

# Bridgwater Town Deal Board

5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

1:30pm till 3:00pm

Teams Meeting

## MINUTES

### 1) Introduction and Apologies

In Attendance:

- Fiona McMillan
- Doug Bamsey
- Councillor Gill Slocombe
- Councillor Christine Lawrence
- Paul Moore
- Peter Elliot
- Justin Sargent
- Haf Morris
- David Mears (attending in Cllr Mick Lerry absence)
- Stewart McIlroy
- Julie Wooler

Supporting the Board:

- Keith Thomas
- Nathaniel Lucas
- Katherine Schollar
- Jaycee Ellis

*Apologies: Paul Edwards, Ruth Lambert and Councillor Mick Lerry*

The board was welcomed to the meeting introducing two new members to the board.

- Cllr Christine Lawrence who has stepped in place for Cllr David Hall from Somerset County Council and Haf Morris from Magnox.

### 2) Town Deal Funding Award and Heads of Terms

- The board has received confirmation from MHCLG that the Town Investment Plan bid was successful and that they have been awarded the sum of £22.6 million, with no projects being rejected.
  - Whilst there being no rejections from government, Bridgwater did not receive any conditions/feedback from government regarding the projects.
- The Heads of Terms were issued by MHCLG on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The principle offer was signed off by the Chair, accepting the funding award.
- The next step is to confirm the project proposals which is to be submitted by the end of August 2021.
  - The Board will then have up to 12 months to complete project business cases.

**PER** Consulting

PLANNING **E**CONOMICS **R**EGENERATION



**HATCH**  
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### 3) Projects and Revised Budget Options

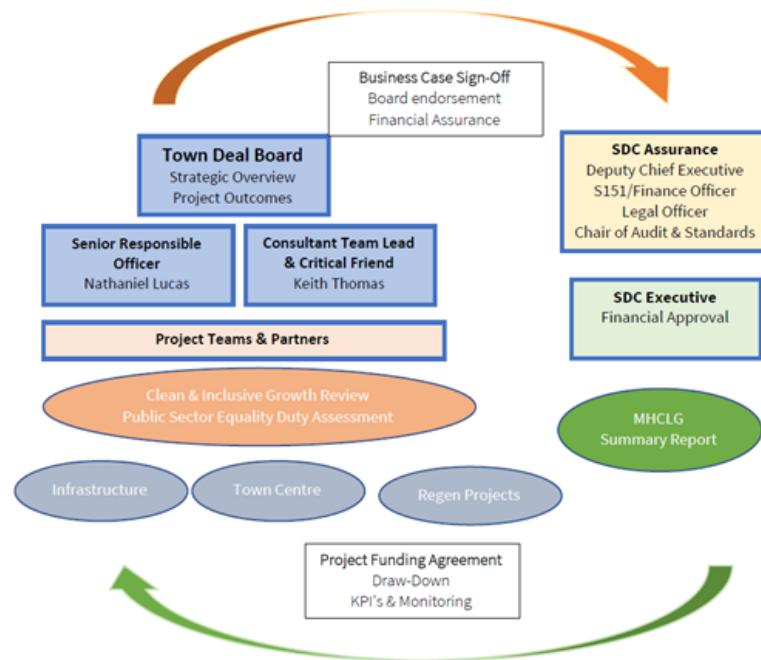
*(Background context)*

- *In parallel to the Bridgwater Town Deal, Somerset County Council have submitted a Levelling Up Fund Bid (LUF) which includes improvements to the A38 in Bridgwater.*
  - *If successful, the Levelling Up Fund would cover the costs of the Dunball junction.*
- *The decision for the Levelling Up Fund is not expected until Autumn, after the Town Deal budget allocation submission to MHCLG at the end of August.*
  - *Discussions are underway to determine if the Town Fund submission could be delayed until the Levelling Up Fund decision.*
  - *If this isn't possible, a realistic budget should be selected which has the potential to re-allocate funds if the Levelling Up Bid was successful.*
  - *This is purely a tactical delay as the Levelling Up Fund monies will impact the allocation of the Town Deal monies.*
  - *ILG to potentially have conversation with his colleagues in parliament about.*
- *In addition to the Levelling Up Fund, a submission has been made from County to Government on the 18<sup>th</sup> June for the Community Renewal Fund bid.*
  - *A decision regarding the submission for this bid should be made sometime in July.*
  - *Monies/projects from this bid will need to be spent/completed by March 2022.*
  - *If the bid is successful, this will enable the Town Deal capital funding to spread further across the projects.*
- *The Community Renewal Fund (CRF) is intended to be spent on other funding prospects such as feasibility, studies, design etc.*
- *Our Community Renewal Fund bid was planned to be spent on the following:*
  - *Feasibility and engineering design for the Bridgwater Docks Regeneration – this will protect the allocation for the docks in the Town Deal.*
  - *Feasibility and design (focusing on the access point to site) for the Carnival shed project.*
    - *The Carnival access also links into the improvements to the A38 roads showing a direct link to match funding.*
  - *It will provide robust evidence and enhance the quality for both projects when breaking it down through the business case stage assuring project deliverability.*
- *Due to the reduction of 9.6% of funding being awarded, different budget options have been created for the board to consider.*
- *The confidential paper on the options was considered.*
  - *Subject to ongoing discussions on potential timing of other funding awards, further work will continue to review the potential options and the implications for project delivery with an update provided to Board during August.*
- *Some board members proposed that in order to minimise the impact of the bigger projects, would it be an option to remove the Town Wardens project to ensure the security of funds to the other projects?*
  - *Due to an increase in PCSO in the area, the board felt that the Town Wardens may not be needed and by removing this project, it would allow for the Celebration Mile and Step Up to keep full funding.*
  - *The board was reminded that the Town Wardens project was in response to the community engagement made with the project from the consultation survey.*
  - *Town Wardens are not designed to replace PCSO in the area but to work collaboratively with the police (in which the police were strongly supportive to the idea of Town Wardens).*

- These discussions will be continued further and voted on in the next meeting before the deadline in August, to allow board members to consider information given in this meeting.
- The final decision made for the re-allocation of monies will need to be an option the board can deliver regardless of the decision made for the Levelling Up Fund bid.

## Business Case Assurance Process and Timetable

- Below is a diagram of the business case sign off process:
  - It has been agreed by a Senior Leadership Team within Sedgemoor – is awaiting to be signed off by Executive.



- The Town Deal Board will be responsible for ensuring the projects and final business cases continue to meet the ambitions of the TIP and will deliver the planned output.
- SDC, as the accountable body, will be responsible for the appropriate use of public funds.
- A senior officer group chaired by an appropriate Portfolio holder would scrutinise the business case submission and make recommendations to SDC Executive for financial approval.
  - It was suggested that this involved Doug Bamsey (Deputy Chief Executive), the Section 151 Officer, a Finance Officer and a Legal Officer.

## 4) Future Board Membership and Schedule of Meetings

- It has been announced that after this meeting, Fiona McMillan will be standing down as Chair for the board for personal reasons. The board and supporting officers thanked Fiona for her support over the last year.
- One stipulation from the Government is that the Chair of any town deal board should not be from the public sector, therefore any board members who fit this criterion can nominate themselves for the position of Chair over the next couple of weeks.
- The board will meet again towards the end of August, before the submission of confirming project proposals. The date of this meeting is to be confirmed.

## 5) AOB

- May be of interest to invite a member of Avon and Somerset Police to join the board.

*Meeting was closed at 3.18pm*