

Minutes

Meeting Title: Truro Town Deal Board

Date: 17/03/22

Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chaired by: Alan Stanhope (AS)

Attendees: Voting Members: Bert Biscoe (BB), Rachel Hammond (RH), David Harris (DH), Simon Hendra (SH – left 4.26pm), Alun Jones (AJ), Nigel King (NK – left 3.30pm, re-joined 4.02pm), Cherilyn Mackrory (CM), Rob Nolan (RN – left 4.30pm), Loic Rich (LR – joined 3.51pm), Nick Seaton-Burridge (NSB), David Walrond (DW), Chris Wells (CW).

Officers: Sarah Corbett (SC), Claire Hurley (CH), Aurore Parkin (AP), Phillip Woods (PW), Helen Nicholson (HN), Melissa Burrow (MB), Rachel Picken (RP), Jarrod Barter (JB)

Apologies: SH to leave at 4.30pm, Iain Mackleworth

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.

3 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interest

- NK to leave meeting during discussion of Town Quay as part of the Truro Harbour and Lemon Quay project under item 6.
- DH – noted he had interests in many places, for example in relation to match funding provided by Cornwall Council.
- BB – noted he was a member of Truro City Council and Vice Chair of the Parks Committee that manages Boscawen Park.

4 Minutes of Last Meeting and Action Tracker

- The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.
- All actions had been completed.

5 Matters Arising Not Covered on the Agenda

- Since the agenda and papers had been sent out four business cases had been received so there would be an extra agenda item, 7a, to discuss them.

6 Project Lead Presentations

Truro Harbour and Lemon Quay

- MB gave an update on the above project and shared a presentation on-screen.
- A significant shortfall in funding was calculated in the Cost Estimates report. Reasons for the cost increase included addition of maintenance costs, a more detailed costing of the lifting bridge and the national cost inflation resulting from economic changes.
- The project team were considering how the project could be altered to make it affordable and an options assessment was being carried out.
- Concern was raised that the business case did not mention connecting Boscawen Park with Newham Business District.
- CH advised that the PMO were mindful of the interdependencies between projects and would ensure they were reflected in the programme submitted to Government.
- **ACTION 1:** MB to return to consultants and ask them to reference the interdependencies in the business case.
- CM had asked the Chancellor if more Town Deal funding would be made available, but he had said no. She asked if additional funding from other sources was being considered.
- CH advised that as most of the assets in this project were public sector there was not much scope for bringing private sector funding in. However, it would be possible to look for revenue and private sector funding for other projects.
- ARUP had recently been reinstated to offer support to Town Deal Boards and could provide a workshop on subjects such as attracting private finance.
- **ACTION 2:** CH to arrange for ARUP to run a workshop for Truro Town Deal Board on attracting private finance.
- The importance of this project, and the bridge in particular, to Truro Town Deal was noted by board members.
- NK left the meeting because of a potential conflict of interests related to the next matter for discussion, Town Quay.
- CH updated the board on the Town Quay element of the project.

7 Verbal reports from board members re. projects

The Hive – CW

- The business case was on track to be submitted on time.

- There was a shortfall in project costs, but Falmouth University was seeking alternative funds.

Business Cases

7a

- The PMO had asked the board to focus on the economic and strategic cases when reviewing the business cases.
- The Chair proposed that board members email any detailed questions about the business cases to the PMO and copy in the board. Any broader questions could be discussed at this meeting.
- This was agreed and it was noted that replies from the PMO would be needed before the next meeting, 27th April.
- CH reviewed the appraisal process noting that business cases were being appraised by colleagues in the Council's Economic Growth Service and MWJV would assess non-Council projects. Any questions the PMO could address immediately they would, other questions would be collated with those from the appraisers and MWJV and be returned to the projects. Responses would then be fed back to the board.
- Questions about business cases' alignment with the Levelling Up agenda, appraisal of key metrics and whether there was scope for giving projects longer to deliver were raised.
- CM advised that she had asked the Chancellor if further funding would be available, but had not asked about time.
- **ACTION:** CM to follow up with colleagues whether additional time could be made available for Town Deal delivery.
- The business cases for Truro Community Hub, Boscawen Park, Royal Cornwall Museum and New Life for City Buildings were then discussed.

Truro Community Hub – BB

- CH noted that as the accountable body Cornwall Council is most focused on risk and therefore Planning. A response on the pre-app was awaited.
- BB advised that complex discussions were being held with Planning, because the project involved refitting an ecclesiastical building, but they were making good progress.
- NK re-joined the meeting

Boscawen Sport and Recreation – NK

- The project team were discussing the pavilion with the architects. It was noted that it could be downsized if necessary to reduce costs.
- NK covered planned income streams and advised that he was confident that the project will be successful.
- Some queries about the business case were raised. NK answered as far as possible, but they will be picked up in the appraisal of the business case.

Royal Cornwall Museum (RCM) - SH

- The RCM team were confident the Town Deal funding would enable the project to go ahead, but whether they would obtain match funding and whether the project would be able to proceed in the Town Deal timeframe remained risks.

New Life for City Buildings – NSB

- The basic business plan had been approved and a framework had been agreed for running and monitoring the scheme.
 - NSB described the next steps and advised that good progress was being made.
 - CMc would provide a checklist for people wishing to develop buildings to make the process easier.
 - NSB was asked if the project's development company would keep any buildings it renovates to retain the revenue. He advised that it was possible, but the intention was to sell and reuse the money to refurbish other buildings.
 - Whether a project manager would be needed was discussed. It was felt that allocating some resource to manage the Town Deal reporting requirements would be beneficial.
 - DH had a number of questions about the project.
 - **ACTION:** DH to forward questions re NLCB project to NSB
- An update on Truro Harbour & Lemon Quay had been provided under item 6.
 - Updates on the other projects were not given.

8 Programme Management Office Update

- The Programme Highlight Report and Risk Register had been circulated with the agenda pack.
- CH agreed that additional resource at Truro City Council to manage the Town Deal funds would be useful as it is public money.
- **ACTION:** CH to review revenue funding at programme level to make more available to manage NCLB.
- Highlight report – superseded by Items 7 and 7a
- **ACTION:** Board to send any questions about business cases to CH or MB.

9 Communications Update

- RP gave an update on Truro Town Deal communications.
- She was planning to carry out community engagement later in the year when robust business cases will be in place. This would be aligned with other engagement activity in Truro and would be both online and in person.
- RP was working with Inner Circle on engagement around the Pydar Street project.

10 Any other Business

- BB noted that the relationship with Planning was important in moving the projects forward and suggested inviting the head of Planning to a future meeting.
- CH advised that she would be meeting with her very soon.
- **ACTION:** CH to invite Louise Wood to future Truro Town Deal Board meeting.

11 **Date of Next Meeting**

- 27th April 2022, 3.00-5.00pm (extraordinary meeting)
- 5th May 2022, 3.00-5.00pm

12. **Papers for information**

The following paper was noted:

- Work Programme

Meeting ended: 5.58pm