

# Bridgwater Town Deal Board Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Via Teams

1:00pm till 3:00pm

Priority Projects

Meeting Notes

## 1) Note of any apologies and Matters Arising

### In attendance

- Fiona McMillan
- Doug Bamsey
- Cllr Gill Slocombe
- Ian Liddell-Granger
- Councillor Mick Lerry
- Councillor David Hall
- Paul Hickson
- David Ralph
- Ruth Lambert
- Paul Moore
- Andy Berry
- Andrew Cockcroft
- John Lovett
- Paul Edwards
- Adam Bradley
- David Northey
- Martin Hodgson
- Malcolm Parsons
- Jonica Walkinshaw

### Supporting the board

- Nathaniel Lucas
- Katherine Schollar
- Jaycee Ellis
- Annie Griffin
- Keith Thomas
- Patrick Gulliver
- Alex Quattrone

Apologies from: Peter Elliott and Justin Sargent

- Reminder for Biographical Information and Declaration of Interests to be finalised by end of November to include in the TIP submission.

## 2) Feedback from completion of local consultation – issues arising

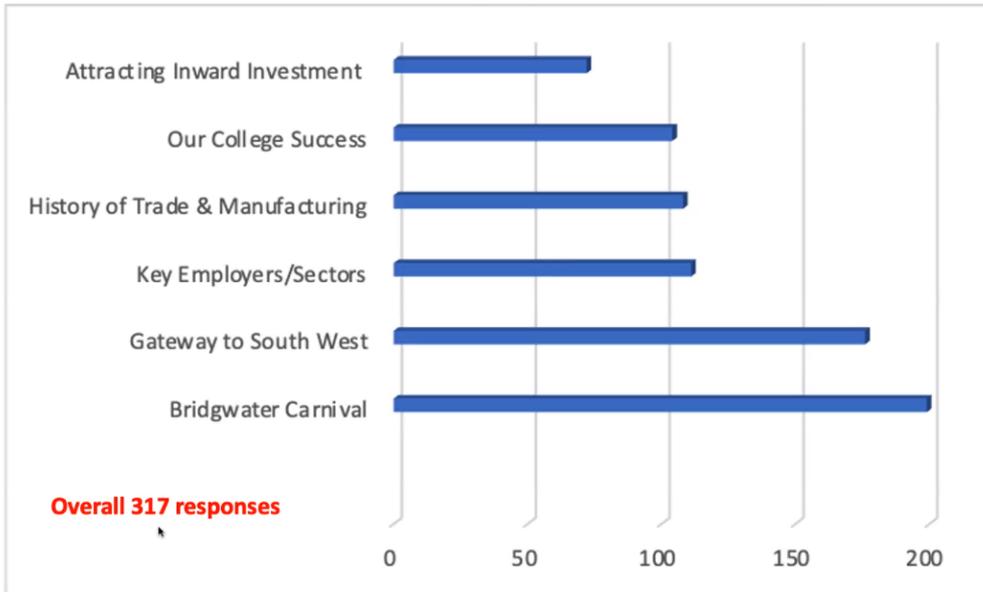


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PLANNING ECONOMICS REGENERATION

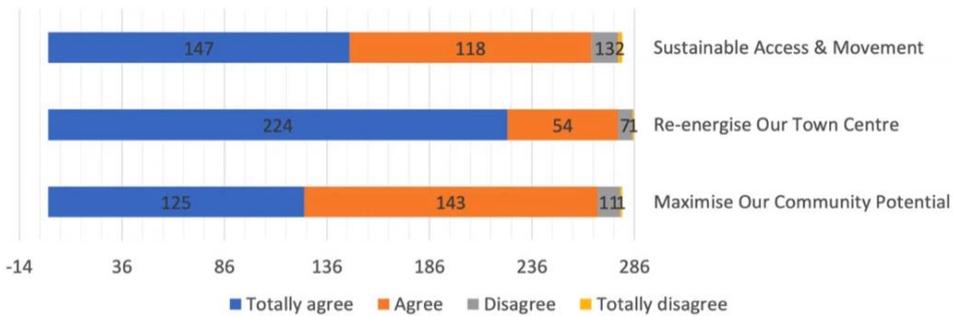
- The Consultation received a further 100 respondents since the last board meeting, making a total of 317 responses.  
→ The consultation is now closed.

### Survey Feedback – Differentiating Bridgwater’s Strengths



### Survey Feedback – Strong Support for Strategic Aims

To what extent do you agree with the following priority aims?



Should we emphasise any of the priorities or others in the short term (5 years) or should all have an equal focus?

- 35% agree that the priorities should have equal focus
- 26% agree that a focus should be on the town centre
- 15% agree that a focus should be on maximising our community potential
- 6% agree that a focus should be on sustainable access and movement

- Majority of respondents agree that the aims should have an equal focus, but there is also significant support for a focus on the town centre.

## Survey Feedback – Wider messages



- The “word cloud” above highlights the frequency of comments raised in the open section of the survey responses. This highlights further issues of concerns to local residents which will need to be reflected where possible within the TIP.
- Bridgwater has great potential.
  - Diversify and broaden the appeal of the town centre attractions and destinations
  - Maximise the value of heritage assets and enterprise potential.
  - Connect the town and wider inward investment success and economic growth.
- Overall, the survey responses support the direction being taken by the Town Deal Board.

### 3) Town Deal Criteria, Theory of Change, Strategic Aims & Golden Thread Concept

#### Project Suggestions:

- Over 25 project Ideas have been proposed which equates to over £40 million of investment.
- The board confirmed to keep within the £25 million ceiling to ensure project ideas are deliverable and able to meet the criteria for business case development going forward.

All project proposals have been evaluated against the following criteria

- Fit with Towns Fund & Bridgwater’s Strategic Aims
- Transformational Contribution – Especially Town Centre
- Respond to Specific Baseline Issues
- Golden Thread Linkages – Leverage with other interventions

- Funding needs and Deliverable
- Confidence in value for money outcomes

Projects proposed to take forward have been separated into three categories:

- Core Town Centre Project Proposals which will re-energise and animate the town
- Critical infrastructure projects – which will unlock and enable future growth
- Project proposals requiring further consideration and refinement

Board Comments:

Board members raised a number of detailed comments and issues for discussion on the lines of:

- Assurance that projects going forward delivered appropriate and tangible outputs and outcomes related to the Town Deal – especially in terms of major infrastructure works.
- Confidence in contributions to town centre activity
- Why some projects were looking unlikely to progress within the Town Deal timeframe.
- Why some projects were scored lower than expected – what further assurances need to be given to improve their prospects of inclusion.
- Further clarity needed on the proposed Golden Thread – this will be addressed in the draft TIP report.
- Offer of “peer review” was made on behalf of Business in the Community representative. Officers to explore this in context of continuing time pressures for completing the reporting. A “check and challenge” session is also scheduled with government advisors for 10th December.
- For some project proposals, lack of engagement with private landowner means there is uncertainty in project delivery within the Town Deal timescales although work will continue to improve prospects as part of the longer-term vision. Other projects were considered unlikely to deliver the expected economic outputs to show value for money from public investment or not readily contributing to the town centre ambition for transformation. Further information is needed on remaining projects to clarify deliverability and economic contribution in the context of the baseline issues and local need.

Board Decisions:

- Board agreed, in principle, to the recommended list of projects proposals – subject to further due diligence and verification of the assessment.
- Board agreed to further work being undertaken on select list of projects to improve understanding and confidence of delivery/content and linkages with town centre.
- Further Board meeting to be established to review this further work and finalise the project list prior to the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December where the draft report will be considered.

6)Submission Timetable

### Delivery Timetable

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Publish Report on Consultation  | 18 <sup>th</sup> November |
| Inclusive Growth Workshop       | Tba                       |
| Report on Prioritisation        | End of November           |
| Working Draft TIP Document      | End of November           |
| Board Meeting Review            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> December  |
| Check & Challenge               | 10 <sup>th</sup> December |
| Review & Refine                 |                           |
| Final Draft for Board           | End of January            |
| Complete & submit to Government | End of January            |

### 7) AOB

- An Inclusive Growth workshop has now been arranged for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Meeting was closed at 2:05pm