

City of Preston Town Fund Board

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8 October 2021

Present: Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; Ms R Connor, Vice Chair; Councillors M Brown and Borrow, Mr A Phillips, Mr R Binns, Ms A-M Parkinson, Ms J wilding, Ms J Dalton, Mr M Flemming, Mr P Green, Ms K O’Rielly, Ms M Close, Ms J Anthony, Mr C Hayward

Also in attendance:

Mr J Crellin	– Assistant Director (Head of City Growth & Regeneration) City Development
Ms B Joyce	– City Development
Mr Z Bapu	– Senior Member Services Officer

Apologies: Sir M Hendrick,

CD11 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 13 August 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

CD12 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

CD13 Implementation Update

The Board received an update on the Implementation of the Towns Fund projects from Mr M Flemming and Ms B Joyce. A formal offer of 5% advance payment had been received from Government and the Harris Quarter project adjustment had been submitted and agreed. Phase Two work of the TIG was highlighted to the Board which included supporting Project Leads on Business Case developments. Details of the Assurance Framework, principles of which had already been agreed by the Board was to be considered by the Council at its meeting in December. The Board received an project milestones and progress since the last meeting.

The Board Members made the following observations and comments:-

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- Assurance Framework was essential and integral part of the process however it also needs to be flexible.
- Although there had been some delays on the Animate project due to on-going commercial discussions the TIG was confident that the project will be completed.
- There was progress made on the Youth Zone and positive discussions had taken place with stakeholders involved.
- Support for the Youth Zone had been agreed till 2026 and the City Council will continue to push to deliver beyond this.
- Harris Your Place business case had been completed.

Jane Dalton provided an update on the Stakeholder Engagement. Key issues and concerns from a Stakeholder Workshop held were highlighted to the Board. It was reported that the contract with Freshfields had come to an end and this work would now be undertaken by the Communications Team at the Council. The Board made the following comments and observations:-

- It was important to maintain the momentum gained by Freshfields during the transition period.
- Issues around capacity was highlighted and responded to.
- Clarity on the decision of who would undertake the PR work for the Board was requested.
- It was felt that as an external organisation with expertise in the field Freshfields had key contacts and further reach.
- It was proposed that Freshfields be asked to extend their contract for another three months and a report on the matter be brought to the next meeting of the Board.
- It was agreed that a recommendation would be presented to the next Board meeting subject to consultation with Mr R Binns.

Resolved – That the Board

- (i) Requested that the Technical Implementation Group (including the s151 Officer) prepare a report setting out a management approach for the 5% early grant received by the Council for consideration by the Board at its November meeting;
- (ii) Approved an interim allocation of £150,000 from the early grant received in the event that recoverable capital expenditure is required prior to the November Board meeting;
- (iii) Requested that the Accountable Body incorporate the assurance framework guidance, set out in this report, in the final local assurance framework;
- (iv) Agreed the business case approach for Renewal of Harris Quarter Assets as set out in this report; and
- (v) Noted the progress made on the Youth Zone revenue funding position and approve an allocation of up to £100,000 to support the preparation of the Youth Zone business case.

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(vi) Requested that a report be presented to the next meeting of the Board in respect of PR work and extension of contract with Freshfields.

CD14 Towns Fund Social Value Framework

Carwyn Greaves gave a presentation on the Towns Fund Social Value Framework. Following the Social Value Act 2012 this was an area of increasing importance. Various types of social values were highlighted and how these could be measured and quantified. A diagram highlighting the framework process was presented to the Board.

The Board Members made the following comments and observations:-

- Community Wealth Building has been important part of the economy in Preston in recent years. This diversified spending habits, supply chain so that Preston benefits. This involved increased role of Co-Operatives and the voluntary sector which the Social Value Framework should have incorporated within it.
- Engagement with Project Leads at Sub-Group level was needed to ensure that the Framework was embedded from an early stage as well as in the monitoring and evaluation plans.
- The monitoring should be a simple structure and the framework should be included in new programme conversations especially before contracts are awarded.
- Could use the Recycling Lives model where they attribute the financial value of the Social benefits to projects.
- It was suggested that there should be liaison with Mark Flemming on the TIG to formally implement the Social Value Framework.

Resolved – That the Social Value Framework be noted and that the TIG be asked to consider the implementation of it within the Towns Fund projects.

CD15 Project Focus - -Harris Your Place

Mr T Joel, Head of Culture, Preston City Council gave a presentation on the Harris Your Place project. He thanked the Board for the £4.1m of Towns Board funding towards the project. The plans for and the next steps of the project was highlighted and the Board was informed about the various opportunities to continue to showcase Art whilst the Harris was closed.

The Board Members made the following comments and observations:-

- There was an opportunity to get the media involved such as the BBC who could track the project from start to completion.
- There were opportunities to have pop ups in key locations of the City to showcase and display the Harris collection.

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Resolved – That the Harris Your Place project update be noted.

CD16 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday 5 November 2021 at 10.00am.