

Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT) Group and Town Deal Board

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jayne Tyler, Arts Council- Peter Rainier, DMH Stallard- Steve Burston, St John's Church <p>CM thanked John Redfern (Natwest) for his support to the Town Deal Board since it was first established. As John is moving to a new role in London, he will be replaced on the Board by his colleague, Paul McConologue.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (24th March 2021) were accepted.</p> <p>CM introduced the focus of today's meeting as an opportunity to summarise progress to date, and thanked Nigel Tidy (NT) and the Sub-Group Chairs for all they have done within a very short timescale.</p>	
<p>2. Presentation of Project Confirmation Summaries (x10) NT confirmed that, in accordance with the agreed Heads of Terms for the Crawley Town Deal, each Sub-Group has reviewed the scope of the projects to ensure they continue to be 'fit for purpose' and agreed to take each one forward to stage two of the process i.e. detailed businesses case development.</p> <p>NT highlighted the need to report progress every six and twelve months, going forward, however the immediate requirement is to submit the project confirmation summary documents to MHCLG by 24th May.</p> <p>NT presented the draft summary documents as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Innovation Centre (£2.5m) – includes £8.4m match funding from Get Britain Building programme. Tony Middleton confirmed that the project is progressing well and all partners (Coast to Capital LEP, Crawley BC and Thales) expect to have cleared their respective governance procedures by the end of summer. The Town Deal project will provide revenue funding to support the scheme's operational requirements. Jeff Alexander (Sub-Group Chair) affirmed his support and is happy for the project to proceed to stage 2; this will include detailed information on expected outputs, particularly around innovation gain.2. Invest in Skills (£4.5m) – includes match funding from Institute of Technology (£tbc) bid. Shelagh Legrave (Sub-Group Chair) confirmed support for the project, highlighting interdependencies with others such as green home retrofitting.3. Green Business Infrastructure & Grants (£2m) – no match funding. It was noted that a project adjustment form has been completed to include a	

second pillar around green technology business infrastructure, in addition to grants. Patrick Warner (Sub-Group Chair) cited this as a perfect example of drawing on local, technical expertise in order to maximize the benefits. PW thanked the sub-group for its 'lively debate', confirming that the project will deliver more than originally anticipated. Steve Sawyer (SS) also thanked the sub-group for demonstrating flexibility and welcoming this subtle but important change to project scope, allowing it to align with the existing 'Re-Energise Manor Royal' vision.

- 4. Commercial Eastern Gateway (£150,000)** – no match funding. 100% revenue funding to produce a delivery plan and masterplan, including an outcome of 6,500m² commercial space. Marie Ovenden stated that the project needs to align with the emerging masterplans for Crawley College and County Buildings, as commissioned by the Crawley One Public Estate Group, to deliver a comprehensive and complimentary plan across all eastern gateway sites.
- 5. Town Centre Bus Station and Transport Interchange (£2m)** - £5.2m match funding from the Crawley Growth Programme. Simon Cuckow (Sub-Group Chair) explained that both the Bus Station and Eastern Gateway projects are about 'future proofing' the town centre. PW expressed personal support for the project which will complete the vision for Crawley's bus station/transport interchange and greatly improve passenger experience.
- 6. Arterial Cycle Route (£2m)** – no match funding. Beyond the project scope, CM asked what will be done to encourage take up of cycle routes. Clem Smith (CS) explained that this is part of a bigger vision being developed by Crawley BC through its Climate Emergency Declaration, to reduce carbon emissions; schemes like this are essential to encouraging modal shift and enabling practical, local action. SS highlighted the need to leverage and build on the positive work already happening to encourage modal shift e.g. easitCRAWLEY and Manor Royal BID active travel promotion.
- 7. Manor Royal Gigabit Business Park (£2m)** – match funding from City Fibre (£tbc). Identified to be fast tracked in 2021/22. Steve Sawyer (Sub-Group Chair) reported that the sub-group recognise the need to build in flexibility around the City Fibre programme in order to deliver 'super-connectivity' around Manor Royal and enable all businesses to connect. SS expressed particular thanks to Sarah Bazen (WSCC) for her support. NT issued a cautionary note that any changes will require government approval before proceeding to Stage 2.
- 8. Town Centre Cultural Quarter (£450,000)** – match funding from Arts Council (£tbc). Includes small revenue allocation for pop-up events. SC explained the project will support enlivenment of the town centre and a flexible approach will be crucial. Adam Joolia (AJ) offered to share comparable outputs from similar projects with the sub-group.
- 9. Manor Royal Business Environment Improvements (£1.5m)** £75k match funding from MRBD. SS confirmed the project will deliver public realm improvements and upgrades including the creation of 6 new micro-parks. Work already commissioned by MRBD to set out a spatial vision for the future of MRBD will inform the detailed business case development at stage 2. AJ queried whether there is a potential for revenue generation through the activation of spaces; SS suggested a further discussion with Creative Crawley.

AJ

<p>10. Crawley Homes Green Retrofitting (£4m) – MHCLG has requested further information on outputs, outcomes and deliverability – suggested that this is worked up through stage 2 of business case development. CS highlighted the interdependencies between this project and others, something the Sub-Group Chairs have also discussed. SL stated that Crawley College is part of the LEP project on de-carbonisation so will be concentrating on the skills aspect.</p> <p>CM thanked NT and each of the Sub-Groups for pulling the required information together, whilst working to a short timescale.</p> <p>NT to circulate a copy of the presentation, including draft project confirmation summaries, to the Town Deal Board for comment before 5pm on Thursday 20th May.</p> <p>Subject to final comments before Thursday, the Town Deal Board agreed that the final project summary documents should be submitted to MHCLG.</p> <p>Final summary documents will be signed and submitted to MHCLG by 24th May.</p>	<p>NT / ALL to comment</p> <p>CM/NPB</p>
<p>3. Next Steps / Timeline</p> <p>NT explained that, beyond the 24th May deadline, MHCLG has requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan to address any specific project conditions; this applies only to the Homes Retrofitting Project. • Business Case Assurance through Crawley BC, using the green book approach • Public Sector Equalities Duty and, where relevant, Environmental Impact Assessments - NT to review programme and project requirements. • A future community engagement plan – The Crawley Town Deal has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders however we need to do more and NT invited the Board to suggest other forums that may be used to access other groups, particularly the more disadvantaged or hard to reach. • NT to prepare a draft community engagement plan over the next few weeks, supported by our Towns Fund Co-ordinator and report back to the next Town Deal Board. <p>CM affirmed the importance of community engagement and suggested forming a new Sub-Group for this purpose. Through the in-meeting chat, Adam Joolia, Louise Blackwell, Darren Ford, Vikki Illingworth, Citizens Advice Bureau, WSCC Communities Team, MR BID and Crawley College (student president) offered to support community engagement. CM welcomed anyone else who may wish to be involved. NT to follow this up after the meeting and establish a new Sub-Group.</p> <p>CM thanked everyone for their contributions and involvement in reaching this point and re-stated the need for final comments on summary documents by 20th May.</p> <p>LH to schedule next Town Deal Board in mid-July.</p>	<p>NT</p> <p>NT</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>NT</p> <p>NT</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>LH</p>
<p>4. Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>	