

**Minutes of the Goole Town Deal Board Meeting
held on Friday 14 January 2022, 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

Attending: Jos Richardson & Sons (Chairman JR Joseph Richardson), Link Agency (Vice-Chair PJ Phil Jones), ERYC Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Tourism (JE Jane Evison), Goole Town Council (AH Councillor Anne Handley), Environment Agency (PS Paul Stockhill), Goole Civic Society (MHC Margaret Hicks-Clarke), Croda (MC Martin Chapman), Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (TC Teresa Charmers), Junction Theatre and Arts Centre (GW Graham Whitehead), Public Health (LF Laurie Ferguson) and Associated British Ports (DM David Morris).

Present: MHCLG (PC Peter Campey), Head of Economic Development (PB Paul Bell), Town Deal Programme Manager (HH Helen Hoult), Local Growth Co-ordinator (LJ Leigh Johnson) and Regeneration Project Coordinator (CHM Charlotte Howe-McCartin).

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Andy Barber (HEY Smile Foundation), Richard Beal (Beal Homes), Finbarr Dowling (Siemens), Nigel Atkinson (ERYC) and Andrew Percy (Constituency MP).

2. Declaration of Interests

TC informed she had agreed to chair the Humber Freeport Skills Group.

3. Minutes of the Board meeting held on 19 November 2021

The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by MHC and seconded by PS.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Board Terms of Reference version 2

JR said it was an opportune time to update the terms of reference given that Town Deal was entering a new phase. An updated version of the Board Terms of Reference was circulated prior to the meeting for Board consideration. *All agreed, document approved by the Board.*

4.2 Board Membership Review

JR explained he had asked all Board members to consider their role on the Board as Town deal moved into phase 2: business cases prior to phase 3: delivery. He informed that David Kerfoot had decided to step down and he had written to thank him for sharing his knowledge and experience on the Board. Ross Turner has stepped down to focus on GTC projects. GTC agreed Anne Handley replace RT. Graham Whitehead, Programme Manager of Junction Theatre and Arts Centre, had been invited and agreed to join the Board. GW introduced himself, explained he had been part of GTC for 9 months, highlighted the ambition and opportunities he thought were excellent for Goole, and shared his excitement at the transformative opportunities culture and arts could bring for Goole's residents.

5. Business Case Progression

5.1 Goole to Leeds Rail link

JR introduced and welcomed Joe McTigue (JM) from Northern Rail Ltd to present evidence for the economic case for the Goole to Leeds rail link. HH reminded those present that the project is complex in terms of feasibility, justification, and actual cost. The TIP outlined slight indicative costs whereas the business case process will delve much further into comprehensive realistic costs. ERYC engaged Northern Rail to work on the strategic outline case of the project to determine full costs, and ascertain if there is evidence to support the economic benefits

JM and colleagues have worked closely with ERYC to prepare a business case and look at deliverability and potential operational issues for service uplift. The project is a long-standing ambition. In terms of Strategic Case, all evidence sets out clear need from market challenges, showing Goole is underserved by public transport. There are also large economic benefits both locally and around the five towns, plus ticks a range of national priorities i.e. carbon reduction, maintaining current freight capacity. Looking at list of options on how these challenges can be addressed including the proposed rail option. Operationally, Northern have assessed what is needed to deliver e.g. development of service,

timetable options, station capacity (especially at Leeds), staffing, train units, infrastructure and freight track requirements. From this assessment conclusion one train per hour via Castleford is likely to be most viable and high growth option.

Economic case shows core benefits driven by passenger numbers/demand forecasting, undertaken following Transport Appraisal Guidance set out by DfT, noting difficulties rail demand has faced post-pandemic. Key benefits are journey times for new and existing users and environmental benefits from modal shift removing car necessity/decongestion. This model also indicates that the optimum timetable option provides significant revenue and social benefit, supporting much wider regeneration schemes, business opportunities and job creation.

In terms of cost and revenue, average annual operative cost is anticipated at £1.4million, comprised of staffing and mileage driven costs i.e. fuel, maintenance and track access etc. Partly offset by revenue which is forecast at approx. £480,000 per annum, although this is optimistically uncertain due Covid-context as explained. A deficit is not unexpected for this type of route. Also looked at high growth scenario i.e. what happens if all regeneration/business/housing opportunities occur along the route increasing passenger revenue, brings deficit down to approx. £800,000. Anticipated founding source will need to be found to cover this deficit. Options also consider other capital costs which could also add to benefit i.e. station improvements, staff training, Network Rail changes to line speed restrictions etc. Overall, anticipated total net project cost until end of financial year 2026/27 is £5.71 million.

HH all of the board were aware the issues throughout this project has been the funding deficit and that it is a revenue project, however done thus far does show strategic need and realistic costing. Next steps to complete technical study and strategic outline business case, consider Town Deal and other funding sources, prepare in anticipation of future funding and begin dialogue with DfT, Transport for North and Train Operating Companies. In principal TD has allocated £1million to project cost, which is a good place to encourage other potential funders i.e. Selby, Leeds, Wakefield, North Yorkshire. JR little doubt it is a good project but concern more authorities/delivery funders involved increases risk. HH introduces David Hern, Strategic Transport Advisor at ERYC and North Yorkshire, who reassures this project fits with strategic objectives of ERYC, Power Stations and other local authorities like North Yorkshire, therefore ideal situation to lobby government and other funding sources. AH on behalf of residents of Goole, this is a long-standing ambition of residents and will ease lack of public transport after 6pm in town centre. Emphasise that Goole is always increasing and expanding, especially with high skill opportunity at J36, therefore currently only estimations how many people will commute into those positions and would hope for that to be increased. PJ shares similar concerns to JR on risk, understand £800k is the optimistic deficit figure so would really need to secure uptake and revenue, for instance by promoting that bigger environmental agenda, but would like to see more evidence from those proposed next steps. JE one of the schemes which caught imagination and had local backing, need to use our position to kickstart support from other places, therefore right thing to explore to improve residents of Goole opportunities. MHC civic society colleagues in Pontefract also lobbying for line. TC echo's support iterated by AH/JE, emphasising board needs to carry ambitions of Goole residents therefore if we have the means to explore case further to attract investment we should. PC highlights need for clear decision-making timetable between now and June, as there will be a point where an absolute decision on whether to take the project forward depending on external investors will be apparent. Also, if decision taken not to proceed under GTD then contingencies will be needed for earmarked £1million. Board agrees to proceed with strategic outline case.

5.2 Full Fibre Broadband

The Chairman introduced Luke Brannigan, Programme Manager for Broadband at ERYC. HH reminded the Board, that the Broadband project has an outline Towns Fund budget of £1.0m, with an additional £0.5m of proposed, unconfirmed commercial match-funding, to deliver broadband connectivity to Old Goole. The outline scope of the project consists of 58 postcodes in the DN14 5 and DN14 8 range with approximately 1200 premises included. A full Business Case for the project must be developed by June 2022 if funding is to progress. The initial stage of the strategic outline case for this project was understanding government strategic objectives for fibre rollout or if there were private sector companies exploring these options.

LB took Board members through a previously circulated report explaining that the Head of Terms funding offer includes a special condition for the Broadband project. 'As part of the development of the business case, the Town Board should engage with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport / Building Digital UK (BDUK) to understand and agree the rationale for why Towns Funding is needed and that the project cannot be funded as part of the BDUK 'Outside In' programme.' The Broadband East Riding Programme Team have been engaged and commenced dialogue

with BDUK. Initial discussions centred around understanding, what, if any commercial interventions are planned for Old Goole and what, if any, BDUK publicly funded opportunities exist. BDUK have been asked to provide a detailed answer to the special condition question.

LB informed the Broadband East Riding program has delivered superfast broadband (30 megabits per second) to approximately 50,000 premises in the region, achieving the central government target of 80% coverage in 2018. Government replaced this with an ambitious target of 85% Gigabit coverage for the whole of the UK by 2025. For reference LB explained this figure is a massive leap from 30 megabit to gigabit capable (1000Mbps). The speed is considered essential for agile working post pandemic for homes and businesses. There are a number of projects within Broadband East Riding working to achieve the national government target. LBs team is in phase three of delivering Gigabit connectivity to approximately 1400 premises in the region scheduled to complete in June 2022.

In October 2021, the Broadband East Riding Programme undertook an Open Market Review (OMR) to understand the current broadband position in the East Riding along with planned commercial builds for the oncoming years. Several suppliers provided their most recent current build data with future plans. Openreach declined to participate due to their direct involvement with BDUK in a National OMR. Subsequently, ERYC has asked BDUK for details of the Openreach response to the East Riding area, data is awaited. Initial OMR data, highlights planned commercial interventions by a supplier using a combination of commercial build and Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) interventions. If these plans are implemented as presented, gigabit capable broadband would be provided to approximately 1100 of the 1200 premises in scope of this project.

The Outline Business Case highlights the requirement for public funding to provide a Broadband Fibre connection across the Dutch River into Old Goole. LB explained this fibre provision was met as part of Broadband East Riding's Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) project which provided a gigabit capable fibre to Marshlands Primary, Old Goole in August 2021 along with six other schools in the region. The primary purpose of the LFFN project was to extend full fibre connectivity into rural and hard-to-reach areas thereby increasing the economic viability to network providers of rolling out full fibre technology— and ultimately stimulating commercial investment in gigabit-capable broadband in those areas. Due to the fast-paced nature of broadband provision, events have overtaken some of the assumptions made at outline business case stage. RB reported there are indications that commercial expansion will take place in Old Goole from at least one supplier. The Broadband East Riding Programme team will work with BDUK over the coming months to obtain a definitive answer to the special condition and provide a clear view of all commercial expansion plans and publicly funded opportunities for the Old Goole area with a view to confirming whether the Town Deal funding is required, and at what level.

5.3 Flood Defences and Greenway

PS informed the Board that good progress has been made on the strategic outline case, currently working closely with colleagues in ERYC to explore options for the green cycleway, trying to ensure it is aligned with existing cycleways and potential opportunities for additionality to the project scope. Starting to look at land ownership and make contact with those stakeholders, such as Canal & Rivers Trust. Hopeful that in another three months, an outline option shall be chosen, and designs will start to be forthcoming.

5.4 One Stop Skills Shop

HH outlined the purpose of the project, aims and objectives including the changing face of skills and how need has diversified since the initial idea for the project was scoped. Started with it being skills focused, about it connecting and signposting with a physical shop-like interface that is branded GTD, a hub of getting information, a touch down working space and multiple providers can use for activities and drop-ins. Currently exploring options for a physical venue in the town centre with discussions over leasing vs purchasing property with regarding capital or revenue spend, both options shall be considered in the business cases. MC law changed regarding balance reporting and leases are now on balance sheet, not profit/loss, and have experience of capitalising lease costs.

TC suggested a skills fund in Goole could be quite creative and innovative linked to Freeport skills and used as a forerunner, which is focused strongly on the needs of the residents of Goole and tenants of the freeport/J36, especially supporting the underutilised apprenticeship levy to focus on economic regeneration and job creation. The second element involves bootcamps, DfE have issued support for third wave of bootcamps 16 weeks short intervention skills activity at level 3 qualification, designed to upskills people in work or getting them into work.

MC highlighted difficulty recruiting recently and lack of skills regarding importing/exporting trade which is essential to Goole/Freeport, real opportunity for getting high skilled jobs i.e. port health or Defra on the Humber post Brexit, really strong support for a tie in between GTD and Freeport because not only should it be successful for residents/businesses but will also be unique opportunities. PS as a government organisation, operates slightly differently, often in and projects completed before significant attention brought to them, however, have a stake in the GTA and would be interesting to see if it could link up with suppliers/supply chain and also work experience opportunities. JE one of the most important projects for the benefits to residents and bringing forward collaborative skilled opportunities to people who had previously been missed.

6. Town Deal Assurance Framework

A draft Assurance Framework was presented to the Board for consideration and adoption. The Chairman thanked HH for the document, informed all of the purpose of the Framework in terms of the role Board members would have as Town Deal moves forward. Important all board members read and understand it. Agreed that any comments could be made via email to HH and the document be adopted at the next Board meeting following any agreed amendments.

7. Report format for future Board meetings to oversee the Business Case

HH introduced the report format for business case development, this document will form the basis on interim business case update meetings held bi-monthly in-between formal board meetings, aimed at guiding business cases.

Document will provide an update on key achievements or upcoming milestones for each individual project/business case, it will also include financial information on actual spent vs budget.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. JE reminded board about ERYC grant scheme Love Your High Street (LYHS), which can offer up to £10,000 with match to improve business and footfall. Unfortunately, not many applications coming forward from Goole so need to support and encourage that. MC potential to use the market hall for an interim GTD event to engage with people about the projects going on but advertise also LYHS. Board in full support, need to work on increasing public profile.

8.3 Flood Risk Sequential and Exception Test SPD

CHM highlighted ERYCs new Supplementary Planning Document Flood Risk Sequential and Exception Test, ERYC wide sitting alongside local plan and NPPF. Purpose of which is to determine severity of flooding on a site whilst considering the uses and design of a site, giving opportunity to mitigate severe risks to vulnerable uses. Does highlight where site is sequentially preferable or allocated in Goole, there will still be significance design and safety considerations to ensure safe development. Highlight Appendix 3 which offers a matrix to follow sequential test, categorising risk according to location, flood risk, development type and level of vulnerability. Exception test follows sequential test if mitigation not sufficient to reduce risk. The test puts onus on development to show wider sustainability benefits to community that outweighs flood risk and demonstrate development is safe for lifetime of development taking account of users, and without increasing flooding elsewhere.

9. Dates and times of future Board meetings

The next meeting (February 2022) will be confirmed via email. Followed by bi-monthly full board meetings and alternate bi-monthly focused business case updates, again dates confirmed via email.