

City of Preston Town Fund Board

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19 June 2020

Present: Mr Chesworth in the Chair; Ms R Connor – Vice-Chair; Sir M Hendrick MP, Councillors M Brown and Moss, A Phillips, Lis Smith, R Binns, J Dalton, C Baker, S Young, , C Rees, R Mulhearn, M Close,(further attendees to be added subject to confirmation)

Also in attendance: Ms K O'Connor
Mr D Watson
Mr I Hashmi
Dr Gomes

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: Mr P Green

CD11 Minutes - 24 April 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2020 will be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

CD12 Update on City Investment Plan

Mr David Watson, Associate Director of Hatch Regeneris, presented an update on the City Investment Plan (CIP). The outcome review and assessment of projects submitted was outlined to the Board including the package proposed by the Task and Finish Group. The next stage of the process was presented providing details of how the CIP would be progressed. To start with Mr Watson recapped the work undertaken to date.

- The Board and Task and Finish Group were asked to reach out to their networks.
- List of 31 projects had been assembled.
- Towns Fund and longer-term projects had been identified.
- The projects had been assessed against the agreed framework and the Task and Finish Group had worked through the outcomes.

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The breakdown of the 31 projects submitted were presented and the Board received information on the themes, costs and Towns Fund input relating to these projects. Total investment required for these projects was £161m of which £58m was Town Fund commitment required. The Board received an overview of the spatial and thematic projects. Key projects in the City Centre and the wider area were highlighted and how they correlated with the Towns Fund ambitions. The Board were presented with information of how these were linked with the projects identified. Scoring outcome of the 31 projects were presented to the Board with information relating to theme categories and their connectivity.

The Board was informed that the Task and Finish Group had considered the key issues and discussed the projects submitted in detail. The information received varied from project to project. The Board will need to give consideration as to how the projects are prioritised. It was important to have linkages and complementarity of projects. There was an opportunity to develop lower scoring projects by linking to others. The Board was informed that the recent guidance had given clear steer and focus on city centre including recovery, safe and accessible cities and clean and inclusive growth as outcomes of the CIP. The Task and Finish Group package which anchored around the Harris Quarter cluster was believed to be a strong foundation.

Discussions and comments

The Board Members made the following comments and observations on the update provided:-

- Supportive of the Preston Gateway Scheme which was very important to the City.
- Links between the Youth Zone, Harris and the colleges such as Cardinal Newman College was critical post Covid-19 in the rebuilding and recovery process.
- Was the outcome of the Task and Finish Group package – delivering a statement of intent and highlighting the positivity of Preston?
- It was felt with the cohesion and connectivity of projects there was an opportunity to raise the profile of the City. There was a visual inter-link which gave the projects added weight.
- Cohesion was important for the Towns Fund as was deliverability. Although the projects need to have longer-term range and impact however they required to be deliverable by 2026. It was envisaged that a number of these projects will have ripple effect and will allow wider thinking of cluster projects.
- Constraints of Planning and regulations was a cause of concern in particular when it came to accessibility.
- Inclusion of third sector projects was highlighted.

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- The list of projects showed a strong collective collaboration which was very positive. Regeneration in Preston of this scale was decades overdue, areas such as skills, health and wealth building required investment and this was the opportunity for it to happen.
- Need to ensure the ambition of the City is met, great opportunity to transform Preston.
- The cluster investment was well focussed, the Uclan development had a major impact on the cluster. The Fishergate investment had reduced traffic however this traffic was diverted elsewhere and caused problems in terms of pollution due to lack of flow.
- Plans for the Guild Hall not clear from the proposals. It was a major asset in the City Centre and could be a focal point for entertainment.
- Concerns relating to Church Street and the conditions of buildings there were highlighted to the Board. It was hoped that there would be a positive impact from the proposed package of projects on Church Street especially post Covid-19 and potential austerity that may follow.
- It was reported that active discussions were taking place in respect of the Guild Hall with operators to bring entertainment back to the venue and make it a hub. Upgrade to the building was required and there was optimism about the future.
- Church Street issues is linked to the Stoneygate projects with significant investment needed along with careful planning.
- Transport infrastructure including air quality and accessibility were raised as considerations.
- Bus corridors as part of an enhanced Ringway development - there was a strategic aspiration to reduce car movement in the City Centre.
- Lancashire County Council were keen for shift from car reliance to public transport. More investment in bus corridors and cycle routes was highlighted. It was acknowledged that there were capacity issues on Ringway which could be helped by other infrastructure developments outside the City Centre.
- It was key to articulate the Preston CIP to government clearly knowing the projects will not solve all problems however the city will be in a stronger position for the next stage.
- The key role of the greenspaces in the city centre was highlighted.
- The connectivity Preston has was highlighted as an important and key asset. And the University could be an economic driver with retention of graduates very important for the city. For this it was key to get the cultural offer right.
- Uclan want to play a valuable role in the development and progression of Preston. The proposed projects are aligned with Uclan ambitions.
- Providing appropriate housing was highlighted as a requirement of the package for retention of graduates.
- With the use of park and ride schemes it was hoped visitors would drive to Preston rather than through the City.

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Communication Plan

Donna Hall updated on health and wellbeing plan. The objectives and delivery were detailed in the presentation. It was important to communicate the health and wellbeing theme and highlight the successes of the Preston Model. The need for a Health and Wellbeing Strategy was identified.

It was agreed that key part of the CIP was to make Preston a city with a positive healthy lifestyle and place to live in. Improved cycle infrastructure was required in particular security.

The Board were given details of the government guidance received and risks before submission on 31 July 2020.

Resolved – That the Board agreed to the following recommendations:-

- a. Note work carried out to date in developing the City Investment Plan;
- b. Endorse emerging package for Towns Fund investment;
- c. Endorse CIP's role in positioning further evidence based investment requirements in:
 - Community Health Building
 - Delivering the city's transport plan
 - Housing Infrastructure activity in the City Centre
 - Commercial and transport development in the Station Gateway Preston Arena
- d. Note the risks associated with a Cohort 1 end of July submission;
- e. Endorse progression of submission to the end of July;
- f. Request the Task and Finish Group continues to oversee drafting of CIP; and
- g. Request that final draft CIP is brought to Board meeting on 24th July