

Crawley Town Deal Board

Tuesday, 3rd October 2023

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome, apologies and minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to Ian Duke as the new Chief Executive of Crawley Borough Council.</p> <p>Apologies received from Bob Lanzer, Paul Scrivens, Henry Smith, Tony Middleton, Sally Brown, Neil Cooper, Andrew Green, Darren Ford, Michael Jones and Jayne Tyler.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (19 July 2023) were approved with all actions either completed or to be discussed at today's meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Economic Headlines</p> <p>Gatwick Airport – Richard Lennard (RL) presented an update from Gatwick Airport highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 32.8m passengers flew through the airport in 2022; 18.5m in the first 6 months of 2023.• Additional investment in resources has resulted in 98% passengers passing through security in less than 5 minutes.• Capital investment programme will see c£160m spend in 2023 including the railway station upgrade, pier 6 extension and refurbishment of the north terminal international departure lounge.• Additional investment of c£250m is planned up to 2030, supporting ambition to reach Net Zero through the airport's Second Decade of Change.• Gatwick serves 171 short-haul and 49 long-haul destinations with new routes being added and new airlines arriving e.g. Air China, Air Mauritius, Saudia.• Development Consent Order (DCO) submitted; interested parties have until 29th October to register to have their say. More information can be found at Our Northern Runway plans Gatwick Airport LGW• Gatwick has published its Local Economic Roadmap; includes a commitment for at least 10% of the airport's spend to be spent within the RH postcode area and targets for employability to provide high quality jobs for local people. <p>CM thanked RL for his update and welcomed reference to the employability targets, linked to some of the skills-related initiatives that the Town Deal Board is leading on.</p> <p>Manor Royal BID – Steve Sawyer (SS) provided an update from Manor Royal including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open invitation to attend Manor Royal Matters & AGM on 8th November; looking at what a decade of delivery in Manor Royal looks like and what the next chapter will include (2023-2028). Register to attend at Manor Royal Events.• Investment in the area including a number of office occupiers e.g Nestle into Park House, Schlumberger to Minerva House and EV Chargers into Nexus.• Elekta bringing forward plans to redevelop Linac House; Varian relocating within Crawley with Oncology House being offered for sale (29,000 sqft warehouse and 19,500 sq ft office)• Recruitment remains a significant challenge for businesses and demand for the Manor Royal Jobs Board is increasing.• Move It Project (a 'hearts and minds' project to promote sustainable travel in Manor Royal) failed to recruit a project lead; the team is considering next steps.• Other projects include the Superhub (moving to detailed design), Woolborough Lane Linear Park (delayed but now moving towards detailed design), Eastbound Bus Lane (complete), Local Energy Community (on hold and at risk but hoping to advertise opportunity on a shared procurement portal soon), upgrade to CCTV cameras (complete).	

- MRBID working with a local artist on an exciting concept design for an art installation on the superhub site, drawing inspiration from the former Rediffusion logo.
- Manor Royal 'Where Arts, Culture and Business collide' – event on 17th October at Gatwick Production Studios, celebrating creativity in Manor Royal – register to attend at [Manor Royal events](#).

CM thanked SS for his update, acknowledging there will be competition between businesses to attract people from the local talent pool. More work is required to tap into the excellent opportunities that exist at Gatwick, in Manor Royal and the town centre.

Town Centre BID – Wendy Bell (WB) presented an update from the [Town Centre BID](#) including:

- Latest footfall figures report over 9m visitors to Crawley town centre in August'23
- Major contributor to this success is the town centre events programme e.g. Make Music Day attracted +16,000 people on one day in June 2023 (5,000 in 2022)
- 63% visitors live more than 25 miles from Crawley; average dwell time 61 minutes.
- BID has recently introduced the Third Wednesday Club – networking aimed at professional services, supporting people as they return to the office.
- New CCTV cameras installed in Memorial Gardens
- [Creepy Crawley month](#) in October – diverse programme of events including ghost tours, zombie roaming act, giant spider installation and 'hauntological' workshops.
- Christmas Lights switch on 17th November; festive village in Queens Square
- Children's Business Fair in Queensway 9th December
- TC BID recently awarded the 'Best Bar None' accreditation for safety.

CM thanked WB for the update, asking how we get the message about everything that is happening out to *new* people. WB reported that events are advertised on the digital sign outside Three Bridges railway station, via social and local media and through the streetwise (RH) magazines. Vikki Illingworth suggested using colleges and schools to get the word out; WB to follow this up.

Crawley College – Vikki Illingworth (VI) presented an update from the college including:

- New term has started at pace with over 3,200 students enrolled so far; particular strength in growth of construction and engineering courses.
- Changes to GCSE grade boundaries this year meant many students entering college without maths and english.
- Institute of Technology – proud of support from the Town Deal board and local businesses. No building on site yet however hoping to recruit construction contractors before the end of 2023.
- Chichester College Group has published a new [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)
- Significant challenges around recruitment, particularly in the areas of student support and pastoral care.

Department for Work & Pensions – Sue Carey (SC) provided an [update on the job centre](#) priorities for 2024 including:

- Increasing number of young people and those aged 50+ on Universal Credit (UC) and searching for work; overall picture in Crawley remains fairly stable
- Priorities for Job Centre include 50+, In Work Progression (IWP), Health & Disability and Crawley refugees.
- Refugee employability programme delivering employment support, English language and integration support – a local priority for Crawley.
- Core focus of job centres is to work with local employers to get people into work through work experience placements, work trials, bootcamps and Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (SWAP) e.g. security industry training.
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit schemes to close from January 2024.
- SC highlighted how UC can help businesses as people can work as many hours as they want (the 1- hour rule being an old legacy benefit)

<p>Ian Duke asked if the job centres are seeing an increase in the number of Chagossians requiring support, following the recent decision to grant British citizenship to people of Chagossian descent. SC reported that job centres are not experiencing this.</p>	
<p>3. Update from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) – Emma Smith (ES) provided an update to the Town Deal Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new £1.1bn towns funding package has been announced by government; funding allocated to Hastings and Bexhill in the South East. • Jacob Young MP appointed as the new Levelling Up Minister within DLUHC. This has led to some delays in approving project adjustment requests. • Local Enterprise Partnerships – Coast to Capital (C2C) Board currently considering a number of significant decisions about its future, in response to government guidance. ES is working closely with Brighton & Hove CC to ensure no gaps within the region around partnerships, funding and accountability. • Awaiting formal announcement from government on future governance structures. • ES working with West Sussex County Council to develop a refreshed Economic Plan and has met with the University of Sussex to refresh their strategic priorities; exciting to see the development of life sciences and quantum technologies, which will provide a wealth of opportunities for the region. • Jeremy Taylor commented via the in-meeting chat that the C2C Growth Hub services are still fully available through to March 2024, offering funded support to Crawley businesses. Further information can be found at www.c2cbusiness.org.uk 	
<p>4. Crawley Towns Fund project updates</p> <p>Green Business Infrastructure Grants – James Ruel (JR) from Carbon Limiting Technologies (CLT) introduced himself to the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JR reminded the Town Deal Board of the objectives of the £1 million project was to grow the green technology sector including increasing jobs and turnover within Crawley to 'green' the economy. • Three levels of grants are currently available from Business Start-up Grants (up to £10,000) through to Business Investment Grants (up to £175,000) for green-tech small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) based in Crawley. • A recent conditional grant award resulted from the initial, soft programme launch earlier this year and another application will be resubmitted following initial assessment and feedback from the grant assessment panel. • A new rolling process has resulted in three expressions of interest, submission of a full application for assessment and two further potential applications. • JR asked the Town Deal Board to spread the word and raise awareness of this project. <p>Invest in Skills – VI reported on the latest stages of this project delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three immersive spaces have been constructed for green skills and digital, with 5G rapid site solution and 360 degree camera/video effects. A programme of virtual reality and immersive training has begun. • An external immersive pod space is being installed in October for training support for community groups and stakeholders outside of normal college opening times. • Construction of the Green Village bungalow (to replicate a home in Crawley) has been completed and smart home equipment is being installed for training. Solar photovoltaic equipment is being linked to the bungalow. • Metaverse will help provide green skills training materials. Working with local construction suppliers on relevant curriculum materials. • Signing of the funding agreement with Crawley Borough Council with photoshoot takes place this week. • Professional services virtual business school are working on curriculum materials including retrofitting. 	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Towns Fund Programme update – Nigel Tidy (NT) provided a brief update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT confirmed that the next six-monthly report (April to September plus forecasts) will be required within the next couple of months (awaiting a date) and therefore 	

<p>final report details may be circulated electronically to the Town Deal Board after the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A procurement exercise will begin shortly for a feasibility study for one building (out of four potential feasibility study sites) under the Town Centre Cultural Quarter (capital) project. • A First Line of Defense (FLOD) assurance statement will be signed off by the CBC Head of Corporate Finance (S151 Officer), which includes various governance, procurement and subsidy control policies and checks with confirmation that any external project partners also comply with these requirements. 	
<p>5. Any Other Business</p> <p>Cultural Quarter – Daran Bennett (DB) reported that an application has today been submitted by DanceHub (on behalf of Marina Studios) to the Arts Council to bid for capital funding to support a potential project in the town centre linked to the Crawley Growth Programme. This relates to the feasibility work as part of the Town Centre Cultural Quarter programme, as referred to in NT’s previous update. DB expressed thanks to Clem Smith, Nigel Tidy and Liz Hart for their support and will keep the Town Deal Board informed of progress.</p> <p>Date of the next meeting: 1st November 2023</p>	