

Minutes of Telford Town Deal Board
Friday 30 April, 1.30 - 2.30 pm
Held via Microsoft Teams

Attended:

Board Members

Graham Wynn OBE (GW)	Chair
Cllr Shaun Davies (SD)	T&WC
Cllr David Wright (DW)	T&WC
Mandy Thorn MBE (MT)	Marches LEP
Professor Prashant Pillai (PP)	University of Wolverhampton
Graham Guest (GG)	Telford College
Paul Hinkins (PH)	Telford Business Board
Guy Beaumont (GB)	Sovereign Centros
Julie Mellor (JM)	Chief Officer Group (T&W Community & Voluntary Sector)
Claire Skidmore (CS)	T&W CCG
Maria Machancoses (MM)	Midland Connect
Felicity Wingrove (FW)	Zen Communications

Observer

Officers

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

1. Welcome

Actions

GW welcomed everyone to today's meeting and thanked FW, who was unable to attend the last meeting, for the positive and constructive feedback given.

2. Apologies

Lucy Allan MP
Mark Pritchard MP
Professor Nazira Karodia
Karl Tupling
Clare Hannah

3. Declarations of Interest

No new declarations raised.

4. Notes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

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

5. Telford Town Investment Plan

GW handed over to AA and KK to run through a brief presentation.

AA reminded the Board of the feedback received from BEIS on our initial submission which has been the focus of the revisions and what was agreed at the last meeting as an outcome, including the split of Station Quarter into 3 sub projects.

There has been a huge amount of work undertaken by the team working with the Delivery Partners who have had a significant input. AA also thanked all board members for their feedback and support and for continuing to provide data / evidence.

AA recognised that the document issued was a work document and had not yet been designed and wanted to reassure the board members that the design team are ready to populate the content early next week.

AA handed over to KK, who advised that the TIP1 had been circulated with the papers to the Board. KK shared the amended Vision and thanked Felicity Wingrove for her input to strengthening this. KK also shared how the Vision links through to the 4 themes and objectives. A logic model is contained in the document which shows how the projects then fit.

Today's meeting was seeking Board Members comments on the TIP1 and their approval for the document to be submitted on 7th May subject to a delegation to the Chair for final sign.

Any final feedback and information to support finalising the document should be submitted by Tuesday 4th May.

GW opened the meeting for comments / feedback.

FW - Executive Summary - on the whole FW felt that it was really powerful with strong narrative.

Paragraph 2 & 3 - could add in reference to challenges are like many other former new towns.

It had previously been mentioned at the Board that we have the opportunity to be an exemplar and for government to see us as exemplar.

Paragraph 6 - final word references employees should be employers.

Paragraph 7 - (Telford Town Centre) add in like many others.

Page 2 – re ref to lack of town centre housing and living space why is that important? Be more explicate

Borough Towns paragraph - reference the wide catchment and diversity of this with some considerable affluence alongside some areas of high deprivation – and the opportunity this brings.

Skills and Enterprise – strengthen further that when students leave to study elsewhere they quite often don't come back

FW felt the lack of connectivity was powerful and the vision feels powerful and dynamic.

Health is mentioned but almost a single throw away word, consider further emphasise e.g. on obesity agenda

Overall FW felt that it was really positive and FW felt proud and could see a lot of hard work had gone into it.

GG - It is a really powerful document, but felt that the Executive Summary could be reordered including use of bullet points to really emphasise the challenges and draw the reader in.

GG felt that station quarter should be more centre stage in the Executive Summary and other points draw from that. Important not to lose the reference to the Maths element which is at the heart of levelling up.

Need to emphasise link to advanced manufacturing and supporting the changes the sector faces.

GG had sent over more detailed comments to Team earlier today.

GW agreed that bullet points can be useful tool and agreed link to advanced manufacturing given the Tier 2 / 3 suppliers in the Town was important.

MT - The structure of narrative is strong and concurred with comments so far. To illustrate - Destination Telford has a couple of specific paras in the Exec Summary but Station Quarter is not referenced and should have greater emphasis.

MT also shared GG comments around Maths.

PH - Agreed with what had already been said.

General comment about only once mentioned carbon neutral. PH felt that we could add a bit more in particularly as the green agenda is on the government radar.

Bottom page 4 - (loss of major brands) - Debenhams / Arcadia Group, these businesses were well on the way out prior to Covid and were going to disappear anyway.

Page 9 – Projects C and D don't include values (omission). While this is set out elsewhere in the document we need to show breakdown of £25m in Exec Summary.

GB - Agreed with PH comments that business closures were not directly Covid related but Covid has accelerated the closure.

GB - supported MT comments that Station Quarter is not referenced in the same way as other key initiatives. Identification of challenges and needs does come through and sense of pride in Town.

PP - had read through today for the first time (representing Nazira today), although he was aware of the skills/digital element. PP echoed what had previously been said, the ambition and the problems come through well and it is a good structure.

MM - was unable to make the last meeting and could clearly see a massive difference between the former draft. Transport side - bid focuses on intra connectivity within the Town which is good. Nationally there is a big debate around health (walking / cycling) and good to see the document picking up this agenda.

Re. Electric Vehicle charging - **MM** referenced a report published today with the latest data including comparisons with Telford and the rest of the Midlands. **MM** will ask team to send across to **KK/AA**. **MM**

GW had noted page 36 we need to reference Midland Engine.

CS – joining the Board today had not read the previous draft so was seeing this with a fresh perspective. Felt the document provided a very balanced view with a strong sense of a desire to make a difference.

CS supported **FW** comments around health, important not to lose sight of the public health team, think how we can tie in addressing obesity and diabetes which are so high on the agenda.

CS thanked the board for inviting her to be involved.

JM - felt the document was much more powerful. Highlights the challenges we are facing as well as the successes.

Covid recovery with companies having more staff working from home will have a knock on effect to Town Centres and the document highlights impact of young people leaving.

Page 17 – **JM** keen to see reference to the growing older population in Telford which is above national average and contributes to health inequalities. There is also a need suitable housing for older people.

There will be more presence in the Town Centre from the voluntary sector.

JM felt it was really good and thanked everyone for their work on this.

SD – confirmed that he had given feedback to the team and the comments today have been really positive and constructive. **SD** felt that we had the right balance of priority's and initiatives.

SD thanked all board members, the document was a richer document because of the board members input.

DW - recognised a huge amount of contributions had been made, and was aware **FW** had worked alot with the team. **DW** thanked **GW** for all his hard work. The group had produced something really strong. We are proud of Telford and the earlier submission perhaps didn't highlight the gaps the government were looking for.

DW agreed with earlier comments about the Executive Summary, and felt the 4 bullets referencing the key themes could come forward. It would be good to get some personal testaments.

DW suggested it might be good to have a bit of a visual timeline of Telford with images of Telford going from black and white (original shopping centre) to what SQ would look like illustrated via the CGI.

GW thanked DW for his comments and recognised the hard work of the Telford Team.

DS - Had provided a number of comments directly. It is really exciting, the aspiration and ambition of our young people is key and Station Quarter and the educational element sets the foundation for our ambition. The Advanced Manufacturing sector is going through massive change and we need to support the sector adapt. Our dependency on this sector is a risk and opportunity.

DS was looking forward to the response to this document.

AA thanked the Board for their comments and support for the document's submission. AA and KK had been noting down the comments which would inform finalising the document. The input and ideas are really helpful and crucial. AA confirmed we have some great photos to include and document would be fully proofed before submission.

GW confirmed that he would contact LA for any further comments or feedback. GW

6. Next Steps

GW asked for any final comments from the Board members to be submitted by Tuesday 4 May when Delivery Partners will be giving their final feedback and Team will then work to polish the final submission which will be made on the 7th May. All

The Board will be sent a copy of the final submission. KK

GW not aware of timeline for response from government, GW had not received anything in writing but was hoping to get a timely response following this submission.

7. AOB

No items raised.

8. Date of Next Meeting

GW proposed to await feedback before setting the next meeting date. KK

GW thanked all for their time and closed the meeting.