

Minutes

Meeting Title: Truro Town Deal Board

Date: 03/02/2022

Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chaired by: Alan Stanhope

Attendees: Voting Members: Phil Allen (PA), Bert Biscoe (BB), Rachel Hammond (RH – joined 2.25pm), David Harris (DH), Simon Hendra (SH), Alun Jones (AJ), Nigel King (NK – joined 3.04pm), Cherilyn Mackrory (CM – joined 2.42pm), Rob Nolan (RN), Loic Rich (LR – left 3.28pm), Nick Seaton-Burrige (NSB), David Walrond (DW), Chris Wells (CW).

Officers: Sarah Corbett (SC), Claire Hurley (CH), Phillip Woods (PW), Helen Nicholson (HN), Melissa Burrow (MB), Iain Mackelworth (IM), Emily Kent (EK), Rachel Picken (RP – left 3.21pm)

Presenters: Andrew Archer (AA – attended 2.08-2.33pm), Ben Smith-Laing (BSL - attended 2.08-2.33pm), Roger Gazzard (RG - attended 2.09-2.49pm)

Apologies: None

1 Consent of all present to record meeting

- All present consented to the meeting being recorded for the purpose of assisting with minute production.

2 Welcome and Apologies

- Apologies noted above.
- The Chair welcomed PA to the board and introduced SC as the Town Deal Support Officer supporting the board meetings.

3 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interest

- BB declared an interest in Truro City Council

4 Minutes of Last Meeting and Action Tracker

- The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record with one amendment: on p2, clarify that the Royal Cornwall Museum doesn't have space to accommodate everything they collect.
- **ACTION 1:** SC to amend minutes of December 2021 board meeting as above.
- On the action tracker, Actions 1 and 2 had been completed. Actions 3 and 5 were to be covered under agenda item 8, PMO Update. Action 4 was in progress – an additional meeting in April was to be arranged. CH to check that Action 6 had been completed.

5 Matters Arising Not Covered on the Agenda

- None

6 Project Lead Presentations

Sustainable Transport

- Andrew Archer (Town Deal Transport Lead for Cornwall Council led projects) and Ben Smith-Laing (Technical Director – Transportation, Hydrock) gave a verbal update on this project with a written update on-screen.
- **ACTION 2:** SC to circulate AA's update on transport projects to the board.
- AA gave an update on the project including potentially adding two further schemes in order to expand the project's catchment area and strengthen its business case.
- Further feasibility work was needed to determine whether the additional schemes would stay in the Town Deal.
- He noted that construction costs had increased significantly and schemes would need to be reviewed once technical work had been completed.
- Designs should be with the board in mid to late February for discussion.
- Following the presentation concerns were raised that one of the schemes could constrain traffic flow, however AA advised that any changes would be modelled and findings would be brought back to the board.
- Regarding how the proposals would contribute to improving economic value for Truro, AA advised that they were looking at the wider economic value the transport schemes would bring to the city.
- AA confirmed that the business case could be produced in time for submission to Government in June 2022.
- CH noted that some business cases would need further development and some risk would be carried forward.
- **ACTION 3:** PMO to update work programme.
- AA assured the board that it would be possible to reduce the scope of the project in if necessary due to increasing costs.
- LR expressed his support for the projects and the benefits they would bring.
- CM noted that she had written to the Secretary of State about increasing construction costs to find out their approach to this for Town Deals.

New Life for City Buildings

- Roger Gazzard (Truro City Council) gave a verbal update on this project including progress on business case development, how the project would address cost escalation and plans for engagement with property owners in the city centre.
- Following the presentation RG took questions covering the way in which projects supported by New Life for City Buildings (NLFCB) would be funded.
- Adding fire escapes to listed buildings can be costly/impractical and it was suggested that the project could provide potential projects with an initial inspection to see if a grant from NLFSB would be enough. RG agreed they would follow this up.
- Further work on the business plan would indicate how much value Town Deal funding would generate through this project.

7 **Verbal reports from board members re. projects**

- AS noted that Royal Cornwall Museum was not on the list of projects on the agenda but SH was welcome to comment if he wished.

Green Transport

- LR advised that because the work on Highertown Gap was not going ahead more money was available for the rest of the project. He felt the proposals presented by AA were good and hoped the board would welcome them too.

The Hive

- This project been delayed due to a delay in getting planning consent.
- CW shared the timeline and advised they were working to prepare the business case to meet the Government deadline.
- CH noted that the Hive would be approved by Cornwall Council as part of the wider Pydar regeneration scheme, but it would have its own business case in time for the Government deadline.

Truro Community Hub

- BB updated the board advising that the project was progressing well. Good progress had been made in writing the business case and a planning application was in progress.

New Life for City Buildings

- This had been covered under Item 6.

Lemon Quay

- NSB informed the board that business case development was on schedule.
- The project plan now included more detail on the improvements to the piazza, but some important elements had been taken out which was a concern.
- NSB to flag these areas of concern at the stakeholders' meeting next week.
- **ACTION 4:** MB to feedback from the stakeholders' meeting re the changes to the Lemon Quay project plan and the board to note the concerns raised.

Truro Harbour

- PA noted that feasibility work had concluded that a marina in Truro was only feasible if accompanied by shoreside development.
- After engaging with Cornwall Council the project team had found that it was not possible to develop Garras Wharf at this time, so Town Quay was the new focus.
- MB advised that she would be distributing the feasibility and options reports. They were currently considering which schemes would deliver greatest benefit.
- There was some discussion of whether to challenge the decision that Garras Wharf could not be built on.

Royal Cornwall Museum

- SH gave an update noting that a project manager had been appointed and applications for funding had been made. The RCM team were confident they would meet the deadline.

Boscawen Sport and Recreation

- NK addressed the project's red risk rating and updated the board on progress and discussions with Truro City Council.
- BB added that Ward Williams were advising Truro City Council on the business case and it should be in place by the end of February.

9 **Programme Management Office Update**

- The Programme Highlight Report and Risk Register had been circulated with the agenda pack.
- CH noted there were two red risks in the Highlight Report, Boscawen Park and New Life for City Buildings, due to concerns about producing their business cases on time.
- CH took the board through the next steps in the programme.
- CH advised the board that their role when appraising projects was to focus on the strategic and economic cases and how the projects deliver the vision set out in the Town Investment Plan.
- **ACTION 5:** SC to circulate CH's presentation showing the programme to submission
- CH was asked how the economic case for the Truro Town Deal was being developed. She explained that things such as environment or health and wellbeing could be taken into account and the PMO had asked Mutual Ventures to include this in the economic cases. The strength of the town's case would also be shown through the projects' outputs and outcomes.

10 **Communications Update**

- CH gave an update on Truro Town Deal communications.
- Agile PR had been contracted to carry out communications for the Town Deal and would provide monthly updates to the board.
- Agile were considering running a wider engagement programme in April/May and were working on a marketing kit for the Town Deal.

11 **Any other Business**

- None

12 **Items for next agenda**

- None

13 **Date of Next Meeting**

- 17th March 2022

14. **Papers for information**

The following paper was noted:

- Work Programme

Meeting ended: 4.03pm