

## Meeting Minutes

|                |                                    |                 |                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <b>PROJECT</b> | Town Deal – Member Reference Group |                 |                            |
| <b>DATE</b>    | 21 September 2020                  | <b>LOCATION</b> | Virtual meeting using Zoom |

| <b>Attendees</b>               |                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Councillor Bokor (Chair)       | Lead Member Loughborough                                                      |
| County Councillor Max Hunt     | Loughborough North West                                                       |
| County Councillor Betty Newton | Loughborough North                                                            |
| County Richard Bailey          | Loughborough Outwoods                                                         |
| Councillor Sandie Forrest      | Loughborough Storer                                                           |
| Councillor Alice Brennan       | Loughborough Shelthorpe                                                       |
| Councillor Colin Hamilton      | Loughborough Hastings                                                         |
| Councillor Christine Harris    | Loughborough Lemyngton                                                        |
| Councillor Geoff Parsons       | Loughborough Nanpantan                                                        |
| Councillor Emma Ward           | Dishley and Hathern                                                           |
| Eileen Mallon                  | Strategic Director of Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services |
| Richard Bennett                | Head of Planning and Regeneration                                             |
| David Marlow                   | Third Life Economics (Consultant)                                             |
| Sally Watson                   | Minute Taker (Charnwood Borough Council)                                      |

| <b>Apologies</b>                  |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| County Councillor Jonathan Morgan | Loughborough South West     |
| County Councillor Jewel Miah      | Loughborough East           |
| County Councillor Ted Parton      | Loughborough South          |
| Councillor Kat Goddard            | Loughborough Ashby          |
| Chris Grace                       | Town Deal Project Manager   |
| Sylvia Wright                     | Head of Leisure and Culture |
| Mike Roberts                      | Communications Manager      |

| <b>Meeting Type (Team, Board or other)</b>                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Member Reference Group                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Meeting Minutes</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>Members confirmed that they were able to see and hear the proceedings and apologies were given as outlined above.</p>    |
| <p><b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th July 2020 were confirmed as a correct</p> |

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record and there were no matters arising.

### 3. Project Overview and Update

Richard Bennett provided an overview of the status of the project including information on timelines and deadlines, Board decisions, the Investment Plan, the Upfront Capital Projects Funding and an updated risk register.

It was confirmed that the funds provided within the upfront capital scheme would need to be depleted by 31st March 2021, however it was not clear at the meeting whether projects funded would need to be complete by this date. The Council had assessed the feasibility of projects concerned and it was anticipated that the funding would be depleted by the deadline set. It was not clear at the meeting whether there were penalties for the failure to deplete funds allocated. Chris Grace as Project Manager would provide clarification on this.

The projects selected for the upfront capital scheme included a Careers and Enterprise Hub, the Limehurst Depot, the Rectory Wildlife Garden and Queen's Park. These projects were considered to be reflective of the principals identified as part of the consultations which had taken place, Town Deal aims and also the ability to deliver within the timescale set. It was highlighted that the Council was working to a tight deadline and that further consultation on the individual projects themselves would not have been feasible. There was potential within the likely Investment Plan portfolio that a number of projects would be interested in developing the Limehurst Depot site, following completion of the demolition of the current structure.

The allocation of funding had been proportionated to population and Loughborough was considered to be a medium-sized town, regardless of the student population.

The Careers and Enterprise Hub would be an accessible resource to all residents within Loughborough and would be a staffed facility, providing a range of series, such as training and assessments. Loughborough College would provide the revenue required to maintain the project.

The Limehurst Depot project would receive funding for the demolition of the current structure on the site. There were currently no plans for the site following the completion of this work, although as the site was Council-owned, there would be an opportunity to influence the use of the site following the completion of the current project.

**Recommendation Agreed:** That the Member Reference Group noted the content of the report.

**Action:** Chris Grace, as Project Manager would provide clarification on whether projects funded as part of the upfront capital scheme would need to be complete by 31st March 2020 and whether there would be penalties incurred by Government for the failure to deplete the funding allocated by the deadline of 31st March 2020.

### 4. ARUP 'Check and Challenge' Report

Richard Bennett provided Members with an overview of the feedback obtained from ARUP, the lead consultancy, on the part 1 Town Investment Plan for Loughborough, which covered vision

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and strategy only, not the projects themselves.

The natural boundaries of Loughborough University campus which were referred to in the report included infrastructure such as roads, which prevented connection with the Town. The ARUP report advised better integration of the University with the town would be beneficial. It was recognised that it was not uncommon for University Towns to adopt a culture which was distinct from the Town itself. The 'Civic University' concept was highlighted, which referred to the responsibility of Universities within University Towns to provide a level of growth, development and success. Encouraging more University integration was likely to improve the economy, culture and inclusion within Loughborough.

It was acknowledged that there was a disparity between the vision for Loughborough for some groups within the community, particularly in terms of the prospect of a modern, 'technopolis' town or a traditional market town. The TIP could be an opportunity to overcome these disparities, although it was noted that a clear theme throughout the projects would be beneficial in terms of establishing a clear direction for Loughborough.

It was difficult to establish capital projects to support Loughborough post-Covid as it was not clear when this would be. Currently, groups were separate, and students would be required to remain on campus as much as possible.

The project had been subject to a considerable amount of engagement with the public and with various groups and many of these channels were continuous, such as the Member Reference Group, the Community Engagement Group and through social media. It was noted that some hard to reach communities may have been negatively impacted by Covid and their ability to engage.

Concerns were raised regarding environmental issues such as flooding on any sites developed as part of the Loughborough Town Deal. It was stated that planning applications associated with the Town Deal would be subject to the usual risk assessments. It was agreed that Richard Bennett liaise with Councillor Christine Harris via email to discuss any further planning concerns.

**Recommendation Agreed:** That the Member Reference Group notes the content of this report.

**Action:** Richard Bennett liaise with Councillor Christine Harris via email to discuss any further planning concerns.

### 5. Town Deal TIP – Project Prioritisation Process

Richard Bennett introduced the report providing an update on the progress which has been made towards the production of Loughborough's Town Investment Plan. A presentation was delivered by Consultant David Marlow, providing an update on project proposals which had been received from stakeholders and the wider public and outlined the arrangements for prioritising projects.

The deadline for project submissions was 31st August 2020 and on 4th September 2020, 25 submissions had been received, amounting to £57.4m of capital and around £3m of revenue.

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The total package with leverage was £116m. A new submission template had been devised by Government and project owners had been asked to resubmit their bids using this new template. following this. It was anticipated that an appraisal and prioritisation process would be required and that the Town Deal Board would need to endorse this. There was also an expectation that capital and revenue asks would need to be significantly reduced.

Projects that had been submitted included the following;

| Project                    | Outline                                                                                                                    | Project                      | Outline                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charnwood Campus           | Refurb and equipping three buildings. No real match. Needs a lot of work and scaling back                                  | POD ZERO4                    | BID scheme – driverless cars in TC. Could go with Electric or Living L’boro. Needs legislation         |
| Cattlemarket               | Redevelopment of Sital and Ashe House(s) sites. Needs a lot of further work - possible Developer Accelerator contribution? | Employability & Life Skills  | Youth Services Trust. Strong proposition to connect Sports Park tenants with local disadvantaged YP    |
| Sports Park 4              | LUSEP building – possibly now funded by LLEP Getting Building Funding                                                      | Observatory                  | LU evidence and policy hub. Liked a lot by Govt Delivery team. May be able to increase UKRI match      |
| CBC Asset rationalisation  | CBC redevelopment of Limehurst, Southfields and Town Hall – possible Developer Accelerator contribution?                   | LU Wayfinder                 | LU Business Accelerator – related to TC Careers & Jobs Hub – revenue ask unclear                       |
| Nottingham Rd Corridor     | CBC application but may need LCC delivery                                                                                  | Public Realm                 | Canal Path (C&RT applicant), Lanes, Bedford Square, Queens Park and Rectory Garden (CBC)               |
| Connected Loughborough     | LU application for smart sustainable corridor – but may need LCC delivery. Revenue requirement tbc                         | Heritage Quarter             | Bell Foundry, Generator and GCR – 1 <sup>st</sup> two very HF match dependent                          |
| Living Loughborough        | BID-led TC improvements – needs budget breakdowns and revenue clarity                                                      | Early Wins 2020/21           | Limehurst demolition and TC Careers & Jobs Hub (College applicant)                                     |
| College Digital Skills Hub | Strong scheme with good match. Highly deliverable                                                                          | <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>             |                                                                                                        |
| Flood Protection           | Environment Agency – strong, deliverable scheme and important for town resilience                                          | <b>DEVELOPER ACCELERATOR</b> | <b><i>Balancing item/device to pump prime devts like Cattlemarket, EVOLVE, CBC Asset rat’n etc</i></b> |
| Electric Loughborough      | EVs, charging points etc. Might include CBC Granby scheme. Electric Blue applicant.                                        | <b>MICROPROJECTS</b>         | <b><i>A small grants scheme for community projects, retail repurposing and SME relocations</i></b>     |

Some of the themes identified through the projects submitted included;

- Enterprise projects (Charnwood Campus, Sports Park 4)
- Urban regeneration development projects (Cattle market, CBC Asset Rationalisation)
- Transport and corridor projects (Nottingham Road Corridor, Connected Loughborough)
- Town Centre revitalisation projects (Living Loughborough, POD ZERO4)
- Skills projects (College Digital Skills Hub, Employability and Life Skills)
- Foundation projects (Flood Protection, Observatory)
- Green projects (Electric Loughborough)
- Heritage and Culture projects (Heritage Quarter)
- Public Realm projects (Public Realm)

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A Developer Accelerator grant had also been considered in order to encourage private sector schemes to participate.

It was suggested that projects were assessed by Charnwood Borough Council Officers against the criteria set by Government. These assessments would then be reviewed by the Board Co-Chairs and the Chairs of the Member Reference Group and the Community Engagement and Consultation Group and the LLEP and County Council Board representatives.

With regards to 'exceptional' bids for higher funding, it was stated that some Towns were more suited to this level of funding due to population sizes. It would be communicated to Government that there had been a substantial appraisal and prioritisation process, and should the Board consider the projects to be suitable, then a higher level of funding could be requested. However, there would be no certainty that this request would be facilitated.

**Recommendation Agreed:** That members note the progress made so far on the TIP and the proposed arrangements for prioritising projects.

### 6. Any Other Business

It was noted that the student community was an asset within Loughborough, despite the acknowledgement that there could be improvements in the integration of the University.