

Stocksbridge Town Deal Board

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 20th July 2023, 10:30am

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

CO-CHAIRS: Miriam Cates
Yuri Matischen

ATTENDEES:

Board members attending:

- Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- Yuri Matischen, MD MLSBG (YM)
- Sean McClean Director of Regen SCC (SM)
- Neil Curtis, Community representative (NC)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council Stocksbridge Town Council
- John Crawshaw, Crawshaws Butchers
- Gail Larking, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (GL)
- Kathryn Giles Bowman, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (KGB)

Also attending:

- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Matt Dixon, Constituency Office Manager for MC (MD)
- Natalia Govorukhina – Finance and Commercial Business Partner (NG)
- Dermot Reader – Project Manager (DR)
- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit)

Apologies:

- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (GS)
- Dave Cates, Redemption Media (DC)
- Gail Larking, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (GL) / Kathryn Giles Bowman, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (KGB)
- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- John Crawshaw, Crawshaws Butchers



Minutes

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

Previous minutes agreed with no issues arising.

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

No interests declared.

3. **Item:** Sheffield Pathfinder Update **Sam Townsend**

ST outlined that the Government had committed to simplifying the funding landscape across the various grant funding schemes overseen by DLUHC. As Sheffield has four current projects running including the Stocksbridge Towns Fund the authority is one of ten local authorities invited to join the Simplification Pathfinder Pilot. This gives greater flexibility around change requests for the local authority, allows for one single portfolio payment and combines outcomes and outputs. It also allows for up to 20% of the funding for each project to be moved between funding pots. ST said that Stocksbridge would be treated as a special case and a geographic ringfence would be put in place to ensure that the funds would stay in the town. An Investment Plan is to be produced and this will be reflected in the document.

MC said that she had serious concerns about this scheme as it appeared to suggest that £5m of the STF funding could be used for projects in other parts of Sheffield. MC added that whilst she could see the benefit of this across the city centre projects she would like to see a watertight document protecting the Stocksbridge investment and ensuring that the £24.1m is ringfenced and that this is “future proofed” for the life of the project.

JG said that it made perfect sense to be able to team and ladle but that the £24.1m for Stocksbridge needs to be ringfenced and must be protected and be spent in Stocksbridge.

SM said that the scheme would simplify the process for SCC and enable officers to work more efficiently. He added that all projects were fully committed and he could not see a situation where there would be a surplus in any of the project. He added that a briefing note was being prepared to share with the 3 MP sponsors of the various funding schemes including the STF.

YM suggested that the STFB should write to the SCC Chief Executive to ask for written confirmation that the investment will be ringfenced for Stocksbridge. MC agreed.

Action: letter to be drafted and send to SCC CEO

4. Item: Land Acquisition

Howard V

HV provided an update to the board about land acquisition issues to deliver the library and community hub building as well as the placemaking scheme. Some progress has been made and a further meeting are being held in September which will hopefully bring clarity to the situation around the key properties involved.

5. Item: Project Update: Active Trails

Howard V

HV outlined the background to the Active Trails project. Discussion confirmed the project's outputs could be delivered in a better way. SCC and Yorkshire Water's officers have in recent months undertaken work to scope the opportunities for developing a partnership approach to delivering a more cost effective and Stocksbridge-focussed Trails project that would put Stocksbridge's residents and visitors at its centre. A workshop with Board members took place in June where the outline of a new scope was reviewed and discussed. The approach suggests a change to the focus of the Towns Fund's investment to that originally envisaged. The proposed project will create a better connection to Underbank reservoir from Stocksbridge Town Centre and work in partnership with Yorkshire Water to jointly fund a significant upgrade to the user/ visitor infrastructure at Underbank itself. This could include: leveraging external funding from Yorkshire Water for major infrastructure upgrades; Yorkshire Water to part fund an enhanced "Hopper" bus service; creation of over 20km of new trails at Underbank a new road crossing; new off-street car parking (alleviating on-street parking which blights local residents), and an activity and event programme. This approach has numerous benefits and greatly increases the delivery of the outputs required by government and levers in external funding from Yorkshire Water. The June workshop welcomed this approach and the opportunity to work with Yorkshire Water. The Board agreed that the project concept should be developed in detail and include feasibility work to lock down delivery costs and options. Board members were asked to ratify this position.

JG said that the economic development of the town had to be the key factor. She added that she would love to see the Upper Don Trail route completed but that without the wider funding the Stocksbridge section could be a road to nowhere and working with Yorkshire Water within Stocksbridge was a better option for the TF investment. Stocksbridge Walkers Are Welcome have always been keen to see a safe

crossing at Underbank as have horse riders and this would be provided. MC welcomed the consultation with local people and outlined that following the public questioning around the decision-making process from parties within an interest in the Upper Don Trail that a response was required to the Upper Don Trail Trust to correct inaccuracies and misunderstandings. The information that some representatives of the group are sharing is in a large part not factually correct.

Board members voted unanimously to ratify the decision of the June board workshop around the change in direction of the Trails Project. HV said that there would be a further update when the project was further developed.

Action: Project sponsors to arrange to meet the Chair of the UDTT.

6. Item: Projects Update: Summary

Howard V

HV worked through the summary document.

Community Hub: Land acquisition had already been discussed and how this might affect the timing of planning submission and sequencing. HV reported that good progress had been made on the design development. The managed workspace will be let to an occupier and a grant agreement will be formed with the education provider to deliver the adult education provision on the upper floor. HV said that progress had been made on finding a temporary location for the Library to operate a local service during the construction phase.

It is hoped that planning could be submitted in September, followed by the tender period and a start on site in March 2024.

Placemaking: HV reported that the project was progressing, sponsor / champion meetings were underway and a scheme has been worked up looking at the area in front of the library / precinct and the land where Bargain Booze currently sits. DR reported that engagement with precinct shopkeepers is ongoing about the shop front scheme and AH is circulating a letter requesting permission to undertake more detailed surveys.

Bus Project: The issue regarding eligibility for concessionary fares support has hopefully been resolved following a positive meeting with SYMCA. SYMCA intend to provide a grant to enable scheme to operate on service. Details are being worked through with colleagues from SYMCA.

Sports Hub: Planning advice has confirmed that Oxley Park is not suitable for the 3G pitch so an alternative site is being reviewed at Bracken Moor working with partners on this project from the Football Foundation. An initial review is being undertaken. HV reported that the ECB was now working with the Cricket Club on the delivery of the new Sports Pavilion at Stocksbridge Cricket Club at Bracken Moor. An agreement needs to be developed but significant issue and misunderstandings remains and this project will need

to pause until these are addressed. The ECB have not followed the Council's instruction and have planned and costed a larger pavilion than the one that has been agreed. This needs to be re-costed against the agreed specification for the building. It is the TF Board's duty to deliver value for money (and re-invest any additional budget back into other community project's in line with its priorities) and as this increase in scope is not agreed (and was in fact was specifically dismissed) HV will communicate this, and request new costs and confirmation on how the ECB will manage VAT within the project. This project can't progress until this is resolved and it might be that we need to revert back to the approach where the Council undertakes the work required and third parties aren't used or we look at different projects to invest in if this is a dead-end with the club.

YM said that the rugby and football clubs were very keen to have an update on their funding agreement as they had now lost the window to start work during the off season. HV said this was with the legal team. A grant agreement will be formed and this will need to be approved by CPG. It was agreed that the project manager for this part of the programme should make contact with the clubs and explain the process and reason for the perceived delay.

Action: Update the Football and Rugby Clubs on the grant position

Oxley Park P2: The design team are finalising detailed design work ahead of commencing with planning app in late August. Target for start on site is October for the footpaths and March 2024 for the skatepark. JG as project sponsor / champion added that a very positive update had been held with the project team and an engagement session to update residents would be held in Aug / Sept. The skatepark area design will incorporate areas of wildflower / meadow planting and will be much lower than the existing structure.

Hydrotherapy Pool: HV reported that a constructive meeting had been held with two of the Leisure Centre Trustees and SCC to set a timeline of next steps and discuss how the project will be managed. A project manager for the Hydrotherapy Pool will be appointed at the end of the month which means an architect can then be appointed to progress the initial designs for planning.

Rivers Project: HV reported that this project is progressing and the delivery arrangements are being finalised. NC confirmed the project champion / sponsor meetings have been helpful.

7. Item: Communications Update

AH has updated the Comms plan and is organising engagement sessions around Oxley Park P2 ahead of planning and The Trails Project around the new proposals at Underbank Reservoir.

AH is also working on the engagement with businesses around the Shopfront Improvement Scheme.

PR is prepped for the Bus Project (expressions of interest) and AH with speak to Look Local about regular updates across the projects.

A Comms Timeline is being sent to ST at DHLUC around potential for media opportunities.

8. Item: Financial update

Natalia G

As per NGs document which was circulated ahead of the meeting. YM requested a breakdown of officer's fees incurred to date.

9. Item: AOB No items for discussion

10.Item: HV confirmed that there would be no meeting in August and that the next meeting would be on September 21st and will be a full board meeting.