Board Meeting
Friday 14 April 2023, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Attending: Link Agency (PJ Phil Jones, Chairman), Constituency MP (AP Andrew Percy), Goole Civic Society (MHC Margaret Hicks-Clarke), Goole Town Council (AH Cllr Anne Handley), Croda International (MC Martin Chapman), DLUHC (PC Peter Campey), DLUHC (MT Matthew Turner), Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (TC Teresa Chalmers), Public Health (LF Laurie Ferguson)

Present: Town Deal Programme Manager (HH Helen Hoult), Local Growth Co-ordinator (LJ Leigh Johnson ERYC), Opportunity Goole Project Manager (DR Dawn Redfern), Promotions Co-ordinator (JH Joe Hodgson), Strategic Asset Manager (JT James Timm), Economic Development Services Officer (AHt Andrew Hewitt)

1. Welcome and Apologies
PJ welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Siemens (Finbarr Dowling), Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Tourism (Cllr Jane Evison) Beal Homes (Richard Beal), and HEY Smile Foundation (Nick Middleton). Environment Agency (PS Paul Stockhill) (Interim Head of Economic Development (Claire Watts), Head of Regeneration (Nigel Atkinson), Media and Communication (Lucy Oates), Principal Public Relations Officer (Lisa Welton)

2. Declaration of Interests None were declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February Agreed, approved by MHC, seconded by AH.

4. Opportunity Goole Update
Dawn Redfern (Project Manager) and Joe Hodgson (Promotions Coordinator) updated the Board on progress regarding staffing, service provision and promotion. A team of advisors is being recruited to with specialist skills, one full-time post and three-part time posts based at Goole Library covering 9.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. Data will be collated on current provision available to those seeking new skills, upskilling, identifying gaps in provision, the skill needs of employers from a local perspective and those being requested by people dropping in or being referred to Opportunity Goole. Referral systems are in place and being expanded, multiple promotion has taken place and continues to do so with increased networking and events scheduled. Discussions have taken place with a number of providers willing to provide adult training opportunities; links in place to support wide range of opportunities for NEETS (young people not in employment or education) and adults age 25+.

The flexible skills fund aims to support those requiring skills that will increase the economic prosperity of Goole and this will be made clear in eligibility criteria to access support through the fund. Current examples of queries include £60 for a young man to obtain a coaching qualification enabling him to coach in sport at community level, another requires £3,000 to obtain a gas qualification, both leading to employment opportunities in the local area. Access to transport is another area that has proved to be a popular query. The Fund total is £320k over three years, other avenues of funding will also be explored to ensure the optimum route for each service user and the most appropriate funding source accessed. Potential funding could also come through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The Skills Fund will allow for both individual and organisations to apply with eligibility and guidance in place to establish appropriate systems.

MC thought the project a great opportunity for SMEs and the delivery of apprenticeships. JH explained the project is Goole orientated and work with SMEs will be one of the key areas as the town has a considerable number that would benefit from the Skills Fund. MHC thought the project could provide opportunities for Goole residents to enhance and renew their skills to challenge for higher paid opportunities locally that would have previously been fulfilled by those living outside of the area. Lack of aspiration was discussed. MC suggested implementing a range of employability sessions to coincide with skill training opportunities to ensure residents were confident and capable through each stage of the recruitment process from applying for positions to interviewing successfully. AH concurred adding that working with NEETS can be complex and will require a number of alternative methods to attract, engage and inspire them. JH has been making inroads through local youth provision and already engaged with the organisations that work under the umbrella of Goole Youth Action who employ youth workers to develop positive outcomes for young people. Links are being made to ensure the service reaches all potential service users as outlined in the business case and objectives of the funding, the aim of which is to boost Goole's economic viability. A local catchment area will be defined on this basis as Goole and area. TC offered to work with DR to discuss collaboration. Progress reports will be provided regularly as Opportunity Goole develops and progresses. JH will be utilising various engagement methods to promote the range of services. A Jobs Fair will take place at the market hall on 26 April. promoting Opportunity Goole and many local employment and training opportunities. DR informed all about the Multiply bus (mobile skills training facility) that can be used by employers to support employees in gaining qualifications and upskilling. Significant sign up has already taken place to use this resource. AH informed that adult education team had utilised the social supermarket and food bank to sign up people for the service.

5. Projects Progress Report

HH guided the Board through key points of the progress report informing that Town Deal is now in delivery phase.

Market Hall - JT updated on market hall progress. Group Ginger Architects have been appointed to lead the building work. They have worked on similar projects in Scarborough, Doncaster and Leeds to bring buildings back into popular public use. He added that research has shown less interest in food halls has been noted nationally. Soft market testing for operators will launch in April. Local anchor tenants will also be sought such as a local brewery. Construction work will begin later this year starting with the roof. A core stakeholder group has been formed comprising of Junction, Goole Town Council, and the Civic Society to market test core events for the coming year during the first phase of works. Those present discussed various options for the core function of the building and opportunities the project will bring to the town.

Mitigated risks were recognised and discussed including design development expectations, risks from construction, planning constraints and requirements, all of which can be mitigated with appropriate consideration, engagement, and action. PJ thanked JT on behalf of the Board. The Board recognised the project must be economically viable and sustainable in the form it takes forward to ensure its success. JT added that a good team had been pulled together and recognised a hybrid offer between food and community would be key. A Christmas event will take place in December in a similar vein to that of December 2022. Work will begin on site in January 2024. AH briefed all on a food and drink festival planned for August/September 2023. Following a discussion on signage and promotion HH informed that the Town Deal branding guide would be revisited ready for specific projects following the end of the pre-election period.

Leisure Centre - Procurement process has taken place; Willmott Dixon and Watson Batty Architects won the contract and are due to be part of the design and construction team. Currently reviewing the design changes arising from the consultation which include retaining the sports hall and including the health suite. Revisions will be presented to local stakeholders including Goole Town council prior to the next publicity release. Arrangements are well advanced for alternative temporary accommodation for dry side activities. Alternative wet side activities are currently being explored with other pool operators and Membership compensation options are being considered. The Board discussed various options for pool use including transportation. The works will involve one year of disruption to users. Project costs have been revised due to inflation and other factors. The project will be taken to Capital Board at the end of April for approval with increased costs covered by ERYC. Working towards planning submission in July. Images from architect expected in May when the project will be taken back to ERYC and then made public in June. AH informed all of Willmott Dixon's excellent corporate social responsibility record with projects facilitated in Goole and Old Goole. Works on site will begin January 2024 with completion in March 2025. Various sites will be used to house certain leisure activities and sports during the closure. Ian Rayner is working up plans to facilitate transport to alternate sites. AH added that schools will be interesting in the swimming pool offer to ensure pupils gain learn to swim sessions.

Public Realm - Working through procurement process to procure a consultant to begin working on the project. Aiming for creative solutions to create people friendly spaces that inspire and attract rather than the status quo of previous schemes. AP suggested it was a good idea to ask people what they would like to see within a public realm scheme. HH informed the business case outlines the process and expected scheme. Options will be costed prior to consultation.

Station Hub - This work will tie in with public realm in the pedestrian plaza. Colin Walker is working with a colleague to bring different options forwards. The station space will be improved upon and the traffic islands to create safe space for pedestrians using the crossings. Consideration for the shuttle bus between Howden and Goole forth the issue of a lack of a turning circle for the bus. This and other issues are being worked on in terms of bus sizes, capacity and green options. The service is scheduled to launch in September and will go out to tender.

Dutch River - Paul Stockhill's team are working through design options and aim to hold a community engagement event in spring to consider what people would like to see along the greenway.

PAF - AHt outlined plans for the PSF. Board members discussed opportunities and approach. The PAF is not a shop frontage update grant, it will facilitate large scale interventions with high impact and provide some smaller grants to increase economic viability of the town in accordance with the business case. An EOI process will be agreed to facilitate bold interventions that will physically change the town centre. HH explained the ultimate objective is to bring forward transformational projects, the secondary factor will be to allow for some small and medium projects. PC added that impact measures will need to be decided throughout the project lifetime. AHt will meet with private owners and engage one to one to ascertain interest and opportunity. The Board discussed current property opportunities in the town centre including the option of supporting planning applications.

Action: Following discussion *it was agreed that the Board would operate a general premise of support for conversion of upper floor retail into residential space. A letter of support will be sent on the Board's behalf to support a current application going to the ERYC Planning Committee on 20 April.*

6. Communication & Engagement Report

HH introduced the report collated by Lucy Oates and updated those present on plans for communication and engagement. Lucy will be working on behalf of Town Deal until the end of the year. She will commence a website revamp to highlight the next phase of Town Deal and create a time sequence for projects. This will also include branding, logo and signage and all communications. Lucy will also be writing a precise of each of the projects for the website, social media platforms and media.

7. Incoming Communications –

HH outlined communications received from Jeremy Fletcher regarding the VPG project. She explained the Freedom of I information process when a request arrives with ERYC. The FOI office acknowledged that Goole Town Council were the appropriate body to provide an official response to the request having appointed Steve Wells Associates who facilitated the engagement process. HH brought the complaint to the Board to discuss.
Action: Following discussion, *the Board were satisfied with the process and agreed a letter be sent for the Chairman outlining the Board's response.*

HH outlined communications received from Terry Fisher regarding Goole CCTV system. The Board discussed the issues raised. Goole Town Deal Board want to see an improved CCTV system for the town but are not directly involved in any aspect of procuring a service; that is the responsibility of Goole Town Council and for Goole Town Council to decide which operator they see fit to win their contract.

8. Appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair

HH outlined the process and action to date in appointment of a Board Chair and Vice Chair.
Action: *Following discussion Board members unanimously agreed to PJ continuing in his role as Chairman of the Board and nominated MC for the role of Vice Chair.*

9. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

10. Date and time for future Board meetings

All Board meetings will take place from 2pm to 4pm in person at Raise Business Centre (unless advised otherwise).
Action: *Following discussion it was agreed Board meetings would be held bi-monthly with the next meeting taking place in June (date to be agreed) followed by September and November.* Project Steering Forums will meet monthly on an as and when basis. Board members will receive a document outlining key decision points and project milestones.