

Town Deal Board and Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT)

Wednesday, 6th April 2022

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting including Sarah Bosley and Adam Szczotka from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Adam will be the area lead for East and West Sussex, going forward.</p> <p>Welcome also to Sam Eden-Green, Relationship Manager for the Arts Council. Sam will be taking on a role of co-ordinator for the Arts Council's work in Crawley and is keen to talk to anyone working to support cultural and arts development in the town.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Clare Mulholland, Tony Middleton, Louise Blackwell, Jo Ward, Alison Barratt, Andrew Green, Jayne Tyler, Adam Godfrey, Peter Rainier, Ana Christie, Mel Munro and Steve Turner.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (2nd March 2022) were accepted, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Neutrality – CS circulated a briefing note to all members of the Town Deal Board on 11th March.• Towns Fund project updates – the four business cases, endorsed by the Town Deal Board on 2nd March, were approved by Crawley BC Cabinet on 16th March 2022.• The business case for '1B Invest in Skills' was submitted to DLUHC on 1st April for approval.• Business cases for 4A Town Centre Cultural Quarter, 4B Manor Royal Business Environment Improvements and 1C Crawley Green Infrastructure/Business Grants are expected to be submitted to DLUHC next week for approval.• Steve Sawyer (SS), as a point of clarification on page 2 of the last minutes, reiterated the importance of close collaboration, particularly with regard to the Town Centre Cultural Quarter project, as there are a number of partners already working to develop the arts and culture offer in Crawley. Clem Smith (CS) noted the conversations between Creative Crawley and Kathryn Ripley and Liz Hart from CBC Community Services. There is an agreement to match fund the town centre element of the Arts Council programme with the Towns Fund project.• Kathryn Ripley, via the in-meeting chat, assured the Board that a Steering Group will be established to oversee the Cultural Quarter project and bring in key partners to avoid duplication of effort and complement existing activity. This is seen as essential to the success of the project. Details are being worked up and will be shared in due course.• Chair of the Green Infrastructure Sub-Group – no nominations received. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact lynn.haingecrawley.gov.uk	<p>ALL</p>

2. Crawley Towns Fund Project Business Cases

1D Commercial Eastern Gateway – Nigel Tidy (NT) presented a [summary of the business case](#), highlighting the following key points:

- The Towns Fund 'Commercial' Eastern Gateway project is separate to the Eastern Gateway public realm and highways scheme, currently under construction.
- Project will deliver a feasibility plan, leading to concept designs and an overarching masterplan for the build out of further phases of new commercial space in the town centre.
- This follows the new Town Hall development (the Create Building comprising 77,000 ft² of commercial space over 5 floors)
- The project will draw down £150,000 revenue from the Towns Fund with the main activities taking place between early 2023 and summer 2025.

SS stated the importance of communicating the opportunities arising from the Towns Fund to suppliers from local businesses.

Marie Ovenden (MO) noted the collaboration between WSCC and CBC, including through the Crawley Growth Programme. There may be additional funding opportunities through the One Public Estate partnership. Crawley BC officers have been invited to a workshop next week to discuss the County Buildings site.

2A Town Centre Bus Station – NT presented a [summary of the business case](#), highlighting the following:

- Network Rail has commenced improvement works (as part of the Arora development) on the existing Crawley rail station complex under permitted development rights.
- Plan to deliver (through the Crawley Growth Programme) the public realm and highways improvement scheme ahead of further phases of the Arora development.
- The £2m Towns Fund project will be added to the scheme to deliver an enhanced bus station, new bus infrastructure, pedestrian and cyclist interchange and a segregated cycle route.
- Key milestones include submission of a planning application later this year, following public consultation, with construction starting on site from June 2023, over 18-24 months.

MO noted the good collaboration via the Crawley Growth Programme. There will be a WSCC highways 'sense check' over the coming weeks.

2B Arterial Cycle Route – Clem Smith (CS) presented a summary of the business case, highlighting the following:

- A cycle route to link three employment destinations between the Town Centre, Manor Royal and Gatwick
- This will boost active travel and support decarbonisation of Crawley.
- This is Route A in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, to be built to a segregated LTN1/20 government standard with £2 million Towns Fund and co-financing.
- Public consultation will take place in autumn 2023 and planning in 2024, for works to be completed by the end of 2025 for a launch in March 2026.

Peter Smith (PS) noted the collaboration in other areas, and the opportunity for WSCC to collaborate to build a LTN1/20 route.

Jeremy Taylor (JT) welcomed the cycle route and queried whether there was an opportunity to extend the link to Horley. PS confirmed the National Cycle Route 21 which extends this route north passed Gatwick, but not as a LTN1/20.

SS stated that, beyond the construction of the cycle path itself, the area that cyclists

travel through will be important e.g. Woolborough Lane.

3A Manor Royal Gigabit – Simon Jones (SJ) provided a verbal update.

The concept is about how to use fibre infrastructure to drive the best investment with the objective to improve availability of gigabit digital connectivity to business in Manor Royal. The options have been whether to (1) add more infrastructure in the ground, or (2) exploit existing infrastructure. Consultants (Analysys Mason) have been commissioned to prepare the business case. Their solution is for more infrastructure, as an additional fibre ring around Crawley, as there is ever increasing use e.g. electric car data, 5G, etc. The business case is for CBC to go to the commercial market as a joint venture or similar operation. This would help drive competition and improve certainty for delivery time.

SS welcomed the project, reaffirming the importance of taking the Manor Royal Business District to the next level in terms of digital connectivity and speed.

SJ confirmed that the ring would go around Manor Royal and up through Crawley that is close enough to businesses for a third party to create those business connections. This is a way to create competition with other suppliers and opportunities.

3A Green Homes Retrofitting – CS presented a summary of the business case, highlighting the following:

- To deliver a programme of 'fabric-first' cavity wall insulation solution to enable the buildings to be in the best condition possible before the installation of more technological low carbon retrofits e.g. air-source heat pumps through potential future schemes.
- £4 million of Towns Fund will provide Energy Efficiency Cavity Wall Insulation to Crawley Homes blocks of flats. A total of 248 blocks comprising 1,511 flats over 4 years.
- Estimated savings are 3618kg carbon per flat - total 5.5m kg and estimated cost saving to each flat £561 a year in energy bills at (0.33p per kW).
- Surveys will begin in autumn 2022 and installations from winter 2022 until the final phase and evaluation in March 2026.

No questions or comments for this project.

Business cases will be circulated to relevant Town Deal Board Sub-Groups and stakeholders for comments.

The Town Deal Board endorsed these five business cases to take forward to the next stage. Subject to internal governance approvals, the project summary documents for these business cases will be submitted to DLUHC in April 2022.

Henry Smith (HS) stated that this has been a positive and impressive meeting. HS recognised all the Towns Fund aspects which "have come to a mature point". He noted that he was cautiously optimistic for Crawley with a number of jobs fairs taking place and Gatwick opening up, offering new job vacancies.

3. Communications Plan

CM welcomed Allan Hambly (AH), Communications Manager for Crawley BC to the meeting. AH presented a draft communications plan for the Towns Fund which is designed around the key milestones for most Towns Fund projects and will highlight the tangible benefits of each one to the local economy, residents, visitors, businesses and the public in general.

A range of communication channels will be used, according to need to provide the

<p>most appropriate breadth and depth of coverage.</p> <p>CM noted that everyone is welcome to help contribute and spread the messages through their own networks and channels.</p> <p>SS re-iterated the need for engagement with local suppliers in terms of opportunities.</p> <p>Marie Ovenden (MO) expressed support for the draft plan, reiterating the need to work closely on projects where joint funding is involved.</p> <p>Paul Rolfe (PR) asked what opportunities there may be to spread the message about Gatwick to a wider audience beyond Crawley. PR offered to support with communication requirements using TikTok.</p> <p>CS raised the opportunity to promote information via the Invest Crawley website as a showpiece to attract inward investment. Investor tours, including one last month, have been used to showcase Crawley at a sub-regional level and beyond.</p>	
<p>4. Next Steps and Any Other Business</p> <p>Meeting note: Chris Maidment paid tribute to Councillor Peter Smith for his contribution to the board over the years, as he will be stepping down as Deputy Chair of the Town Deal Board and from his post as Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development. Chris expressed his thanks to Peter for his support and acknowledged that he had been instrumental in what the Board has achieved, and has worked hard to make economic improvements in the town and encourage partnership working. A number of Board members echoed Peter’s contribution and expressed their own thanks to him, via the in-meeting chat.</p>	
<p>5. Date of the next meeting 22nd June 2022 (<i>subsequently moved to 29th</i>)</p>	<p>LH</p>