

City of Preston Town Fund Board

City of Preston Town Fund Board 22 July 2022

Present: Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; Councillors M Brown and Borrow, Ms A Parkinson, Ms J Anthony, Mr R Binns, Ms M Close, Ms J Wilding and Mr A Phillips

Also in attendance:

Mr M Flemming	–	TIG
Mr M Allen	–	BEIS
Mr C Blackburn	–	Assistant Director (Head of City Growth and Regeneration)
Ms B Joyce	–	
Mr Z Bapu	–	Senior Member Services Officer

Apologies: Councillor Ms K Illingworth - Turner, Ms R Connor and Sir M Hendrick, MP

CD41 Minutes

Subject to amendments to the list of attendees and the final bullet point on the Communications update, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as an accurate record.

CD42 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

CD43 Towns Fund Board Implementation Update

Mr M Flemming, TIG, introduced the report providing the Board with an implementation update on Towns Fund projects.

Ms B Joyce provided a detailed overview of the projects and their current status. Summary Plans for all projects were signed off by Government and the business case conditions were approved and appraised by TIG Leads and reviewed externally. The Towns Fund projects were progressing as expected and there were no matters that required flagging up to the Board. Updates on the tender process and the current stage for each project was highlighted to the Board. The Board was informed that although the Youth Zone project was catching up there were no risks identified in relation to

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reaching milestones. As part of the report the Board were asked to consider the change of name of the CEIAG project to 'Educate Preston'.

The Board were provided with an outline and remit of the proposed Monitoring and Evaluation Board and were requested to nominate a representative from the Towns Fund Board. Also the need for a Governance Review away day was highlighted.

The Board made the following comments and observations:-

- In relation to increase in costs due to inflation or other factors the Board was assured that there were mechanisms in place to manage these risks. These would be reviewed and managed on a case by case basis.
- Request was made that the Town Fund Board be included in the list of consultees for proposed developments in the project area. It was The Planning Department would be asked to include the Board in their consultation process.
- Concerns were raised in respect of potential risks to project delivery due to the current political issues and whether there was any soft intelligence of this from central Government. It was reported that as these were committed projects there was high degree of confidence that these will continue as planned.
- In response to a question the Board was informed that both internal and external legal people were involved on behalf of the Accountable Body in drafting and agreeing the GFAs and MoUs. In both cases best practice was followed and adapted for each project.

Resolved – That the Towns Fund Board:

- (i) Noted the Phase 3a monitoring report;
- (ii) Noted the proposed name change for CEIAG to 'Educate Preston';
- (iii) Approved the role of the Monitoring and Evaluation Board and nominated Anne-Marie Parkinson to represent the Towns Fund Board on the M&E Board;
- (iv) Approved the MoU for Harris Your Place; and
- (v) Requested that the Chair of the Board and the Chief Executive of the Accountable Body undertake a Towns Fund governance review for consideration by the Board in due course.

CD44 Any Other Business

It was suggested that a platform be made available for students from the colleges in Preston to get involved in the Towns Fund Board projects. There had been expression of interest from Business and Management students. The Board agreed that this was a great idea and would provide a much

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needed resource for the Towns Fund. Having students on board would also bolster stakeholder involvement. It was agreed that a work plan would be developed in time for September.

There was a proposal that the Town Fund Board should keep a regular review and align itself with funding opportunities when these arise to carry out mop-up projects which missed out from the list or even use underspends if these occur.