

City of Preston Town Fund Board

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23 September 2022

Present: Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; Ms R Connor, Vice Chair;
Ms J Anthony, Mr R Binns, Councillor M Brown, Councillor Borrow,
Mr Burns, M Close, Ms A Parkinson, Mr A Phillips and
Ms K Illingworth - Turner

Also in attendance:

Ms J Wilding	–	Director of Resources & S151 Officer
Mr C Hayward	–	Director of Development and Housing
Mr M Flemming	–	
Ms B Joyce	–	
Mr C Blackburn	–	Assistant Director (Head of City Growth and Regeneration)
Ms Palmer	–	Regeneration Manager
Mr Z Bapu	–	Senior Member Services Officer

Apologies: Councillor Sir M Hendrick, MP

CD45 Minutes

Resolved – That subject to typing amendments the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

CD46 Declarations of Interests

There were none.

CD47 Towns Fund Implementation Report

Mr M Flemming, TIG, introduced the report providing the Board with an implementation update on Towns Fund projects. He reported that it had been a particularly busy period as the projects were moving in the right direction.

Ms B Joyce provided a detailed overview of the projects and their current status. In terms of the monitoring reports the Board was informed that there was nothing new to report. An update on the Grant Funding Agreements was provided. There was an update on each of the projects and the progress since the previous meeting. It was reported that the Harris Quarter project

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cost had increased to £7.1m from £7.5m which the project sponsor was addressing. The Board were presented with four MoU and GFA schedules to consider. The Illuminate and Integrate project was over budget which required undertaking value engineering to bring the project back to within the cost envelope available.

There was an update provided on the role of the Evaluation and Monitoring Board, Communication procurement, which had been completed, and Governance Review. The Chair and the CE of the Accountable Body and undertaken a review of the Governance arrangements and Terms of Reference. There was a recommendation to the Board in respect of continuity of the Chair in particular at this key stage of the Towns Fund Board.

The Board made the following observations and comments:-

- It was suggested that collectively with other Towns Fund Boards, Government should be lobbied for more funding to cover rising costs.
- In respect of the scaled back Illuminate and Integrate scheme it was agreed that better to have a reduced project of quality than one with greater volume with less value.
- The approach to the Illuminate and Integrate project was sensible.
- Board Members welcomed the use of space in the Guild Hall for the Educate Preston project the lease for which was being led by Uclan.
- The Communication plan was on track and the lead Board Member was happy with the progress made.

Resolved – That The Towns Fund Board agreed to:

- (i) Note the September Monitoring report;
- (ii) Note the revised outputs for Illuminate and Integrate and arising reduction in the Benefit Cost Ratio from 3.53:1 to 2.06:1 and that this be reported to Government for agreement;
- (iii) Approve Towns Fund Memorandums of Understanding schedules for Animate, Renewal of Harris Quarter Assets and Illuminate and Integrate and the Grant Funding Agreement schedules for Educate Preston;
- (iv) Request that the Monitoring and Evaluation Board oversee any final amendments required to complete the Memorandums of Understanding and Grant Funding Agreement prior to execution;
- (v) Request that the Monitoring and Evaluation Board present a report on Local Assurance at the November meeting; and
- (vi) Request that the Chair be asked to continue as Chair for a further three year term.

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CD48 Away Day

The Board was informed that subject to confirmation the Away Day will be held on Friday 14 October 2022. Once the Facilitator confirms availability a confirmation email will be sent out to all Board Members.