

**Minutes of Telford Town Deal Board**  
**Friday 19 March, 11.00 - 12.30 pm**  
***Held via Microsoft Teams***

**Attended:**

**Board Members**

Graham Wynn OBE (GW)	Chair
Lucy Allan MP (LA)	MP for Telford
Cllr David Wright (DW)	T&WC
Mandy Thorn MBE (MT)	Marches LEP
Professor Nazira Karodia (NK)	University of Wolverhampton
Maria Machancoses (MM)	Midland Connect
Graham Guest (GG)	Telford College
Felicity Wingrove (FW)	Zen Communications
Guy Beaumont (GB)	Sovereign Centros
Julie Mellor (JM)	Chief Officer Group (T&W Community & Voluntary Sector)

**Observer**

Clare Hannah (CH) BEIS

**Officers**

David Sidaway (DS)	T&WC
Angie Astley (AA)	T&WC
Katherine Kynaston (KK)	T&WC
Nicola Woodley	Minute taker

**1. Welcome**

**Actions**

GW welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Mark Pritchard MP  
Cllr Shaun Davies  
David Evans  
Paul Hinkins  
Karl Tupling

**3. Declarations of Interest**

No new declarations raised.

**4. Notes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

GW confirmed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. No matters arising.

**5. Feedback on Telford Town Investment Plan – Presentation**

AA shared a presentation.

The Telford bid was submitted on 11 December 2020 and further clarification was requested on 2 March 2021. We have elected to resubmit

on 7 May 2021. It was confirmed that work had been ongoing since submission and we will be ready to resubmit by 7 May.

In the original bid it is felt we majored on our strengths too much and there is a requirement for us to focus on our true needs and the challenges we face and how investment will address this need. We need to repackaging the message and tell our story to show that we need this investment to move forward.

There are two parts to the submission, TIP 1 – looking at the overall vision and TIP 2 which is where the financial details sit.

In resubmission TIP 1 will give a stronger vision of Telford focussing on the challenges we face and how the funding will address this – this should run through as a golden thread.

The most significant TIP 2 is Station Quarter. Originally this was packaged as one project but the feedback has asked that the various components be split, so that individual challenges and benefits can be detailed. This includes the Education Hub.

TIP 2s for Oakengates and Wellington received less feedback, just a request for us to be clearer on the challenges and identifying the needs and how the investment will address these needs and challenges.

TIP 2 Destination Fund - £1M requested to support businesses in leisure and hospitality that have been impacted by Covid – this is seen a fit strategically but more information is required on how we measure the impact and a need to demonstrate how the companies who may benefit have a need.

In summary the key area requiring change is to emphasise Telford's need. We have been proud of our past achievements and successes, but the bid requires more of a 'deficit model'.

GW invited LA to comment.

LA passed her thanks to AA for teasing out what we need to do to boost our initial plan and having the best opportunity to move to the next stage. It is reassuring to know there is nothing major blocking this. She asked that the board refrain from getting too anxious about getting the funding as she feels we can expect to receive the funding we require. The skills dimension is fundamental. LA endorsed the need to give this more emphasis and for it to be made clearer why we have majored on education in relation to the challenges within the town and workforce. Telford has an amazing story to tell and we need to tell this.

GG advised that Telford College continue to work with the local authority and the University on this bid and they are ready to go. Just need to articulate it differently and bring it to the top of the agenda.

GB confirmed that he has been in contact with KK and Kate Callis around the demonstration of need and are currently putting data together on what the current challenges are for the Shopping Centre.

DW commented that it is all still to play for which is very positive and if we can resubmit the bid having taken on board the feedback we will be in a good position to being successful. Feeling quite positive as long as bid is restructured.

NK gave her thanks for the presentation and showing clearly the feedback received. We clearly have a very supportive process in place with the Delivery Partners and we should use that link to improve the bid.

NK was a little concerned with the phrase 'deficit model' as it can be seen to have negative connotations.

GW reiterated that AA had used this phrase to explain that we have to major on the challenges.

## **6. Next Steps**

KK advised that as we knew even when we receive a funding agreement we will need to deliver business cases for each project so work has continued on these since 11 December.

We have the benefit of support from the delivery partners (consultants made available to support bid teams) and we have already met with them and will continue to use them to support the revisions to the bid. This will include holding check and challenge sessions before resubmission.

We are working with partners and welcome the material already provided adding emphasis to setting out Telford's need and opportunity. We are proposing to engage with the Board in mid-April for an update and then again towards the end of April prior to the deadline for submission.

MM suggested that we discuss the successful bids with those local authorities who have already been through the process and discuss the needs and challenges in particular and get their help with this.

KK felt this was a very good point and we are now getting connected in with towns that have been successful and looking to learn from them.

GW confirmed that he was involved in a meeting yesterday afternoon with other areas around the country and most are still waiting for allocation. The few that had received funding had looked at best practice and what the government like and don't like to make a positive submission.

## **7. Accelerated Delivery Fund Update**

KK took the opportunity to update briefly on the £1M awarded before Christmas and due to be spent by end of March. As previously outlined to the Board the funding includes repurposing of key buildings in the borough towns, piloting an Enterprise Hub model and supporting the development of the masterplan for Station Quarter.

FW – Gigabit Telford has been announced as part of the updated plan for ultra-based broadband. Shropshire is second to receive this – is Telford included in this? The first tranche is due to start in 2022 – how does this impact our plans?

KK responded that we are in the same position of getting clarification on this. We have attended a couple of seminars over the past few months but still need clarification of the details. **KK will update the Board.**

**KK**

JM stated that the plans are very exciting and thanked officers for the update.

There is a growing disabled population and so the need for help is increasing in Telford, particularly for those with learning disabilities. In terms of Adult Social Care the agenda is around preventative care and supporting to keep people in their homes, however this does put greater reliance on our services. Independent living comes into force shortly and we have to highlight that budgets are reduced, so more emphasis is going to be put on our voluntary sector to support. There has been a huge workload throughout the pandemic and this has been recognised by the local authority and as a sector we are building stronger connections with the local authority and external partners

**8. AOB**

No items.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

16 April - 10.30 - 12.00