

## NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### NUNEATON TOWN DEAL BOARD

2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020

A meeting of the Town Deal Board was held on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020. Due to Government guidance on social-distancing and the Covid-19 virus this meeting was held virtually and live streamed.

#### Present

Sean Farnell (CWLEP) – Chair  
Marion Plant (Education Sector) – Vice-Chair

Amanda Bourne (Local SME Business Sector), Councillor Peter Butlin (WCC), Councillor Jeff Clarke (WCC), Councillor Julie Jackson (NBBC), Jet Jones (Community Sector), Councillor I. Lloyd (NBBC), Marcus Jones, (MP), Les Ratcliffe (CWLEP) and Alison Thompson (WCAVA).

Apologies: Uly Lyons (Education Sector), Jenni Northcote (Health Sector) and Councillor Kris Wilson (NBBC).

Officers in attendance: I. Andrew (NBBC), V. Barnard (WCC), W. Bolton (NBBC), B. Davis (NBBC), D. Dawson (NBBC), A. Dent (Advent), S. Hines (NBBC), Catherine Marks (WCC), J. Pye (Arup), R. Merriman (Advent).

TDB56      Chair's welcome and announcements

The Chair welcomed Board Members and other invited guests to the meeting.

TDB57      Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair.

TDB58      Declarations of Interests

Board Members' interests for the meeting were set out in a Schedule of Declarations of Interests, attached to the agenda.

Marion Plant declared an interest given her role with the College, in relation to a project listed in the summary at Appendix A of agenda item 6.

Jet Jones declared an interest given her role at Saints, in relation to a project listed in the summary at Appendix A of agenda item 6.

Councillor Ian Lloyd, being a newly appointed member of the Board, declared that his interests were not included on the Schedule of Declarations of Interest. It was requested that the Schedule be updated accordingly.

Councillor Julie Jackson declared an interest regarding agenda item 6, as her daughter was employed by the college.

**RESOLVED** that declarations of Interest be as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes, as amended, and as above.

TDB59 Finalised Vision and Objectives

The Director – Regeneration and Housing, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC), submitted the finalised vision and objectives, as approved by the Chair on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

**RESOLVED** that the approved vision and objectives be noted.

TDB60 Feedback on Check and Challenge

The Director – Regeneration and Housing (NBBC), brought a verbal update following a Check and Challenge session which took place with the Town Fund Delivery Partner (TFDP) on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020. Julian Pye (Arup) attended the meeting and provided some additional feedback from the session.

The Board considered concerns raised by members regarding the descriptions of, and lack of obvious connectivity between, the proposed projects as listed in the summary provided at Appendix A of the report for Agenda Item 6. It was agreed that those linkages were critical and must come through very clearly in the narrative section of the Town Investment Plan (TIP). The draft narrative section, which had been submitted to the Check and Challenge session, was still a work in progress and the document had not, as yet, been shared with the Board. It was explained that work was required on project prioritisation which had to be completed first before the narrative could be further worked up and finalised.

Whilst it was recognised that a considerable amount of work had already been undertaken to bring the TIP to this stage, concerns were expressed about the amount of work still required to be completed before the end of October, being the TIP submission deadline.

A draft town map showing the proposed project locations was shared with the Board, who were also informed that £1m of advanced funding had been released to Nuneaton, which would be allocated to open up and repurpose the upper floors of the old Woolworth store, 22 Queens Road, Nuneaton, to develop a flexible co-working space. The Board was asked to consider naming the new co-working space, subject to agreement from the planners.

**RESOLVED** that the verbal feedback from the Check and Challenge session be noted.

TDB61 Update on TIP actions and next requirements

The Director – Regeneration and Housing (NBBC), submitted a report to provide the Board with an update regarding the progress made to date on the formulation of the Town Investment Plan (TIP).

The report highlighted that a delay in the work had been experienced due to late project submissions. Section 5 provided an update on project prioritisation work being undertaken, requesting Board's consideration and approval of the proposed assessment criteria, preferred approach, and timeframes for completion of project assessment work. Following the first 'sift' carried out by the project team, a summary list of projects was attached at Appendix A to the report.

Continuing the discussions from the previous agenda item, the Board further considered whether the submission date should be deferred until Cohort 3, ie 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Consideration was also given to encouraging and welcoming more projects for assessment, specifically including a project for a new theatre, and 5G initiatives as well as exploring ways in which improvements to the public realm may be able to be realised.

The Board considered the options presented in the report to determine a preferred approach for the prioritisation assessment work to be carried out. It was recommended that Matthew Wallbank, Creditors and Procurement Manager, NBBC, be invited to act as moderator during the prioritisation process.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the contents of the report be noted;
- b) the submission of the Town Investment Plan be deferred to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021, and a revised project plan be submitted to the Board;
- c) additional projects be encouraged and welcomed for inclusion in the prioritisation assessment;
- d) the local prioritisation criteria, detailed at paragraph 5.2 of the report, be approved;
- e) a panel of Board members who had not previously been involved with project identification, be appointed to undertake the prioritisation assessment; and
- f) Matthew Wallbank be invited to act as moderator during the prioritisation process.

TDB62 Updated Schedule of Issues

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of issues be updated and submitted to the Board following project prioritisation.

TDB63 Any other business

None

TDB64 Date and time of the next meeting

Friday, 23rd October 2020, commencing at 10.00 am.

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(Chair)