

City of Preston Town Fund Board

City of Preston Town Fund Board 27 November 2020

Present: Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; R Connor , Vice Chair; Councillors M Brown and Moss, A Phillips, R Binns, L Smith, M Close, P Green, A-M Parkinson, A Taylor, J Dalton, C Hayward, S Turner and E Warhurst

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, MP

CD21 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record.

CD22 Harris Quarter Pops Up Programme Shortlist

The Board received a report and presentation on the Harris Quarter Pop Up – programme of shortlist. In July 2020 the Towns Fund Board and in August 2020 the Full Council of the accountable body approved that the Harris Quarter Pops Up project be progressed under the accelerated Towns Fund initiative. In August 2020 the accountable body confirmed its acceptance to government of a £1m capital grant to implement the project.

In September 2020 the Towns Fund Board and the Cabinet of the accountable body: approved the appointment of Maple Grove Developments (MGD) as project and development manager and the Council’s Director of Development and Housing as the project sponsor; endorsed a “long list” of potential projects; agreed a process to develop a final short list; and requested the project manager and project sponsor update the Board.

At its meeting in September the Cabinet of the accountable body, noting the grant criteria and timescales for spend delegated authority to the Director of Development and Housing in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation) and Cabinet Member for Resources to implement the project.

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The project sponsor chairs a Harris Quarter Pops Up Project Board, comprising this Board's Chair, Council officers, MGD and Towns Fund Board member organisations UCLan and the County Council. The Project Board has undertaken a sifting process and identified a final short list of projects for consideration by the Board. A presentation on the short list will be made at the Board meeting.

Subject to consideration of the short list by the Board the accountable body will be required to undertake further due diligence on the project short list to satisfy itself that any ongoing liabilities can be met. The due diligence to be concluded by the middle of December.

Andrew Dewhurst and Charles Quick gave a presentation updating the Board on the Harris Quarter Pop Up implementation. Details of the seven shortlist projects were presented to the Board including their cost.

The Board made the following comments and observations:-

- The Mobile Temporary Events Space (MTES) was creative and novel and could be widely used. It was suggested that theatre groups and other end users be invited to give feedback.
- Power and wifi connections was important for the MTES to work successfully.
- The artwork in the MTES units need to be interchangeable so that they could be widely used.
- The accessibility of the MTES was welcomed as many performance venues lacked this and made it difficult for disabled people.
- Local artists should be encouraged to showcase their talent at the MTES.
- The shortlist projects should express the current situation and highlight the positives of the recovery.
- The Public Realm hoardings, although are expensive however if they are animated properly they help bring confidence to the area.
- Communication will be key to delivering the projects as people will either love it dislike it.
- Future upkeep and maintenance also needs to be built in.
- The projects need to be 'Instagramable' and attract social media attention – things such as large letters used in places like Amsterdam draw a lot of activity and posts online.
- If Wi-Fi spend is an issue then may wish to consider murals in different areas.
- Consider using the underspend to fund schemes where funding is coming to an end particularly public realm projects.

Resolved – That the Board

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- (i) Endorsed the short list presented for consideration;
- (ii) Agreed the project sponsor oversee a final due diligence review of the short list by the accountable body to ensure any ongoing liabilities can be met;
- (iii) Agreed the project sponsor and the Chief Executive of the accountable body, bring a report to the next Board meeting in the event that the due diligence concludes that project elements cannot progress to the implementation stage;
- (iv) Endorsed the implementation of projects which pass the due diligence review; and
- (v) Noted that final implementation decisions will be carried under the approved accountable body delegations.

CD23 City Investment Plan Implementation Update

The Board received an update report on the City Investment Plan Implementation. The key points were highlighted to the Board in particular the potential tight turnaround timescale when an offer is received.

Resolved – That the Board

- (i) In the event that it is not possible to convene a full Board meeting, delegate authority to approve of Heads of Terms to the Board Chair, the Deputy and Chief Executive of the Accountable Body.
- (ii) Agreed that the Accountable Body is able to consider the Heads of Terms within the time-frame set out by government;
- (iii) Endorsed the scope of the Assurance Framework and request that a final draft is brought to a future meeting of the Board; and
- (iv) Noted the ongoing work to progress the CIP priorities;