

# City of Preston Town Fund Board

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## City of Preston Town Fund Board

31 January 2020

**Present:** Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; Ms R Connor, Vice Chair; Councillor M Brown and Moss Mr R Binns, Ms M Close, Mr P Green, Councillor P Moss, Ms A-M Parkinson and Ms L Smith

**Also in attendance:** Ms K O'Connor (Observer)

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| 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 M Allen, Sir M Hendrick MP and Ms R Mulhearn

### CD1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Mr John Chesworth and Councillor M Brown, Leader of Preston City Council welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of the City of Preston Town Fund Board.

### CD2 Inception Report

The Board received the Inception Report outlining the Terms of Reference for the City of Preston Town Fund Board. The Chair confirmed that the primary role of the Board was to develop and oversee the Town Deal Investment Plan which would form the basis for the negotiated deal with Government with an opportunity to secure funding up to £25 million pounds. This was a two stage process, firstly the creation of the Town Deal Board to develop an Investment Plan and secondly negotiation of Town Deal. Although guidance has been issued for stage one, further details for stage two of the process has not yet been received.

The target was to have an agreed Plan in place by Summer 2020 which would require significant effort and a focussed work programme. A Government grant of £173k had been allocated to facilitate the work required to develop the Plan, including costs towards the preparatory stage, to support the convening of stakeholders, help community engagement, cost of research and development of proposals.

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The Chair sought views of the Board Members present if there were any sectors not currently represented on the Board or sectors the Board should engage with. It was suggested that as the Board was looking to deliver a Plan for the future generations it was important to involve the youth, if not on the Board, then during the consultation stage. It was felt that that the community engagement process should be resident representational and cover all groups in Preston. Views of the BME community, elderly and disabled were key elements of the community engagement. Mr Phillips confirmed that the preparation of the Plan would be consultative and that this engagement would be managed through this process. It was agreed that the makeup of the Board was reasonable and it was the role of the Board to ensure that they challenged themselves to engage with and get views and feedback from key groups in the community. The outcomes from the consultation was very important and needed to help develop the investment plan process. It was agreed that Board membership would be kept open for consideration with the opportunity for additional members to be added if necessary.

**Resolved** – That the Town Fund Board

- (i) Approved the Terms of Reference as set out in the report; and
- (ii) Noted the content of the report.

### **CD3 Towns Fund in Context**

The Town Deal Board were presented with report on the context of the Towns Fund. The Towns Fund is one of a number of regeneration initiatives to support town and city regeneration programmes and activities announced by government. The majority of the initiatives are focussed on securing growth in the non-metropolitan and non-core city areas. A summary of some of the funding initiatives which had secured capacity or investment funds in the Lancashire area were highlighted in the report. It was acknowledged that the Central Lancashire Local Plan was an important strategic document under review and provided Board members with an opportunity to shape the future by taking part in the consultation process for the next Plan. The closing date for the consultation is Friday 14 February 2020.

**Resolved** - That the Town Fund Board

- (i) Noted the report;
- (ii) Agreed that the Town Fund Board oversee Preston's involvement in the High Street Task Force Pilot and requests that a further report on this work be brought to the Board; and
- (iii) Requested that it be kept informed of future opportunities including pilot initiatives which could support the preparation and implementation of the Town Investment Plan.

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### CD4 Investment Plan

Mr Phillips, Chief Executive, Preston City Council presented a report on the Town Investment Plan. The preparation of a Town Investment Plan (TIP) is a key element of the work to be undertaken by the Town Fund Board. The timescales to produce a TIP is very tight however it was stressed that the recommendations within the Plan needed to be high quality. Main focus of the Plan was to maximise investment and funding available. Concerns were relayed in respect of constraints due to procurement processes. The Board was informed that the City Council were the accountable body for this and would be required to work to the Procurement Framework and the City Councils own procurement Procedure Rules. However these could be waived in certain circumstances so long as there were clear reasons for doing so.

**Resolved** – That the Town Fund Board

- (i) Approved the work programme set out in the report to enable the production and submission of the TIP by Summer 2020;
- (ii) Approved the Capacity Funding Expenditure Plan set out in the report and delegated the appointment of any consultancy advice to the Chief Executive of Preston City Council, in consultation with the Chair;
- (iii) Approved the proposal for a communications and marketing company to support the Board on the development of a communications and engagement plan, and delegated the appointment to the Chief Executive of Preston City Council, in consultation with the Chair;
- (iv) Requested that financial reports outlining achieved and forecast expenditure are presented to the Board at its future meetings; and
- (v) Agreed to form a task and finish group to be lead the work on the TIP; as detailed at Step 2 in the proposed work plan for the production of the TIP.

### CD5 City Centre Development

Mr John Crellin, Head of City Centre Development, Preston City Council gave a presentation on city centre development – past, present and future. He highlighted the work that had been completed, development that was committed and future aspirational projects. Mr Crellin highlighted various quarters of the city centre and their importance to Preston. Completed and potential developments in these areas were outlined. He also highlighted key city centre assets including Amouderness House, Lancastrina House, Harris and Winckley Square. Some of these required investment to bring back into use.

It was acknowledged that Winckley Square development was a good example of partnership working. Consultation with stakeholders was key to

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getting the right scheme. And there were some lessons learnt from the Winckley Square development. Extensive development around UClan was highlighted to the Board. The University had created its own identity including a development masterplan. There was a substantial amount of work going on and the completed development is of a high standard. There was consideration being given to how the University could link in with the city centre. The Board acknowledged and agreed that that UClan played a key role in the success of the city.

Discussions on city centre living took place and it was agreed that the promotion of city centre living was important and key to enhancing the city centre. The City Living Strategy was being updated which identified 33 sites for potential development. It was felt that an increase in City Centre living will impact on vehicle usage and it was hoped that car dependency would be reduced. However, the public transport and road infrastructure needed to improve in order for significant reduction in emissions. City Centre living could send out positive messages in the effort to reduce climate change. There was however caution from the disability sector who highlighted the importance of disability parking spaces. Many disabled people travelled to out of town retail parks such as the Trafford Centre and spent a lot of money there rather than in the city centre.

It was agreed that the new Town Investment Plan should clearly articulate the primary activity being promoted in each quarter / area of the City.

The Board agreed that there was an opportunity for the Preston Partnership Board to be used as a sounding board for public sector interventions and proposals, such as the Transforming Cities Fund.

### **CD6 Any Other Business**

**Resolved** – That Ruth Connor be appointed the Vice-Chair of the City of Preston Town Deal Board.

### **CD7 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of next meeting to be confirmed following consultation with the MP Sir Mark Hendrick's office. Members of the Board will be notified as soon as a date has been confirmed.