

Bolton Towns Fund Board

2.30pm, Thursday 16th July 2020

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Belinda Beaver	BB	Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
Cllr. David Greenhalgh	DG	Leader, Bolton Council
Cllr. Martyn Cox	MC	Deputy Leader, Bolton Council
Michelle Horrocks	MH	Head of Economic Development, Bolton Council
Cathy Wignall	CW	Programme Manager, Bolton Council
Paula Connor	PC	Project Officer, Bolton Council
Gerry Brough	GB	Director of Place, Bolton Council
Tony Oakman	TO	Chief Executive, Bolton Council
Paul Whittingham Council	PW	Assistant Director Economic Development, Bolton Council
Yasmin Qureshi MP	YQ	Bolton South East
Chris Green MP	CG	Bolton West
Mark Head	MHe	Bolton & District Civic Trust
Darren Knight	DK	Bolton CVS
Jon Lord	JL	Bolton at Home
Alec Colbeck	AC	Midia Group
Roddy Gauld	RG	Octagon Theatre
Pete Courtie	PCo	Arts Council (Observer)
Tim Vaughan	TV	Moorgarth
Jonathan Seddon	JS	Seddon
Baroness Newlove	BN	University of Bolton & Bolton College
Rosie Jenkins	RJ	MHCLG
Wirin Bhatiani	WT	Bolton CCG
Marc Watterson	MW	Arup
Ibby Ismail	II	Bolton Solidarity
Amanda Halford	AH	Cytiva
Alex Gardiner	AG	Metro Dynamics
Samantha Elliot	SE	Bolton Council
Shane Green	SG	Metro Dynamics

Apologies

Eamon Boylan	EB	Chief Exec, GMCA
John Seddon	JS	Seddons
Mark Logan MP	ML	Bolton North East
Holly Harrow	HH	Homes England
Sue Temperley	ST	JCP

Notes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

BB welcomed all to the meeting. She noted that it had been hoped this could be a face to face meeting and understood that people may find it difficult to participate virtually. BB requested

Board Members utilise the chat facility to make comments. She advised that all comments made are being collated and will be circulated. An outline of the agenda was given, and BB reminded all to turn off their cameras and mute microphones when not speaking to improve call performance.

2. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

3. Declaration of Interests

None noted.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Actions Arising

BB noted that there were four Items requiring action from the last meeting of which most had been completed.

Item 4. The guidance from MHCLG has now been received and a Strategic Adviser has been appointed.

Item 5 asked for comments on Terms of Reference. None were received therefore the Terms of Reference circulated at the last meeting are adopted.

Item 6. Comments made at the last meeting to be circulated into a table. BB advised that all comments had been collated into a summary table. These are being taken into consideration in terms of developing the Towns Plan and will be circulated at an appropriate time.

The minutes of the last meeting dated 15th May 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

5. Election of Vice-Chair

At the last meeting nominations for Vice-Chair were requested. BB advised that Baroness Newlove has been nominated for this position. There were no objections to Baroness Newlove's appointment, and she is therefore duly appointed as Vice Chair of The Towns Board.

6. Update on Towns Fund Guidance and Programme

CW gave a presentation on the updated Towns Fund Guidance. The presentation was circulated to all Board Members following the meeting. CW confirmed Bolton's Town Investment Plan (TIP) will be submitted in the second tranche by 31st October 2020 and outlined the tight programme and timescales in order to achieve this. CW asked Board Members to pay particular attention to Annex A of the guidance. This identifies six themes which projects will need to align with, work is progressing on how projects align with the themes, costs, co-funding opportunities, etc.

7. £1 million Accelerated Funding

CW advised the Board that there was an opportunity to access £1 million of accelerated funding. This would need to be spent this financial year and have an immediate impact. CW drew the Boards attention to five options in terms of projects and asked them to through the

chat facility to highlight their preferred options. If Board members need more time to consider the options, they can email their preferred options after the meeting.

All projects are located in the Civic and Cultural Quarter. CW gave an overview of each of the proposals. A summary of the comments/choices made in the chat facility and any subsequent emails will be collated.

8. Presentation by Metro Dynamics – Building the Case for Investment

AG introduced herself and gave an overview of work Metro Dynamics have undertaken in the past. Metro Dynamics are working with the Towns Fund Team over the next few weeks helping to develop the Strategic Case and priorities for the Towns Investment Plan.

AG then went on to give a presentation that highlighted progress made to date and the evidence gathered to date. The presentation will be shared after the meeting. AG asked Board Members to consider the following:

Are the projects, right?

What is missing?

What would help both residents and businesses in Bolton to deliver and grow opportunities?

AG explained that no new analysis had been carried out to date, but Metro Dynamics had drawn on what is already available and identified the gaps in the information required for the Investment Plan and projects.

The first missing piece has been identified as detailed footfall analysis, which a firm called Ellandi have been commissioned to carry out. Ellandi are able to collect data from 80 different data sources such as smart phones, fitbits, etc. AG confirmed this is GDPR compliant. A detailed report will be received in the next few weeks to inform the Investment Plan.

AG gave an overview of the opportunities for levelling up Bolton, its strength for growth and identified where the town is underperforming. The key challenges for Bolton were outlined along with the towns opportunities and the effects and challenges that Covid-19 may have on the local economy. The Investment Plan will need to identify how it will tackle these issues and build on the opportunities. It will also need to highlight how the town will respond to changes in the way town centres are used.

It was highlighted that the Towns Deal should build on existing strategies such as the Town Centre Masterplan, Bolton's Economic Strategy, etc. but should establish links with key regional and industrial strategies.

9. Approach to Consultation & Stakeholder Engagement

There is a requirement to undertake community and stakeholder engagement to inform the priorities that are set out in the Investment Plan. This must be evidenced throughout the process. CW gave an overview of the Engagement Strategy and advised Board Members that a brief had been circulated to a several specialist consultants in this field. Responses are due back Friday 17th July and it is hoped an appointment can be made week commencing 20th July.

10. Discussion

DG pointed out that it was of utmost importance that projects supported by the accelerated £1 million of funding had an immediate impact and make a difference. He endorsed the priorities

but pointed out that Bradshawgate should be included in the plans as it is the centre of the night-time economy. JL echoed this but felt that plans were extremely encouraging.

YQ raised the issue that people who come into the Town Centre tended to be older and felt it was important to capture young people's thoughts. CW explained that the engagement brief has asked for young people's thoughts to be specifically captured this will be through avenues such as the Youth MPs, local youth groups, UoB and colleges, etc. and will include a specific focus group.

TO felt the UoB really needed to be engaged as their students potentially provide a lot of footfall, etc.

CW advised there would be different themed focus groups such as Clean Growth.

Baroness Newlove suggested getting Bolton Lads and Girls Club involved. DG also felt schools (both primary and secondary) and Bolton Youth Vision should be represented as part of the Engagement process.

TV highlighted the issue that people feel unsafe due to anti-social behaviour in the town centre. Market Place has had issues with youths gathering in their premises. He felt policing is an issue.

DG asked that care be taken in using the correct names of places in the town. For example, he had seen Market Hall used to describe Bolton Market. He felt this term would get it confused with Market Place which many people refer to as Market Hall.

11. MHCLG Update

RJ introduced herself and advised that she was MHCLGs Local Lead for Bolton and that she was working closely with MH and CW. She explained each town has a Local Lead.

12. AOB

TO asked where people had not rated their proposals for the accelerated funding as they needed to give it more consideration to send feedback after the meeting. BB encouraged all to provide their feedback if they have not already done so. DG asked for feedback to be shared before the next Board meeting as it will take place after 14th August.

Action:-

All to provide feedback on which projects they favour for accelerated funding
CW/PC to circulate feedback on accelerated funding proposals prior to next Board meeting.

BB thanked all for attending.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 20th August 2020.