Minutes of the Goole Town Deal Board meeting held via TEAMS on Friday 1 July 2022, 11.00am to 12.00 noon

Attending: Link Agency (Vice-Chair PJ Phil Jones), Constituency MP (AP Andrew Percy), Environment Agency (PS Paul Stockhill), Junction Theatre and Arts Centre (GW Graham Whitehead), Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (TC Teresa Chalmers), Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Tourism (JE Cllr Jane Evison), Goole Town Council (AH Cllr Anne Handley)

Present: Interim Head of Economic Development (CW Claire Watts), Town Deal Programme Manager (HH Helen Hoult), Head of Regeneration (NA Nigel Atkinson), Local Growth Co-ordinator (LJ Leigh Johnson)

1. Welcome and Apologies

PJ welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jos Richardson & Sons (Chairman Joseph Richardson), Goole Civic Society (Margaret Hicks-Clarke), Public Health (Laurie Ferguson), Siemens (Finbarr Dowling), Andy Barber (HEY Smile Foundation), Beal Homes (Richard Beal), DLUHC (Peter Campey)

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations were declared.

3. Minutes of the Board meeting held on May 2022

The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting following an amendment on page 3 referring to a name correction from Joe C**a**rney to Joe C**o**rney.

4. Matters Arising

PS raised two issues to pick up during AOB, communication that will be released soon regarding the Environment Agency's capital programme and an invitation regarding a Fusion Energy event in Goole.

5. Programme Review Report

HH presented a report outlining the reprofiling for individual projects based on business case development. There was recognition that a critical junction had been reached in terms of timing and deliverable impact on spend profiles. The spend profile had been set in the Town Investment Plan during the project concept stage with significant detail to be worked through in each of the business cases.

Advice was taken from Peter Campey to ensure the overall programme was reviewed in terms of funding and deliverability and changes formally requested. Reviews have taken place with each individual project organisations to agree new milestones and spend profiles. HH stressed this is the only opportunity available to request such an amendment that is not guaranteed. Assurance has been given that although cautious, the change to spend is realistic and achievable to ensure new targets can be met.

A three-stage process is required, business case completion, local assurance process for checking and agreeing the completed business case followed by paperwork for submission through the Town Deal central office to confirm the outcome. The revised spend profile shows a reduction of spending in 22/23 and an increase in the following years.

PJ praised the work that had taken place and added that it was an excellent document outlining an ambitious and achievable timeframe for delivery. He referenced how the VPG project fitted within the framework documented, how it was achievable and that he had been impressed with Steve Wells Associates who are taking forward the business case for Goole Town Council at the right pace to deliver the plan. JE added that the document provided excellent clarity on delivery and timetabling of projects. She asked for it to be referenced at each Board meeting to monitor progression.

HH informed all that once business cases have been approved the Board's role will be focussed on monitoring to make sure delivery is happening; mitigating any issues which may arise such as inability to procure contractors, increases in quoted prices etc will form part of that responsibility. Programme level change cannot be requested again but projects can be considered on an individual basis if issues occur that impact on delivery and are out of the Board's control.

PJ asked NA for a progress update on the Property Activation Fund in terms of the complexities involved in delivery. NA explained the concern is what uses can be brought forward and a decision required from Forward Planning in terms of those uses. There is ongoing discussion between the Environment Agency and ERYC Forward Planning to ascertain any shift in Policy Guidance. JE said she would continue to push for a positive outcome.

AP asked what the current position was for Broadband expectancy in Old Goole. HH explained the Heads of Terms offer specified the project should only proceed if it was not covered in the BDUK roll out. In March it was concluded that it should proceed via the Town Deal. Subsequently in April an open market review of all private providers took place. Open Reach stated they were planning to invest in Old Goole but had yet to officially inform BDUK. A discussion with Peter Campey resulted in the decision to proceed with the Business Case on the basis that the project may come forward sooner than any works taking place by Open Reach. Colleagues within ERYC have undertaken a procurement exercise establish the delivery costs, central to the business case for the project.

PJ asked what role ARUP would provide. HH explained they would provide specialist call on call off technical expertise where required for some aspects of the five case Business Model for each of the ten projects where the Council either do not have the expertise or capability. This gives the Board a level of assurance that mechanisms have been out in place to ensure when certain skills are needed for Business Cases, there is a specialist instantly available.

PS said he enjoyed the Business event that recently took place at Bridlington Spa. He attended a session presented by the Managing Director of Wykeland and thought it could be worthwhile having a discussion to consider a private sector perspective on property activation. PJ explained that he and the Chairman had previously spoken with Wykeland considering their competent work transforming the fruit market in Hull. AH advised caution in asking a private investor directly as any change in process must be fair and equitable and avoid circumstances where other companies may complain opportunities are not being made available to local firms.

JE reminded the Board they had previously discussed this option and agreed inviting one potential developer to consider options in Goole would not be appropriate, rather a Board decision would have to be made following due process with the opportunity advertised and open for all to respond as well as, being eligible according to the terms of approved projects.

NA advised that Peter Campey had also made comment on this previously, suggesting the approach of engaging a private sector Partner was different than that expressed in the Town Investment Plan and, as a result, would have to be considered very carefully.

PJ thanked NA adding that the complexities of the Property Activation Fund could cause delays which Town Deal cannot afford and perhaps it's more appropriate to go forwards as planned and avoid any further delays. JE suggested conversations with the Environment Agency would alleviate some of the issues once a definitive response to what is allowed to be developed in the town centre has been agreed and how that will form the rationale for the Property Activation Fund.

PJ added that the complexities involved in the process warrant careful consideration, he was grateful to the Board for the considered discussion and happy to conclude the document outlined where Town Deal is heading and what process needs to be achieved to sustain the planned projects in a comprehensive way.

HH asked those present if they were content to approve the proposed changes and endorse formal submission to the Government Department requesting the changes as presented. For those not in attendance, they were asked to share views directly via email and no objections have been received. PJ asked members if they were happy to proceed with the recommendations outlined in the Programme Review Report.

Decision: All in agreement to endorse the changes to the programme spend.

PS explained the Environment Agency is going through a programme refresh and this is likely to lead to various announcements, possibly ministerial and potentially national. He said he has tried to include the works taking place in Goole within this and suggested to HH that she could liaise with Alex Wales in the Environment Agency to highlight how partnership working is in place.

6. Any Other Business

Goole Jobs Fair

AH outlined the success of the well-attended event. 34 business participated, feedback has been excellent with residents securing employment opportunities and businesses informing how pleased they were with the opportunity. AH also pointed out how busy Town Deal was with people engaged throughout the entire event. PJ congratulated AH on the success of the event and added it was excellent to see the space used and attention focussed back on the building. AH informed a Fusion Energy event is scheduled for 18 July in the building with plans for a boxing event for September / October being worked up with Andrew Horncastle

AP said he had spoken with David Gibbons, Manager of the Green Team, at the Jobs fair who highlighted he would like to begin further Kickstarter opportunities for longer term unemployed people in Goole through a placement at the Green Team. AP suggested the Skills Fund may be a route to bringing Kickstarter forwards. LJ has been in contact with David and dialogue is continuing, he has been informed of the anticipated process to apply for funding and offered support to explore a variety of funding avenues.

AP suggested a formal press release be produced to inform stakeholders about the amended spend for the current financial year and proposals for the leisure centre, so people are aware plans are moving ahead to delivery. He suggested including information on what East Riding is considering for the site, planning requirements, the additionality from Town Deal (tag active etc) to make people aware that much is happening behind the scenes to deliver Town Deal.

JE agreed but suggested it might be helpful to wait until if Goole knows the programme review has been approved and, she is expecting an update from James Timm regarding the business case development and progressed plans for the Leisure Centre. ERYC will need to facilitate regular updates to the public and user group's so people are aware from an early stage. AP agreed and suggested the sooner information could be relayed to the community the better. PJ thought this a good idea and highlighted the VPG business case referencing excellent ideas that were visually impactful. He advised that until decisions have been made on preferred options and why, it would be inappropriate to start releasing information for public consumption.

GW informed that several local Town Councillors had asked him about Town Deal plans and he was unsure what could be shared in terms of recent presentations that had been delivered to the Board. If any information was to be given in a press release, he asked that stakeholders such as town Councillors could be informed in advance. HH noted this is a key point, under normal circumstances, the representatives of GTC would be expected to feedback however, on some occasions the Board are being consulted during conceptual stages prior to wider release and so clarity will be required in future.

AP suggested a release to inform residents of what Town Deal is currently looking to progress in the town based around the leisure centre upgrade and how these works are in response to all the engagement and consultation that has taken place. This would highlight what residents have asked for has been considered in initial proposals, although subject to final approvals and planning permission etc. JE said she appreciated the need to keep momentum going but felt cautious about releasing information until it was ready and said she would ensure something could be released as soon as possible once updates had been discussed with James Timm. PJ agreed with JE and added that there was some great activity taking place and he was confident that when the right time came to release information it would be welcomed positively.

HH informed all that it was important to utilise all communication sources as referenced in the Board Publicity and Communication Plan and understanding the caveats attached to early ideas that may not develop as initially thought (for example planning restrictions, viability, and acquisition etc). Managing public information is as important as managing the spend profiles and delivering the Town Deal. PJ thanked HH for the explanation and agreed it was important to ensure the right communications were released at the relevant time.

7. Date and time of Future Board meetings

PJ informed all future meetings will take place on Fridays at 2pm to 4pm **in person at Raise Business Centre unless otherwise stated.** Future meeting dates are: Friday 12 August, Friday 9 September, Friday 7 October, Friday 11 November and Friday 9 December.