

# Minutes

**Meeting Title:** Truro Town Deal Board

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Time:** 13.30 to 15.30

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Chaired by:** Carole Theobald (CT)

**Attendees:** Voting Members: CC Bert Biscoe (BB), Roger Gazzard (RG), Cllr David Harris (DH), Simon Hendra (SH), Barry Hilton (BH, attending as substitute for DG), Alun Jones (AJ), Nigel King (NK), Nigel Knuckey (NKn), Cherilyn Mackrory (CM), CC Loic Rich (LR), Nick Seaton-BurrIDGE (NB), Alan Stanhope (AS), David Walrond (DW)

Officers: Beth Briggs (BBr), Mark O'Brien (MB), Glenn Caplin-Grey (GCG), Scott James (SJ – Ward Williams Associates), Mel Richardson (MR), Paul Treweek (PT – Ward Williams Associates), Phill Woods (PW)

**Apologies:** Rachel Hammond (RH), CC Derek Green (DG), CC John Dyer (JD)

## 1 Welcome and Apologies

- Apologies noted under Attendees above.
- It was noted that BH was attending as a substitute for DG.

## 2 Declaration of Interest

- NK declared an interest in Old Bakery Studios.

## 3 Minutes of the last Meeting

- It was proposed by MSB, seconded by BB and agreed by the Board that the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 be adopted as an accurate record.
- All actions from the previous minutes had been completed as appropriate.

## 4 Matters arising not covered on the agenda

- CT reminded Members of the original documentation from the Government as a focus for discussions later in the meeting.
- It was noted that Arup were being consulted on Sections 1 and 2 of the TIP, with feedback expected in the coming days.
- GCG advised Members as to the internal sign off process for the TIPs, prior to submission to Government on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

## 5 Star Chamber session feedback

- AS noted that, as per agreement at previous Board meeting, a session had been arranged with WWA, MR and selected Board Members (BB, NSB, DH, AS and CT although CT was unable to attend).
- SJ shared a presentation with the Board to provide a summary of the session (circulated to Board Members with minutes).
- DH queried the deliverability of the Boscawen project and what sports provision would be provided.
- RG advised that delivery would be outsourced, and the details would be worked up during full business case development.
- NK advised that the focus would be on indoor leisure-based pursuits and companies will rent space for this provision. It was noted that this would also be fully worked up during business case development.
- New Life for City Buildings – the focus of this project was discussed, with the DevCo being queried. AS advised that TCC was leading on this project, with a CIC currently being created.
- The Pydar contribution was discussed with Members considering the recommendation that best strategic fit for the Towns Fund would be to contribute towards The Hive scheme. Deliverability of this project within the Towns Fund deadline was discussed, with GCG indicating that timeframe of the Pydar delivery phase fit with the deadline.
- MR noted that Arup were being consulted in terms of how the overall project funding be best reflected in the TIP.

## 6 TIP 2 Summary Documents

- TIP 2 templates for each project had been circulated with the agenda pack.
- The current total was over the advised maximum £25m and it was noted that the TIP would be subject to additional scrutiny if submitted at this level.
- There was extensive discussion as to whether figures should be revised downwards or whether the TIP should be submitted with a larger ask given the transformational nature of the projects. The discussion concluded with the majority of Members feeling that the vision of the TIP justified the ask of over £25m.
- There was also discussion around inclusion of a proposed 1% increase on the Towns Fund allocation in order to contribute to the funding of a Project Management Office, with some Members seeing the merit of this support being factored in while others felt that Truro Town Deal Board should operate alone going forward.
- GCG advised that this would operate across the four Cornish towns and thus provide economy of scale. He also advised that other towns were opting to include this figure.
- GCG also noted that the inclusion of this additional ask would generate important conversation with Government about the requirement to support towns in developing and delivering projects.
- CM advised that she would speak to her colleagues in Government to raise the issue of additional funding being required for business case development, and also colleagues in towns who submitted in earlier cohorts, to establish how they had managed project delivery costs.
- In order to make this request, CM noted that she would need detail of what the capacity budget had been spent on thus far and therefore requested an updated budget to be provided.

- MR advised that she had a meeting with Arup the following week to discuss final TIP 1 and TIP 2. She would specifically ask for their feedback on the total sum being requested within the TIP.
- CT commented that Arup would not dictate the approach the Board would take, but could offer informed advice which could be considered and acted upon as necessary.
- The Board agreed to approve the TIP asking for up to £28m, to include a proposed 1% revenue ask for a Project Management Office, but with delegating authority to CT and AS to make final amendments as necessary and following any advice from Arup regarding the total ask.
- It was noted that consultation with the Board via email would be conducted as required, and an Extraordinary Board meeting called if deemed necessary.

#### 7 **TIP 1 – latest draft**

- A draft had been circulated to the Board with the agenda pack.
- It was noted that the draft was a work in progress which continued to change, and further work had been done to the draft since its circulation to the Board, and that the Cornwall Council design team was currently working to populate the design template prior to submission.
- Board Members were asked to contact MR with comments/queries.
- The Board thanked MR for all her work in writing the TIP.
- MR in turn thanked the Board for their input.

#### 8 **Summary of agreements, actions and next steps**

- TIP Sections 1 and 2 to be sent to Arup by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, with feedback being provided by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.
- CT, AS, MR and MB to review feedback and judge significant feedback to communicate to the Board.
- Based on feedback, TIP production to continue, with CT and AS having delegated authority to amend content with written communication to the Board, or an extraordinary Board meeting called if necessary.
- A final version of the TIP would be circulated to the Board prior to submission.
- Any subsequent changes following Cornwall Council internal sign off process would also be communicated to the Board.

#### 9 **Date of Next Meeting**

- To be confirmed, dependant on need, and following TIP submission and feedback from Government.
- A meeting would be called in April, following decision from Government, and group emails would keep the Board in touch, with a meeting being called in the meantime if necessary.
- The Board thanked CT as Chair for getting the Board to the point of TIP submission.