

Town Deal Board and Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT)

Wednesday, 29th June 2022

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Natalie Brahma-Pearl, Councillor Michael Jones, Councillor Atif Nawaz, Andrew Green, Dave Savage, Neil Cooper, Simon Cuckow, Darren Ford, Paul Rolfe, Peter Rainier, Kathryn Ripley, Sarah Bosley, Paul McConnologue, Vicky Illingworth, Marie Ovenden and Paul Scrivens.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (6th April 2022) were accepted, noting the following:</p> <p>Chair of the Green Infrastructure Sub-Group – no nominations received however there may be an opportunity to revisit this through the Innovation Centre project.</p> <p>Town Deal Board membership and Vice-Chair – CM confirmed that, following the recent local elections, Councillor Atif Nawaz has been appointed as the new Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development and will join the Town Deal Board, along with the new Leader of the Council; Councillor Michael Jones. CM proposed that Councillor Nawaz also be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Board - this was approved by the Board.</p>	
<p>2. Economic headlines</p> <p>Gatwick Airport – Alison Addy (AA) presented the latest performance data from the airport, highlighting that they have already handled over 10m passengers this year, surpassing the numbers in 2021 and demonstrating a strong start to recovery. The current forecast expects numbers to return to 2019 (pre-pandemic) levels by 2024.</p> <p>The airport has recently introduced a capacity cap for summer 2022 in response to the challenges that airlines and handling agents have been experiencing as a result of strong demand for flights. The cap will see 825 flights per day in July and 850/day in August to enable better reliability of flight schedules and improve customer service.</p> <p>As the main area of GAL's responsibility, AA reported that 95% of passengers pass through security in less than 10 minutes. GAL is working with retail and hospitality partners to support their recruitment needs – this has included recent jobs fairs with Crawley College and DWP.</p> <p>AA highlighted a further round of consultation for the northern runway proposals is underway until 27th July, focusing on changes made to the local highway infrastructure. Details can be found at Northern Runway Consultation Gatwick Airport LGW</p> <p>CM asked whether 'ghost flights' are being used in order to protect slots. AA confirmed that GAL is currently operating under the summer slot system and ghost flights are not an issue for the airport.</p>	

Manor Royal – Steve Sawyer (SS) reported a number of developments coming forward in Manor Royal including [Arrow Point](#) opening soon, [The Base](#) (due for completion September) and the [Panattoni Park](#) planning application has been submitted. There are also proposals coming forward to demolish Linac House and replace it with a new facility to support Elekta’s future development. Redrow homes opened new offices this week. SS encouraged Board members to sign up [here](#) to receive monthly e-bulletins about what is happening on Manor Royal.

Despite these positive updates, SS reported some significant challenges facing businesses, including water neutrality, concerns about rising costs and rent reviews.

The Manor Royal BID has recently surveyed all businesses (40% response rate) with the top issues identified as broadband speeds, parking and climate change. Many of the issues raised will be picked up through the Towns Fund projects with planned investment in gigabit connectivity, environmental improvements, green business grants and infrastructure.

In terms of recruitment and skills, the Manor Royal Jobs Board has seen 500 jobs advertised in the last 12 months (compared to 314 in the previous year) with over 30 companies actively advertising local opportunities however local feedback suggests that the jobs are there but the people are not. Ana Christie agreed, via the in-meeting chat, that huge skill shortages and recruitment challenges are ever present.

SS reported that the BID renewal ballot for a third term will take place in February 2023 and the team are busy developing a new Business Plan and Projects Pack. More information can be found at www.manorroyal.org/bid3

Town Centre – Wendy Bell (WB) reported that the BID has been looking at footfall data and is pleased to report that the results are positive. In 2019, footfall was 655,000 per month and in the first 5 months of 2022, the average monthly rate is 618,000 (having fallen to 309,000 in 2020). In May 2022, the footfall rate was higher than in May 2019; thanks in part to the collaborative efforts of the BID, Crawley BC and Creative Crawley in bringing a creative festival to the town centre.

WB reported a number of new store openings including HMV and Longdan & The Plantbase Store in The Martlets and Turkuaz Restaurant in the High Street. Feedback from the CEO of Longdan suggested they had done a lot of research before deciding to open a store in Crawley and they are pleased to be in the town.

Future events planned include [Aura’s Odyssey](#) in August, Creepy Crawley month in October and the Connected Crawley event on 5th July, in partnership with Gatwick Diamond Business, Manor Royal BID and Freedom Works.

3. Crawley Towns Fund Programme

Overall programme update – Nigel Tidy (NT) presented a [summary of progress](#) to date including:

- Documents for 8 projects have been submitted to DLUHC
- The 2 remaining projects (Manor Royal Gigabit and Town Centre-Manor Royal-Gatwick Cycle Route) to be submitted by October
- To date, seven projects have successfully passed Government review and CBC is currently awaiting written confirmation
- First monitoring and evaluation report submitted to DLUHC this month
- The role of the Town Deal Board will begin to evolve from project design and development into project delivery – the Board will provide strategic oversight to ensure original vision and objectives are achieved.
- NT proposed to set up Quarterly Board meetings for project progress.

Adam Szczotka (AS) thanked NT for his presentation and honest appraisal of the programme. AS welcomed early sight of the two projects that will be delayed as this helps to support the DLUHC approval process. All towns are reporting issues with inflationary costs and AS continues to raise the matter internally. AS referred to the Levelling Up Fund and apologized for the delay in opening the online portal for applications; details should be confirmed later this week.

Adam Godfrey (AG) asked if details of the project teams can be shared. NT to action.

SS raised a point of note regarding the process of project delivery and how quickly we can make decisions in order to deliver projects in a timely manner, thereby avoiding increasing costs.

Project Updates

1A Innovation Centre – Clem Smith (CS) highlighted:

- Crawley BC acquired Travel House (24,000ft²) on Manor Royal in March 2022
- Architects have been appointed to develop designs for the internal layout which will include large workshop spaces, networking hub, café, 27 office spaces and a co-working suite.
- Discussions progressing with prospective anchor tenant (clean energy provider)
- Planning application to be submitted by end July 2022.
- Report to Crawley BC Cabinet in July seeking approval to tender for building works
- Aim to start on site early 2023; completion Summer 2023.

1C Pillar 1 Green tech Business Grants – CS reported:

- Reminder that 3 grants will be offered through the scheme; start up grants (up to £10k), business development grants (up to £25k) and business improvement grants (up to £175k)
- Available to small businesses (less than 50 employees) with a focus on capital investment to grow green tech sector.
- Aiming to offer first round of funding by February 2023, followed by the next cycle. More information will be shared at the next Town Deal Board.
- Through the in-meeting chat, Ana Christie asked for details of the grant scheme so they can share with local businesses. LH to follow up in Sept.

1C Manor Royal Green Tech Business Infrastructure – SS reported:

- MRBID leading formation of a Local Energy Community (LEC) to stimulate investment in renewables in Manor Royal.
- Will enable interested parties to invest in clean energy and share the benefits by trading electricity and heat generated locally.
- Highlighting the need to ensure local businesses have access to supplier opportunities – this will be added to the delivery plan.

4B Manor Royal Business Environmental Improvements – SS referred to his previous updates on the micropark sites, reporting that some have been delivered and others are in design development – progressing according to plan.

1B Invest in Skills – Hayley Shepherd (HS) provided an update including:

- Project is progressing well with the main focus on development of the construction skills hub
- Original plan to deliver a standalone facility on the Crawley campus however it has been agreed to incorporate it as part of the Institute of Technology (IoT) project in order to maximise use of the campus and achieve value for money.
- Means the whole programme is delayed by a year; now opening May 2024.
- Spend requirements for the current year will be achieved by accelerating equipment procurement.

NT

CS

LH

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking to sign agreement for the IoT in September 2022 and will establish a Crawley Skills Group, Project Group and Advisory Panels. HS will contact colleagues to discuss joining the panels. - HS highlighted a risk of including the Construction Hub within the IoT in terms of measuring outputs and the need to avoid double counting. This is considered low risk through mitigation. <p>4A Town Centre Cultural Quarter – Liz Hart (LH) highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project will deliver cultural quarter masterplan, 4 site feasibility studies, 2 site delivery plans and, in 2022/23, a pop-up events programme. - Currently awaiting written confirmation of the funding from DLUHC - LH has approached c10 local organisations to form a Steering Group – first priority to meet and agree terms of reference. - Working closely with Creative Playground and TC Bid to ensure project is aligned with existing cultural activities in the town centre, bringing all together in a coordinated way. 	HS
<p>4. Next Steps and Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next Steps – Crawley BC is awaiting written confirmation from DLUHC for the remaining projects, hopefully before the next Town Deal Board meeting. Next meeting will focus on the first stages of project implementation, including an update on the Green Business Grant Scheme. - Levelling Up – CS reported that Crawley BC officers are working on a bid for Levelling Up funding. Crawley is in the lowest category so the chances of success are low however proposals are being drawn up, with a focus on Three Bridges Station and Town Centre revitalization; looking at upgrading the public realm in The Martlets and Broadway/Broad Walk. CS will circulate a summary document to the Town Deal Board once it has been drafted. - Gatwick Diamond Business – Sally Brown reported that, following Jeff Alexander’s retirement, she will become the new GDB representative on the Town Deal Board. CM welcomed Sally to the Board. - Communications – LH confirmed that once we have written confirmation from DLUHC for the latest batch of projects, we will issue media releases for everyone to share. LH to circulate the Communications Plan with the meeting minutes. 	CS LH
<p>5. Date of the next meeting 21st September 2022</p>	