

Bridgwater Town Deal Board

19th January 2021

Via Teams

1:00pm till 3:00pm

Minutes

1) Introduction and Apologies

In attendance

- Fiona McMillian
- Doug Bamsey
- Cllr Gill Slocombe
- Ian Liddell-Granger
- Councillor Mick Lerry
- Councillor David Hall
- Paul Hickson
- David Ralph
- Ruth Lambert
- Peter Elliot
- Paul Moore
- Paul Edwards
- Justin Sargent
- Adam Bradley

Supporting the board

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

- No apologies to report.
- Meeting was welcomed.

2) Revised Draft TIP (circulated)

- The draft TIP submission has been circulated to the board for review and comments.
 - Board have been reminded to keep the TIP submission confidential.

Check & Challenge – Key Points

- Overall, it is a good TIP, with a clear structure and is well presented.
- TIP needs more data on evidence of need and market failure.
- TIP needs more evidence of consultation through the TIP.
- Expand future engagement plan – especially private and youth sectors.
- Governance & Management section is strong – good assurance over delivery.
- Further evidence of the Tidal Barrier and Carnival – expected economic outputs.

Board comments on check and challenge:

- Could include, how many FSB members were sent the consultation in the Bridgwater area?
- Also FSB stats for social media, this could help extend consultation scope.

3) Vision Statement

"Our Vision for Bridgwater is a town Re-energised, ensuring the town is better positioned to benefit from existing and future investment in clean energy and clean sustainable growth. A town recognised as a place of education, enterprise, and innovation. A town that is socially conscious, culturally rich and colourful with a strong sense of civic pride and community".

The original Vision Statement (as seen in the statement above), has been edited in order to be more specific to Bridgwater. It was agreed to finalise the detailed wording in discussion with the Chair. New version can be seen below:

"Our vision for Bridgwater is a town RE-ENERGISED, drawing maximum socio-economic benefit from existing and future investment in clean energy and inclusive growth; in particular from the proximity of catalytic projects such as Hinkley Point C and the 600 acres of Gravity – a Smart Campus. Bridgwater Re-energised will be a town recognised as a place of education, enterprise and innovation. A town that is socially conscious and culturally rich; maximising its unique tapestry of cultural events, spearheaded by its award-winning illuminated Carnival".

Comments from the board:

- Good change as shows what Bridgwater is known for.
- In the very first meeting we highlighted the following as cornerstones for Bridgwater's future: UK-leading hi-tech/energy, education, environmental and cultural assets in one place - that feels like a fairly unique combination.

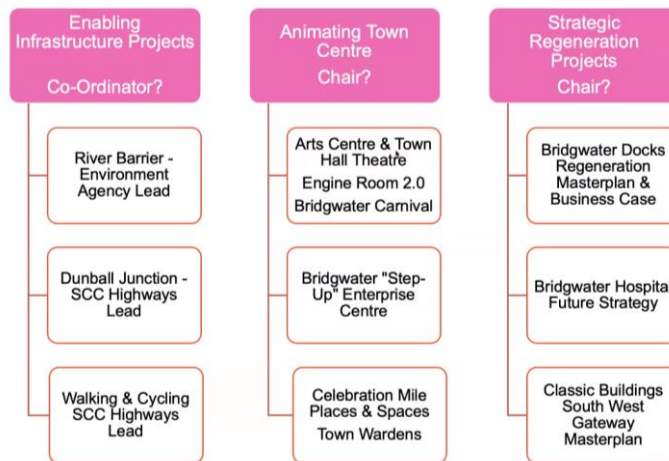
4) Future Role of the Board in managing delivery

- Heads of Terms agreement – Town Board Chair, SDC Chief Executive, Ministers.
- 6 monthly progress reports- funding, contracts, outputs.
- Output reports for 3 years after completion.
- Towns Hub – annual review of progress with the board.

Governance, Delivery & Legacy



PER Consulting



Comments from the board:

- Sub-group responsibilities contain the following:
 - Funding agreements would be in place about reporting performance on projects.
 - Those who receive the monies, will need to report back to board.
 - Pre-meeting with leaders from sub-groups to build a summary.
 - Each group would have a term of reference drafted which sets out the aims, outputs and outcomes including inclusive growth and those documents are signed off by the Town Deal Board so ensure that inclusive growth runs through each theme.
- SDC is accountable for money and delivery as there are protocols that must be followed.
- It was suggested that the following officers to take lead on sub-groups:
 - Nick Tait to take lead on enabling infrastructure projects sub-group.
 - There will be a transport lead role to soon be appointed at SDC who could have involvement.
 - Doug Bamsey to take lead on strategic regeneration projects sub-group.
 - Councillor Gill Slocombe to take the lead on the Animating town centre sub-group.

5) Next Steps & Future Engagement

- TIP 1 Text finalised 20th/21st January
- Recap meeting with ARUP – 21st January
- In Design Document – 26th January
- Appendix Document – 26th January
- Final Upload before 11.59pm 29th January.
- Public Summary Document – February
- Public Communication and Engagement
- Project Leads – joint review meeting and update on TIP process

6) AOB

- When is final decision announced?
 - Estimating March/April to receive feedback.
 - There will be a higher volume of submissions in January so may take a little longer to get feedback.
 - They release feedback as a single statement announcement.

→ Decision is aiming to be made before government purdah.

Meeting was closed at 12:35pm