

Stocksbridge Town Deal Board (STDB)

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 16th May, 10:30am

LOCATION: Towns Fund Office, Stocksbridge Library, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge

CO-CHAIRS: Miriam Cates MP
Yuri Matischen

ATTENDEES:

Board members attending:

- Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- Yuri Matischen, MD MLSBG (YM)
- Neil Curtis, Community representative (NC)
- Gail Larking, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (GL)
- Kathryn Giles Bowman, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (KGB)
- John Crawshaw, JW Crawshaw Ltd
- Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (GS)
- Sean McClean Director of Regen SCC (SM)
- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council & Stocksbridge Town Council

Also attending:

- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Dermot Reader – Project Manager (DR)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)

Apologies:

- Dave Cates, Redemption Media (DC)
- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit)



Minutes

1. **Item:** Welcome and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and discuss any issues arising Miriam Cates

Previous meeting minutes were agreed.

Matters arising – HV reported that regarding the Rivers Project, the match funding discussed at the April Board Meeting had resulted in contact been made with the Steel Valley Project. A letter has been drafted to confirm that in principle a small sum may be available as match funding, if they go forward with funding bids to other organisations. The Towns Fund would expect the same project outputs to be delivered.

Former Factory Shop building – HV confirmed that he had spoken to IS who wasn't able to attend the previous month's Board meeting. This was to obtain an update around the potential interest from a private buyer who may be interested in the Factory Shop. No decision has yet been made and IS will continue to update Board members if this position changes.

Sports Hub – HV said that a small budget can be made available to undertake the Sports Hub feasibility study around shared facilities and objectives. HV needs to meet with YM and GS to agree the spec for this.

2. **Item:** Declaration of interest – to declare any interests in items on the agenda Miriam Cates

YM declared an interest in the sports hub feasibility report commissioning as he may be aware, through his work, of some of the company's bidding for this report work.

3. **Item:** Education Hub

Emma Beal the Principal of Northern College was welcomed by Board members and gave an update and review about the plans for the new Skills and Education Hub which will be part of the Stocksbridge 519 building. Emma explained the background to Northern College and said that there is an existing bus service between the college and Stocksbridge. She said that NC will aim to tailor an offer for the local community which will enable local learners to explore new opportunities, gain new skills and receive return to work support. She said that there is a great focus around social inclusion as well as health and wellbeing.

EB outlined that the College has been in touch with local employers to ensure strong links and she said an awareness and engagement campaign would begin in the academic year before the 519 building opens.

The team working on the project will ensure everything is timed correctly. The Education and Skills Hub will be based on the top floor of the 519 building.

EB outlined figures for across the South Yorkshire region which showed 42,000 16-64 year olds are currently economically inactive. She said there was also an issue of some people having no qualifications and being shut out from accessing opportunities. These are some of the issues that the new facility will aim to overcome. The South Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan has identified digital skills as a key area of need.

Survey work was undertaken during 2022 through the Stocksbridge Town Deal team to engage with the local community about the type of skills and learning opportunities they would like to see in Stocksbridge. EB said this had been a really useful exercise and will be fed in to inform the design of the courses. There had been some interest expressed with arts, crafts and languages, but any “leisure learning” would likely not be funded and would have some cost attached.

EB also talked through the current “Five Ways to Wellbeing” provision and said it would be desirable to use some outdoor space.

MC thanked EB for an excellent presentation and said that she welcomed this new resource for the local community that NC would deliver in the 519 building.

IS said that as a new state of the art library is a key part of the project it would be a good idea for the NC team to link with the library team and create a knowledge hub. He said there are three key players in the building, NC, the managed workspace and the new Library and they will be able to collaborate. EB agreed.

JG added that having this kind of support within the community is going to be important and YM added that linking with employers would also be important. He added that financial literacy courses would also be an excellent part of a course offering.

Action: EB will continue to liaise with HV re timescales and will circulate the presentation shared at the Board meeting.

4. Item: Expressions of Interest : Howard Varns / Sean McClean

Hopper Bus Eol:

Expressions of Interest for the Hopper Bus project closed on May 13th. HV reported that four organisations had engaged with the opportunity to work with the Board to develop and deliver the new local bus service for Stocksbridge and the surrounding areas. Two of the four organisations have returned complete proposals. These will be reviewed and evaluated against the criteria from w/c 20th May 2024.

It is hoped that a presentation could be given at the next Board workshop where they can set out a timeline for delivery.

The Board discussed the need to “brand” the service with a strong local identity.

IS asked how quickly the service could be up and running. HV said that it normally takes three months to register a route but it may be possible to be achieved that more quickly. But the preferred operator themselves will have to advise on this as they will have to understand the supply chain timescales for vehicles and staff recruitment, and the funding agreement itself needs to be agreed between the preferred operator and the Council. Which then requires Finance Committee sign-off. Until these elements are negotiated and agreed then this grant award move forward to gain approval.

MC said that the project needs to be pushed forward. The service needs to be operatable by September 1st and it was vital it hit this deadlines. HV said that should be achievable if there are no complications in contracting and the operator can deliver vehicles and staff and as yet we do not have this information.

519 Hub Building EoI

The (EoI) notice was let w/c 6th May and the Council has so far received seven expressions of interest. The EoI period remains open.

SMc said that he was very optimistic from these are strong early signs of interest and that this competitive process will drive quality and value when we contract. He gave a brief overview and presentation of the YorBuild framework, explaining that it is local authorities led across the Yorkshire region. He outlined the added value that this approach can bring in terms of allowing smaller organisations to benefit and the wider community benefit.

IS welcomed the good number of early expressions of interest and asked if it would perhaps be possible to explore optimising community benefit.

GS asked about the tender process and SMC said that it would not be possible to go out to tender until there was certainty on a start date for the build.

5. Item: Land Acquisition

Sean McClean

SMc outlined that in order to secure the properties required; the Council’s Chief Property Officer needs to approve transactions once contracts with landowners or seek authority to commence with Compulsory Purchase if acquisitions cannot be agreed.

He said that the Council has refreshed the independent property valuations and these now reflect current transactions. Two properties are still not secured.

DR added that ecological surveys are currently underway on the high street as these have to take place during the bat nesting period from May – August.

6. Placemaking:

Dermot Reader

DR gave a comprehensive overview of the current placemaking plans. He identified that there is a 20m section of wall directly opposite the precinct which is very narrow and it has been identified by Highways colleagues that this should be widened. This could have a potential impact on trees and / or parking on this part of Manchester Road. He said there was a wide discussion with multiple stakeholders around this issue and all had very valid points.

JG made that point that if they are suggesting it is not safe now Highways should be challenged about what is currently being done to mitigate the issue. JC said that Manchester Rd had previously been much busier for footfall and pedestrians and he was not aware as a local trader for several decades of any safety issues in this area. Other areas could be located for crossing points.

There will be traffic calming measures in this part of Manchester Rd and a new speed restriction of 20mph. The Board agreed that the Transport Design Team should be asked to come up with a robust solution.

7. Item: Phase 2, Sports Hub

Ian Sanderson

IS outlined that he had been working with JC and GS to progress discussions around the 3G pitch proposals and significant progress had been made. He said there had been several meetings with relevant stakeholders and more than one party was interested in operating the pitch.

He added that the FF needed SCC to liaise with them in order to progress this to the next stage. IS said he is optimistic that it could be possible to get 75% of the funding from the FF and it could deliver over deliver on pitches and that this was a great opportunity given the demand in the local area. IS shared some images including the pitches in situ at Bracken Moor as an illustration.

MC said that this had become a live opportunity and should be explored as far as possible.

HV agreed that he would speak to Gareth Hayden and Kate Clark about the 3G project. SCC would also validate the position with the FF and review the principles of IS proposal to understand them further. The scoping / masterplan work around sports association will also being progressed separately.

8. Item: Communications Update

Howard V

HV said that this would be AH's last Board meeting and whilst a replacement had not yet been appointed there have been discussions about a shared Comms role working across all the regeneration / levelling up projects across Sheffield. He said that it would need to be looked at how the role could be divided up differently in the future.

9. Item: Financial update

Howard V

A budget update was provided.

10. Item: AOB.

IS sought clarity that there was an understanding within SCC to move towards a Community Interest Company model for ownership of the 519 Hub building. A Stocksbridge Legacy Committee could be established. IS added that he felt it was important that everyone understood the direction the Board wished to move in around this matter. SMC confirmed that this was understood at the highest level at SCC and a piece of work would be undertaken later in the year by HV to develop this model.

Next meeting: 10:30 – 20th June 2024