

Loughborough Town Deal
Community Engagement and Consultation Group
19 January 2021

Agenda

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| 1. Welcome and Apologies | David Pagett-Wright |
| 2. Notes of Previous Meeting (p2) | David Pagett-Wright |
| 3. Loughborough Town Investment Plan (p7) | Chris Grace |
| 4. Date of Next Meeting | David Pagett-Wright |

Meeting Notes

PROJECT	Town Deal – Community Engagement and Consultation Group		
DATE	20 November 2020	LOCATION	Virtual meeting using Zoom

Attendees	
David Pagett-Wright	Chair
Kathy Phillips	Loughborough Heritage Forum
Alison Oliver	Youth Sports Trust
John Hardwick	Federation of Small Businesses
Alan Leather	Canal and River Trust
Jill Vincent	Charnwood Arts
Sue Blount	Kinch Bus
Alison Barlow	Loughborough University
David Ellard	Great Central Railway
Michael Gough	Great Central Railway
John Byrne	Youth Sport Trust
Lisa McKendry	Youth Sport Trust
Mark Greenwood	NHS Property Services
Andrew Mitchell	Environment Agency
Eileen Mallon	Strategic Director of Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services
Chris Grace	Loughborough Town Deal Project Manager
Richard Bennett	Head of Planning and Regeneration Services
Sylvia Wright	Head of Leisure and Culture
Sally Watson	Minute Taker

Apologies	
Ian McKellar	LATi
Stephen Marwood	Environment Agency
Philip Mulligan	Canal and River Trust
Kirsty Green	East Midlands Trains
Wendy Dalrymple	Rector
Mike Roberts	Communications Manager
Chrissie Van Mierlo	Bell Foundry Trust
Ross Ingham	Bell Foundry Trust
Kate Pinnock	Bell Foundry Trust

Meeting Type (Team, Board or other)
Community Engagement and Consultation Group
Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were noted as above and members of the group introduced themselves.

2. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

3. Cohort 1 Submissions and Outcomes

Chris Grace provided an overview of outcomes from Town Deal Cohort 1 submissions to date and the characteristics of those Town Investment Plans where the Government has announced in-principle funding allocations.

It was highlighted that there had been an additional cohort introduced by the Government (cohort 2a, deadline 11th December 2020) as a number of Towns had indicated that they would not meet the cohort 2 deadline.

None of the Towns that had submitted to cohort 1 and had had announcements made on the funding offered had received the full amount of funding that had been bid for. These Towns had received around 10-20% less than the amount bid for. There were a number of Towns submitted to cohort 1 that had not had announcements made on the funding offered.

There had not been themes identified regarding the types of projects that were considered more or less favourable by the Government, although it was thought that the revenue requests of some projects had been assessed relatively harshly. There had also been no trend identified regarding match funding, and project deliverables were considered to be a more significant aspect.

It was expected that in some aspects of the TIP, there would be some flexibility in terms of the ways in which to utilise funding allocated and to adjust timelines where necessary. However, there would also be areas in which strict conditions were attached to projects.

Recommendation Agreed: That Members note the content of this report.

4. Loughborough Town Investment Plan

Eileen Mallon and Chris Grace updated the group on the submission of the Loughborough Town Investment Plan.

The projects contained within the TIP were;

Transport & Digital Infrastructure - £3.6m

- Connected Loughborough
- Electric Loughborough

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Urban regeneration, planning and land use - £14.6m

- Development Accelerator
- Living Loughborough
- Gateways to the Town Centre

Arts, Culture and Heritage - £3.6m

- Taylor's Bellfoundry and Great Central Railway
- Loughborough GeneratorHi there,
- Riverside Regeneration

Skills & Employability - £3.8m

- Careers and Enterprise Hub
- Loughborough College Digital Skills Hub
- Generation Loughborough

Enterprise - £1.8m

- Sportpark Expansion and Wayfinder Scheme

Microprojects - £1.1m

- Community and Business Capital Grants Scheme

Foundation and cross-cutting interventions - £3.2m

- Loughborough University as an Anchor Institution
- Flood Defence Scheme

Officers thanked members of the Community Engagement and Consultation Group for their input, views and influence over the projects submitted. It was recognised that the projects incorporated within the TIP were diverse and reflected the unique attributes of Loughborough. The work put into the TIP demonstrated that Loughborough was innovative, active, healthy and a leader in cultural and economic development.

Recommendation Agreed: That the Group notes the content of this report and acknowledges how important a number of stakeholders have been in bringing forward projects which are included within the Investment Plan.

5. Town Deal Next Steps

Chris Grace provided an explanation of what was expected to happen now that the Town Investment Plan had been completed and described some of the next steps that the Town Deal Board and its supporting team will need to take.

The process which determined whether funding would be released to facilitate implementation of a Town Deal can be viewed as having 3 phases according to MHCLG guidance:

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- Phase 1 - completion and submission of the Town Investment Plan (TIP)
- Phase 2 – appraisal of the TIP and agreement of Heads of Terms
- Phase 3 – development of full business cases leading to release of funding.

The Loughborough Town Deal was currently in phase 2 and it was difficult to determine time lines towards moving into phase 3. It was anticipated that the Head of Terms would be agreed between January and March 2021 but this was not certain. Heads of Terms were negotiable and following the agreement, liaison would be required with stakeholders and project leads to determine individual project timelines.

It was expected that any issues or errors with the TIP would be communicated back to the Council shortly after submission, as was the case following TIP submissions from other Towns. There had been no communication of this nature from Government at present and so it was likely there were no issues to report.

It was highlighted that there was still a significant amount of work to be undertaken on developing the TIP and the projects involved within it. Some of this work would include business cases developed by stakeholders that had successfully submitted projects and this requirement would be communicated to the relevant stakeholders when more information was available. It was also expected that timelines for this work to be complete and submitted to Government would be tight and it was not clear at this point whether this would be flexible.

An overall Town Delivery Plan would need to be established, along with a summary document of each project, which would require substantive detail. In addition, the team was required to create an engagement plan which would outline the roles of the different groups involved within the Town Deal process, and the ways in which local communities and stakeholders could be involved. Monitoring data would also be required for reporting at six-month intervals.

Following the agreement of Heads of Terms, there could be an opportunity to connect the TIP to other forms of funding.

It was expected that the Generator Project could receive further funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It was highlighted that the Loughborough Heritage Forum would be a useful stakeholder in the further development of projects associated with the nature of the Forum.

It was agreed that the group remained a valuable resource and that Community Engagement and Consultation meetings would continue, with frequency dependent on key milestones as the Town Deal progressed.

Recommendation Agreed: That the Group notes the content of this report and agrees to continue meeting to help support the Town Deal Board and take forward the implementation of the Town Investment Plan.

6. Up Front Funding Update

Eileen Mallon and Chris Grace provided an update on the use of £750,000 'upfront' Towns Fund funding which was awarded to Loughborough in order to 'kickstart' the town deal

Meeting Notes

process.

The Careers and Enterprise Hub was selected to receive the full sum. It was stated that the Government could request funds back in the event that the project was not delivered by the March 2021 deadline. The Council had purchased a property within the Town Centre in order to develop the hub facility.

It was suggested that the Federation for Small Businesses could potentially support the development and rollout of the Careers and Enterprise Hub through publicising and advertising services and offering advice and support. In addition, the Loughborough Heritage Forum was able to provide volunteers to produce historical documentation of the building purchased by Charnwood Borough Council. This would support advertisement of the services offered by the Hub and provide an attraction to the building and services.

The other projects suggested for use of the £750,000 upfront funding would still be included within the TIP but would not be supported by the upfront fund and therefore completion of these projects would not be required in March 2021.

Recommendation Agreed: That the group notes the content of this report.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

Loughborough Town Deal Community Engagement Group

19 January 2021

Item 3– Loughborough Town Investment Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides 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.

Recommendation:

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.

2. Background

- 2.1 MHCLG requires Town Deal locations to submit a Town Investment Plan (TIP) in accordance with its Guidance. Any town which does not submit a TIP will not be able to receive Town Deal funding from the Towns Fund.
- 2.2 Loughborough's TIP, produced by consultancy Third Life Economics Ltd and overseen and approved by the Town Deal Board, was submitted to MHCLG on 26th October 2020. It had been subject to a 'check and challenge' sessions led by consultants Arup and Grant Thornton and advice from MHCLG's town deal liaison official for Loughborough.
- 2.3 The TIP had been subject to public consultation and input from this Group and the Members Reference Group.

3. MHCLG appraisal of the Town Investment Plan

- 3.1 MHCLG has undertaken an initial appraisal of the Loughborough TIP. MHCLG briefed the Town Deal Board when it met on 27th November 2020 (draft minutes of the meeting are published on the town deal website at <https://www.loughboroughtowndeal.co.uk/uploads/tdb-27-nov-2020-meeting-minutes-draft.pdf?v=1607510020>) and subsequently formal feedback was received in writing on 9th December.
- 3.2 The feedback from MHCLG was that whilst the Loughborough TIP had some strong elements to it, there were several areas where further 'points of clarification' and a strengthening of the narrative would be required if the TIP is to be eligible for a full appraisal. The feedback was as follows:

- a) Provide more quantifiable information about the impact and scale of your proposed interventions
- b) Explain and / or consider the 'active health living demonstrator' and how the proposed interventions [TIP projects] will help realise this element of the vision.
- c) Explain how your different timescales and frameworks relate to one another – for example 2033 or 2050.
- d) Provide detail of how you have considered spatial impact, including naming key sites and areas of the town on the map.
- e) Explain the document's golden thread, linking the vision through to the interventions
- f) Clarify which inputs/resources and specific outcomes are included in the Theory of Change.
- g) Explain how the TIP aligns to local and national strategies.
- h) Clarify which co-funding is projected and which is secured, and what you are doing to secure any that is not yet agreed
- i) Provide further detail on how you plan to maximise existing investment and future planned investment
- j) Provide further detail on how you plan to manage and oversee the delivery of the town deal, taking into account the range of different project leads.
- k) Use plain English for the TIP's narrative and simplify the presentation of the TIP's objectives.

3.5 MHCLG advised the Town Deal Board that it had the opportunity to address the points of clarification contained in the written feedback within 2 weeks. However, in that scenario the Loughborough TIP would achieve no more than an 'amber' rating which would mean that it would be impossible for the town to be granted funding anywhere near the £31.7 million being asked for.

3.6 The Board was also advised that, alternatively, a full re-submission of the TIP could be made in early 2021 and in that scenario the TIP would be subject to new appraisal and the potential opportunity to achieve the full amount of funding being asked for.

3.7 Based on the advice of MHCLG, the Board has decided to re-submit the TIP in February 2021.

4. Next Steps

4.1 The TIP is being redrafted to take account of the appraisal feedback received from MHCLG and, subject to Board approval, will be re-submitted to MHCLG in the final week of February 2021.

- 4.2 The Board is due to receive a first re-draft of the TIP for its consideration and comment on 22nd January. If Board agrees, that first re-draft will be sent by email to members of this Group for your comments. Your comments should then be emailed to your Chair, who will advise the Board of the views of this Group.
- 4.3 A 'check and challenge' session with Arup and MHCLG is scheduled for 5th February.
- 4.4 The Board will then meet again on 15th February and be asked to approve a second and final re-draft of the TIP.