

Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard

17 May 2021 12:00

Present: Jude Thompson, Black Country Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
Chris Hinson, Local Board Chair- West Bromwich
Adrian Eggington, Local Board Chair- Rowley Regis
Nicola Richards, MP West Bromwich East
John Spellar, MP Warley
Graham Pennington, Sandwell College
Cllr Danny Millard, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Mark Davis, SCVO
Geoff Foster, SCVO
Sandeep Shingadia, Transport for West Midlands
Gareth Bradford, West Midlands Combined Authority
Keeley Bevington, West Midlands Police
Karen Woolley, Federation of Small Businesses
Dilip Awtani, Liberty Group
Alan Taylor, Local Board Chair- Smethwick
Cllr Maria Crompton, Sandwell MBC

SMBC Officers: David Stevens, Chief Executive Officer
Tammy Stokes, Interim Director for Regeneration and Growth
Surjit Tour, Director - Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Rebecca Jenkins, Towns Fund Programme Manager
Alex Oxley, Planning Regeneration Officer
Alan Reynolds, Senior Planning Regeneration Officer
Hayley Insley, Planning Regeneration Team Leader
Tariq Karim, Area Manager Youth Service
Santokh Singh, Neighbourhood Engagement Manager
Chloe King, Planning Regeneration Support Officer
Clinton Felicio, Planning Regeneration Support Officer
Lesley Hagger, Director- Childrens Services
Josh Singh, Senior Planning Regeneration Officer
Emma Parkes, Project Support Officer

Also present: Jane Bailey, Sandwell College
Patrick Geary, Sandwell College
Chris Demetrios, Sandwell College
Wendy Brookfield, Greets Green Community Enterprises
Erroll Blackwood, Sandwell MBC
Sian Breese- Sandwell MBC

34/21 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting of the Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard.

35/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the following Superboard members:
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James Morris, MP Halesowen and Rowley Regis
Shaun Bailey, MP West Bromwich West
Jo Nugent, Homes England

Supporting officers:

Santokh Singh, Sandwell MBC

36/21 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

37/21 **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interests were made at the meeting:

- Wendy Brookfield- Project lead on Digital Den Project, West Bromwich.
- Adrian Eggington- Interest in Shaftesbury House site so will refrain from discussion with regards MechEng Campus, West Bromwich.

In addition to the existing and continued declarations from previous meetings:

Nicola Richards MP- Trustee of the Albion Foundation;
Alan Taylor – in relation to any matters relating to Sandwell College;
Geoff Layer – in relation to any matters relating to University of Wolverhampton;
Graham Pennington – in relation to any matters relating to Sandwell College.

38/21 **Towns Fund Project Confirmation Stage**

Rebecca Jenkins provided an overview of activities at project confirmation stage. Superboard are being asked to receive and approve the project confirmation tables, including the consideration of the Smethwick funding terms following receipt of HoTs from Government.

This stage follows recent signing of HoTs and is intended to confirm project details with MHCLG to ensure any changes to projects have been captured.

The general conditions of the HoTs were explained to the board. Appraisal of FBCs will be undertaken by SMBC Strategic Investment Unit which ensures that projects are Green Book compliant and is also compliant with the HoTs. Equality impact and environmental assessments are to be conducted at both town and project level.

The response to town specific conditions in Smethwick and West Bromwich were also outlined to the board.

An error has been picked up on the Urban Greening project confirmation table. The financial amount is not correct in 20/21 and will be amended prior to submission.

Smethwick funding approach- Rebecca Jenkins outlined the context for funding reduction in light of reduced offer from MHCLG. All projects in Smethwick are deemed to be of high importance and therefore it is proposed that all projects are retained but share the reduction in funding equally.

Alan Taylor, Smethwick Local Board Chair, noted the importance of all Smethwick projects and confirmed support for the sharing of funding reduction across all six projects.

Board received the Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plans for comment.

Chris Hinson, West Bromwich Local Board Chair, outlined the West Bromwich Local Board review of monitoring and evaluation. It was noted that the local resident's perceptions are to be captured to inform the impact of the work.

Alan Taylor reported on Smethwick Local Board input into the evaluation and monitoring. It was deemed important to ensure that local spend is captured as part of this. A number of proposed amendments have been suggested to better capture the social value of the proposed projects, these will be added to the action plan and reviewed in due course.

John Spellar MP noted the importance of consulting with local employers to ensure projects deliver the outcomes required by the local market.

Alan Taylor agreed and commented that the board make up helped in this respect, given it is made up of several employers. Although more consultation is planned to ensure robustness.

Adrian Eggington, Chair of the Rowley Regis Board, reported that there was also a strong theme of consultation and engagement in Rowley. Metrics have been proposed to ensure voluntary sector collaboration in the Satellite Education Hub project.

Rebecca Jenkins outlined the action plan which will inform the final version of monitoring and engagement plans. These will be presented to Superboard at FBC stage.

Agreed the Project Confirmation Tables for signing by the Chair of the Superboard (including consideration of Smethwick Project Funding following Heads of Terms).

39/21

Full Business Cases for Tranche 1 Projects

Jude Thompson introduced the item and the presenters for each of the three sub-items.

Jane Bailey, Patrick Geary and Chris Demetrios, Sandwell College, gave a presentation on the West Bromwich Mechanical Engineering Campus project. This included an overview of the context, vision, outcomes, procurement route, consultation plans and delivery strategy.

Wendy Brookfield, Greets Green Community Enterprises, provided an overview of the Digital Den project, West Bromwich. This presentation provided the rationale for increasing digital skills, information on the strategic case, economic impact, outcomes, consultation plans and delivery strategy.

Chris Hinson outlined the support and appreciation from West Bromwich Local Board for both projects.

Erroll Blackwood, Sandwell MBC, presented an overview of the Ron Davis Centre project, Smethwick. The presentation included an overview of the project's context, service users, project outcomes, options appraisal, strategic demand, commercial case, consultation plans and delivery strategy.

Alan Taylor outlined the Smethwick Local Board support for the project and stressed its importance to the community.

No questions received from board members for any of the three presentations.

Following today's presentation, projects will proceed with FBC finalisation and will be presented to Superboard at a later date for final sign off.

Jude Thompson expressed his support and thanks for the projects presented and encouraged Superboard members to contribute at any time going forward, including attendance at Local Board meetings.

40/21

Governance Review

Jude Thompson read a pre-prepared statement about the proposed changes, and rationale, to the governance structure moving forward into the next phase of Full Business Case Development. These changes have been made to facilitate improved stakeholder and Superboard member engagement.

A briefing paper will be shared with Superboard members for digestion and comment following this meeting. Board members are strongly encouraged to read this and make comment.

The chair emphasised that Superboard members are welcome and encouraged to attend and input into Local Board discussion. No questions were forthcoming.

41/21

Stakeholder Engagement Arrangements for Phase 2

Rebecca Jenkins outlined the consultation and engagement plan. The report shared as part of the meeting pack outlines the consultation to date, including the young people's engagement workstream. Projects will develop their own engagement plans to ensure tailored engagement.

An indicative timeline has been shared with board members.

No questions were forthcoming regarding future engagement plans.

42/21

Towns Fund Accelerated Programme Update

Rebecca Jenkins shared a presentation of the accelerated funding projects. These projects were for a maximum of £750,000 for each of the three towns.

Projects are now mostly nearing completion and due to be finalised in June 2021. This work has already had a noticeable impact on the towns. Full presentation will be shared with board members.

43/21

Update on Towns Fund Timeline

Rebecca Jenkins provided an update of Towns Fund timeline and major upcoming milestones. All projects are presently due to meet those milestones.

No questions forthcoming.

44/21

Closing Comments

Jude Thompson sought and final comments or questions from board members. Nothing was raised at this point.

Jude thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Meeting ended at 13:22