

Meeting Minutes

PROJECT	Town Deal – Member Reference Group		
DATE	19 January 2021	LOCATION	Virtual meeting using Zoom

Attendees	
Councillor Bokor (Chair)	Lead Member Loughborough
County Councillor Max Hunt	Loughborough North West
County Councillor Betty Newton	Loughborough North
County Councillor Jewel Miah	Loughborough East
County Councillor Ted Parton	Loughborough South
County Richard Bailey	Loughborough Outwoods
Councillor Alice Brennan	Loughborough Shelthorpe
Councillor Sandie Forrest	Loughborough Storer
Councillor Kat Goddard	Loughborough Ashby
Councillor Colin Hamilton	Loughborough Hastings
Councillor Christine Harris	Loughborough Lemyngton
Councillor Paul Mercer	Loughborough Southfields
Councillor Geoff Parsons	Loughborough Nanpantan
Councillor Emma Ward	Dishley and Hathern
Eileen Mallon	Strategic Director of Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services
Chris Grace	Town Deal Project Manager
Richard Bennett	Head of Planning and Regeneration
Sylvia Wright	Head of Leisure and Culture
Sally Watson	Minute Taker (Charnwood Borough Council)

Apologies
No apologies were received.

Meeting Type (Team, Board or other)
Member Reference Group
Meeting Minutes
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Members confirmed that they were able to see and hear the proceedings and no apologies were given.</p>
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p>

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The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. It was highlighted that Councillor Parsons had attended the meeting on 18th November 2020 but had not been included within the attendees list in the minutes.

3. Loughborough Town Investment Plan

County Councillor Miah left the meeting briefly at approximately 5:30pm and re-joined at approximately 5:40pm.

Eileen Mallon provided an overview of the initial appraisal of the Loughborough Town Investment Plan by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the implications of that appraisal.

Initial feedback provided by MHCLG had highlighted positive aspects of the TIP, including the recognition of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and that this had formed a good basis upon which to develop the TIP. In addition, MHCLG had suggested various points of clarification and a strengthening of the narrative would be beneficial. Following these changes, the TIP would be submitted for full appraisal. Further detail on the feedback provided by MHCLG was outlined in the corresponding report (item 3 on the agenda filed with these notes).

It was stated that the contract with Third Life Economics had ended and that the redraft of the TIP was being undertaken by Charnwood Borough Council officers and was led by the Town Deal Board. The TIP had already been submitted as required and so the revised version would not contain changes to content or process but would be reformatted to include a new structure, simplifications, improvements in coherence and clarity where requested. The Council had consulted with HMCLG and ARUP in order to ensure the developments in the TIP were appropriate. There was little feedback on part two of the TIP which referred to the detail of individual projects.

Research had been undertaken to analyse the submissions of Towns in a similar position to the Loughborough Town Deal bid and also on those Towns that had moved into the next stage of full appraisal. It had been recognised that successful bids had aspects in common such as major capital projects, the development of existing proposals and fewer project owners (for example, more Local Authority projects).

The scoring matrix and the hierarchy of importance used by HMCLG was not known to the Council and so it was difficult to identify the most significant aims.

The next stage of the process would be to develop business cases for each individual project and at this stage the financial implications would be considered. The Loughborough Town TIP included a diverse variety of projects with different owners. Business cases for each project would be developed and assessed locally, with Charnwood Borough Council as the accountable body. Charnwood Borough Council-led project business cases would be undertaken by the LLEP. At the Heads of Terms stage, the Town Deal Board would need to decide on potential fast-tracked projects. Fast tracked projects would be allocated 8 weeks to complete a business case, whereas projects that were not fast tracked would have up to 12 months for development of a business case.

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Recommendation Agreed: That the Group notes the content of this report and advises the Board, via the Chair, that it would welcome the opportunity to comment on a draft of the revised Town Investment Plan.

In order to submit comments via the Chair, members of the group should email; cllr.jenny.bokor@charnwood.gov.uk

The deadline for comments is to be confirmed; please look out for an email confirming this.

The group had requested a further meeting in order to review the redrafted version of the TIP when following the consideration and comments of the Town Deal Board. This would be required to take place before 15th February 2021, when the final version of the redrafted TIP would be reviewed by the Town Deal Board. This date was to be arranged outside of the meeting.

4. Date of Next Meeting

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