were received and these have been subject to a robust assessment process by council officers and ward members to ensure that all essential criteria has been met.</li><li>• The briefing paper sets out the proposed allocation of grant funding for each organization/application totalling £97,400.</li><li>• In addition, the paper seeks approval to award £220,000 SPF revenue funding and £10,000 SPF capital funding from years 2 and 3 allocation to support delivery of the Employ Crawley service through to September 2025, thereby meeting the SPF 'Supporting Local Business' outcomes.</li><li>• Once the grants have been approved, Crawley BC will draw up grant funding agreements with each of the recipient organisations to provide robust governance and enable the impact of funding to be measured.</li></ul> <p>Councillor Michael Jones confirmed that Crawley BC has extensive experience of dealing with grant funding and believes the assessment process has reached the right decisions which make the best use of this funding.</p> <p>GB highlighted that some applicants will not receive the full amount they applied for however all applicants will receive a grant. GB will report back to the Town Deal Board in future with an update on how the funding has been spent.</p> <p><b><u>The Town Deal Board approved the allocation of UK SPF funding as set out in the briefing paper.</u></b></p>	

### 3. Crawley Towns Fund project updates

**Green Homes Retrofitting** – Stephen Frogley (Crawley Homes) presented an update on the project to upgrade insulation measures in Crawley’s housing stock, highlighting:

- To date, cavity wall insulation has been installed in 504 flats across the borough, delivering a saving of 301 tonnes of CO2.
- Majority of properties are for social housing occupants
- Total spend £634,744 in the past six-month period
- On track to continue the programme, helping to achieve target of reaching net zero target by 2040.

**Crawley Station Gateway** – Lynn Hainge (LH) provided an update on the project including:

- Project team has been busy updating concept designs to deliver public realm and bus station improvement scheme at this important transport hub and gateway to Crawley
- Revised geographical scope to focus on Friary Way, Haslett Avenue West, The Martlets and the junction between Friary Way & Station Way.
- Report to Crawley BC Cabinet will seek approval of concept designs to go out to public and stakeholder consultation in early 2024, followed by submission of a planning application and procurement of construction contractor.
- Current programme anticipates start on site in Spring 2025 with a 12-18 month construction period.
- Town Deal Board will receive details of the proposals during the consultation period.

**Town Centre Cultural Quarter** - Paul Ackerley (Creative Director) presented an update on Phases 1&2 of the Cultural Quarter project including:

- Six months in, much work has been undertaken to consult, discover and establish the project, working with local creative businesses and suppliers.
- New branding '[Pop-Up Culture | Crawley](#)', social media activated, website to follow.
- Key messages are 'Opening up new spaces - Testing new events - Creating opportunities'
- Phase 2 comprises 27 projects (16 confirmed, 9 completed) across multiple locations (10 in the town centre)
- To date the project has directly engaged with 1,650 people with a dwell time of up to 2 hours. This extends to 17,550 people according to footfall data.
- Consistently enthusiastic feedback received - 100% those sampled want more of this type of activity; 76% participants live in Crawley; 45% say the activity had kept them in the town centre; 55% had dropped in speculatively.
- Activities have generated 38 temporary jobs over 113 days
- Recent audit of vacant town centre premises provides options for future events and feasibility study work
- Budget being carefully managed and in good order; 5.7% contingency remaining, used to manage risk in the current year.
- Two more projects to be delivered before March 2024 including first digital online offer and installation of temporary structures.

Emma Smith (ES) thanked PA for his presentation, remarking that this is an important project for the town in making a positive contribution to people’s health and wellbeing. ES would be interested in the potential for scaling up the programme in future, subject to funding. PA confirmed that case studies will be used to evaluate future potential, highlighting that Crawley is already a priority place for funding from Arts Council England. PA agreed to keep Town Deal Board updated as the project moves forward.

CM thanked SF, LH and PA for their presentations, recognizing the importance of these updates to demonstrate the progress being made.

**4. Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project** - Jonathan Deegan (Planning and Environment Lead for Gatwick Airport) and Richard Lennard (RL) presented an [update on the project](#), highlighting the following:

- Proposals to bring existing northern runway into main use will require significant new infrastructure within existing airport boundary
- Supported by highway improvements to provide additional capacity on M23, A23 and Gatwick spur road
- Project is expected to generate significant economic benefits (employment and value) with a large proportion of these occurring in the local area e.g. 14,000 jobs and £1bn GVA in the Six Authorities Area (West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent, Brighton & Hove, Surrey and Croydon) with 1,793 jobs and £125.7m GVA generated in Crawley
- Application comprises 30,000 pages and all documents including an Environmental Statement, Local Economic Impact Assessment and Employment, Skills and Business Strategy can be found at [Gatwick Airport Northern Runway | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)
- Currently at Stage 3 of the timeline (Pre-Examination period) followed by the examination in 2024 and a final decision/recommendation expected in 2024/25.

CM thanked JD & RL for their presentation and asked where we can drill down into the data to understand the benefits for Crawley and its residents. RL referred to the Economic Impact Assessment which includes a breakdown of benefits expected in each local authority area; also the Employment, Skills & Business Strategy which seeks to maximise the benefits of the project through six themes (inspire & motivate, construction, employment & skills, procurement, innovation and promotion).

**Crawley Borough Council Relevant Representation** – Clem Smith (CS) presented an overview of Crawley Borough Council's Relevant Representation to the proposals including:

- Crawley BC recognizes the importance of Gatwick's existing operation which is embedded in Local Plan policy
- Crawley is the local authority area most affected by the proposals in land terms and is also the local planning authority that will be responsible for discharging numerous planning conditions, should the Secretary of State approve the Development Consent Order.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> October, Crawley BC's planning committee considered the proposals in detail and at length before reaching a unanimous decision to submit the Relevant Representation appended to the committee report that had been drawn up by CBC officers (further details are available on the Council's website).
- The CBC Relevant Representation expresses broad concerns about the significant lack of detail and a number of unanswered points which the Council believes need to be addressed including:
  - a) airport passenger growth projections appear overly optimistic, overstated and do not appear to have factored in the growth projections of other airports in the South East, specifically Luton, Heathrow and Stanstead;
  - b) Job benefits appear overstated within the given time period due to the over optimistic Gatwick airport passenger growth projections and there is an absence of detailed analysis on how Crawley residents would benefit from the proposals;
  - c) Noise contour envelope appears too large since the airport growth projections are optimistic with no incentives to reduce noise levels or attenuate the impact on biodiversity and concern around the credibility of environmental baseline assessments used to calculate the environmental impact of the proposals;
  - d) Lack of active travel solutions between Gatwick and Crawley's neighbourhoods.
  - e) Current and emerging Crawley Local Plan policy framework does not appear to have been considered or taken into account
- Crawley BC has submitted a holding objection to the proposals as part of its Relevant Representation and looks forward to working with Gatwick Airport in the hope that the above concerns and those presented in CBC's Relevant Representation submission can be addressed and overcome.

<p>Councillor Atif Nawaz (AN) thanked JD, RL and CS for their presentations and reiterated the common concerns which have been raised during the consultation process and are echoed in the Council’s holding response; that there is insufficient detail currently available in order to fully consider the proposals. AN would welcome further engagement from Gatwick Airport as to how these concerns might be addressed.</p> <p>JD responded that dialogue is absolutely key to the process and there is around three months before the examination process starts. Gatwick Airport will need time to work through the issues raised and any issues which cannot be agreed on, will be for the planning inspector to decide.</p> <p>Henry Smith MP welcomed the presentations and was struck by the potential for a decision being taken within the next 12 months, as timescales to be aware of. HS is hopeful that the issues raised by Crawley BC can be addressed; this will be an exciting project for Crawley and the sub region. HS asked what is envisaged for engagement with Crawley BC over the coming months?</p> <p>CS confirmed that there are robust governance structures in place at Chief Executive, Leader and planning officer levels between ten local authority areas and that the aim will be to develop a Statement of Common Ground with the airport. Within those structures, there will be some divergencies between local authority areas and, inevitably, there will be movement away from all ten areas to smaller groups and individual authorities to work with GAL to address and overcome specific concerns. It is hoped that all parties can work together going forward.</p> <p>ES thanked JD, RL and CS for the presentations and asked how Crawley residents have been involved in this process. Also, if the Planning Committee members discussed the risk of dependency on Gatwick Airport in the event of another global pandemic and the potential economic impact?</p> <p>CS confirmed that the Council’s Community Development team engaged in local level discussions with residents to gather feedback on the proposals at the time of GAL’s pre-submission consultation and this has been incorporated into the Council’s response. The Council’s Economic Recovery Plan, published in December 2021, includes five strategic priorities which are being delivered through our regeneration programmes. This complements Crawley’s submission Local Plan and supports the suggestion there is scope for the airport to grow in line with its existing ‘one runway, two terminal’ operation.</p>	
<p><b>5. Towns Fund Programme update</b> – Nigel Tidy (NT) presented a summary of the <a href="#">six-monthly progress report</a> for DLUHC, for the period April to September 2023, to be submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crawley BC is the accountable body for £21.1m and has submitted a First Line of Defence Statement of grant usage to DLUHC.</li> <li>- Nine Towns Fund projects have been approved by DLUHC, one discontinued.</li> <li>- Indicative expenditure Apr-Sep23 £1.36m (forecast for 2023/24 £4.29m)</li> <li>- Town Deal Board pleased to see a number of projects moving from development into implementation and impact</li> <li>- Coming up next – more microparks, innovation centre building conversion, greentech grant awards, further energy savings from cavity wall insulation, feasibility studies, increasing diversity of pop-up events and solar PC in Manor Royal.</li> </ul> <p>CM thanked NT for the update and welcomed the extent of activities being delivered on the ground.</p> <p>Daran Bennett expressed concerns over some figures highlighted in NT’s presentation, particularly around the forecast spend for the Cultural Quarter project expected this year, linked to concerns around the procurement of services. NT confirmed that there is £75,000 capital spend allocated to the Cultural Quarter project in the current year, with some expenditure incurred by the pop-up programme, as highlighted in PA’s earlier</p>	<p><b>NT</b></p>

presentation. CM suggested DB raise these concerns at the next Cultural Quarter Steering Group in the first instance and these can be escalated to the next Town Deal Board, if necessary.	<b>DB</b>
<b>6. Any Other Business</b> None <b>Date of the next meeting:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	