

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the MK: BLETCHLEY/FENNY STRATFORD TOWN DEAL BOARD held on THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020 at 3.30 pm.

Present: J Cove (Chair & Chair - MK Dons SET), Councillor P Marland (Deputy Chair & Leader of Milton Keynes Council), I Stewart (MP for Milton Keynes South), C Butt (Vicar of St Frideswides), H Chipping (Chief Executive - SEMLEP), H Hupton (Clerk – West Bletchley Council), J Mills (CEO - MK College), J Pickering (Business Development Manager - Network Rail), I Revell (CEO - MK Community Foundation), M Green (Property Development Director - Milton Keynes Development Partnership), D Shephard (Clerk - Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council), A Ravn-Aagaard (Vice Chair – Consortium of Bletchley Resident Associations) (part) and D Wetton (Commercial and Business Director - Network Rail).

Also Present: T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive - Milton Keynes Council), P Hammond (Area Manager MK Land and Tariff - Milton Keynes Council), M Smith (Infrastructure Programme and Broadband Manager - Milton Keynes Council), A Rolfe (Assistant to I Stewart MP), M Todman (Area Lead - BEIS), S Rosevear (Director – Hatch Regeneris), L Guyon (Consultant - Hatch Regeneris), R Smith (Director – Hyas Associates), D Webber (Associate – Hyas Associates) and R Tidman (Committee Services Manager - Milton Keynes Council).

Apologies: S Beggs (Senior Policy Advisor - MHCLG), O Mytton (Deputy Director for Public Health - Milton Keynes Council), C Macdonald (Chief Executive - Milton Keynes Development Partnership) and Dr V Cathanboo (Westfield Road GP Surgery).

TDB25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING 17 SEPTEMBER 2020, MATTERS ARISING AND EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Chair welcomed members of the Board to the meeting and commented that this meeting marked a key milestone in the development of the bid. He thanked all partners for all the work that had been done to get to this stage.

The Chair invited comments on the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 17 September 2020.

It was noted that the website for the Town Deal for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford was live but to date had only had a soft launch. The URL for the website was provided (<https://groundbreakingbletchleyandfenny.co.uk/>).

An update on the situation with the funding for the superstation was requested and it was noted that there would be more information available by the end of November as part of the spending review announcement.

Regarding the Equalities Impact Assessment, it was noted that the main concern identified was with the make-up of the board. It was suggested that this should be addressed by partners looking at who in their diverse organisations represented them or by opening places for two people who can give added knowledge of:

- Disability and the need to design inclusion; and
- Bletchley's large Muslim community.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Board's meeting on 17 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.
2. That the link to the website be shared with partners.
3. That the Board considers how its makeup might better reflect the community and gives specific consideration to co-opting representatives from the disability and local Bangladeshi/Muslim communities.

TDB26 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The Board heard that a very small number of Code of Conduct and Register of Interest forms remained outstanding from Board Members.

No declarations of interest were received.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Democratic Services contact the remaining Board Members who had not submitted a Code of Conduct and Register of Interest form to arrange for submission.

TDB27 DRAFT TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN FOR APPROVAL

The Chair introduced the item noting that this work was not just for the TIP but for activity into the future and there was a need to ensure the framework that exists seeks investment and development activity wherever possible. It was commented that this was not just about the short term but in the long term about what could be achieved for the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford areas going forward.

The Board received a presentation on progress so far with the TIP including the work that had taken place on the vision and objectives, the logic model that it was working to, project prioritisation, the project shortlist and the next steps.

Peter Marland reiterated the objective was not just a town centre deal but the intention was to ensure the benefits of it spread out to all communities in the surrounding area.

As part of the presentation it was explained that the process followed to produce the TIP was important in terms of building and demonstrating the credibility of the bid. The 'logic model' employed required the bid to set out the inputs, outputs and outcomes that would be achieved. It was important to ensure that the bid showed that the projects provided a coherent, transformative and deliverable programme for the area. It was considered a strength of the bid that there was a balance of projects that addressed both the physical and skills dimensions and that it addressed the core components of urban regeneration, connectivity and skills and enterprise.

The overall rationale was to make sure that residents of the area were sharing in the wider economic success and to illustrate that without the TIP the area would continue to lag through the lack of opportunities available.

Iain Stewart, whilst agreeing with the general approach that had been set out, was concerned about the unspecified nature of the strategic land acquisition fund and the lack of detail attaching to that proposition. It was explained that the Revolving Development Fund provided balance and flexibility and that individual business cases and Heads of Terms would be required in each case before they progressed further. Tracy Aldworth confirmed that the Revolving Fund item could be prioritised to be redrafted and circulated to board members within the next couple of days to provide more certainty and assurance.

Delia Shepard questioned if there was any advantage to delaying the bid to the final round. Other partners commented that, whilst there were some points that needed to be addressed, on balance it was a strong bid and any uncertainties would most likely not be resolved before the last deadline for TIP submission [i.e. 31 January 2021].

Jack Pickering noted that the station project is being managed by East West Rail and that he would speak to colleagues as he considered it important that element was included as part of this process.

The Chair then asked whether, subject to some of the changes that had been discussed, the Board was in support of submitting the bid. There was general agreement to this by those present.

RESOLVED:

1. That officers revise the item on the Revolving Fund and circulate to Board members for their urgent review.
2. That it be noted that the Board supported submitting the bid.

TDB28 ACCELERATED PROJECTS UPDATE

Paul Hammond confirmed that the Council was in receipt of £1 million funding for the Accelerated Projects. It was noted that this was for two elements; notably, the Redway expansion and the acquisition of the former fire station site. Regarding the fire station, the purchase of this was due to be completed at the end of October with MKDP reviewing opportunities for alternative, short-term, uses.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board note the progress on Accelerated Projects.

TDB29 FORWARD PLAN

The Board heard from Tracy Aldworth who advised that over the next few months the focus would be on:

- keeping the accelerated projects under review;
- engagement and communications with the various subgroups; and
- preparing further updates for the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED:

1. That the work in the Forward Plan be noted.

TDB30 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates for the next meetings were confirmed as:

Thursday 10 December 2020, 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 4 February 2021, 3.30pm – 5.30pm

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board note the dates of the next scheduled meetings.

TDB31 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Delia Shepard asked how the community engagement work would be carried out going forward and it was agreed that a paper would be brought to the next meeting.

Helen Hupton and Delia Shepard confirmed that their respective Councils had committed to making a 'match' funding contribution.

All partners expressed their thanks for the work that the consultants from Hatch Regeneris and Hyas had done to get the bid into a position to enable submission.

RESOLVED:

1. That a paper on how community engagement would be carried out be brought to the next Board meeting.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 4.45 PM.