

Minutes

Meeting Title: Penzance Town Deal Board

Date: 7th December 2020

Time: 08:15 to 10:30

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chaired by: Martin Tucker

Attendees: Voting Members: Nicole Broadhurst (NB), Dick Cliffe (DC – joined at 09:15), CC Tim Dwelly (TD), Henry Garfit (HG), Hester Hunt (HH), Emmie Kell (EKell), CC Jim McKenna (JMck), Jess Morris (JM), Cornelius Olivier (CO), Sarah Shaw (SS), Susan Stuart (SSt), Martin Tucker (MT), Tim Wotton (TW).
Non-Voting Members / Officers: Beth Briggs (BB), Claire Hurley (CH), Emily Kent (EK), Louisa Philpott (LP).

Apologies: James Hardy (JH), Rob Parsons (RP), Derek Thomas MP (DT), Phill Woods (PW), Rachel Yates (RY).

Minutes

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

- Apologies as listed above.
- It was noted that some attendees were experiencing technical issues.
- Members agreed that the meeting could be recorded for the purpose of assisting with minute writing, given that BB was unable to access the start of the meeting.

2 Declaration of Interests

- To be noted under each agenda item.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.
- The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters arising not covered on the agenda

- 16th November minutes:
- Oasis Nursery, page 3 item 6(b) – TD made a statement to the Board with respect to the briefing circulated the previous day.
- TD was not happy that the briefing had been circulated the day prior to the meeting and was against the possibility of a suggested alternative site for the project. If the Board agreed to adopt this approach, TD advised that he would resign from the Board.
- TD commented that a note had been shared advising that no such alternative site was available.
- MT responded to advise that the paper had not been circulated until the day before the meeting due to meetings taking place up until late on the 4th.
- MT clarifies that the point regarding an alternative site had come from an indication that Cornwall Council were willing to assist in exploring the possibility.
- MT noted TD's concerns and advised that the item would be discussed fully under item 6(a) on the agenda.
- page 4 item 7(a) – EK reported that advice was to consider TIP as wrapper for range of projects even if not all funded via TIP and that there was an opportunity to apply to the LEP for capital funding by 11th December, should there be Board capacity to facilitate this. CH noted that she had a meeting later that day with Transport where this would be discussed further.
- MT advised Members of a recent meeting with Chairs of all four Town Deal Boards and CC. He reiterated that Cornwall Council were looking at impact projects which were sustainable and deliverable and there was a need for confidence in projects.
- To set the scene for discussion in the rest of the meeting, CH updated Members on the check and challenge session with Arup.
- CH noted that the sustainability golden thread and basis in Sustainable Development Goals had been very well received.
- CH noted the importance of agreeing a final list of projects. All projects needed further development and, based on available resource, this focus should be on the realistic projects that were agreed for TIP inclusion.
- CH shared the current project list with the Board.

5 Projects for TIP inclusion:

a) Newlyn Skills

- CH noted that a much more detailed proposal had now been received, following initial feedback regarding the level of detail provided.
- The project had been back through the appraisal process and Members could now see the transformational aspect of the project.
- JMCK declared an interest in this item and, having spoken on the project, left the meeting at 09:02.
- Members discussed the project's contribution to the fishing industry and helping to provide sustainability to the sector.
- The Chair noted that Truro & Penwith College would be able to offer support in terms of underlining training needs.
- The Board agreed to support inclusion of this proposal in the TIP.
- It was noted that there was more development work to be done on this project.
- JMCK re-joined the meeting at 09:09.

b) Arts, Culture and Heritage, to include:

i. Newlyn School of Art

ii. Newlyn Gallery and the Exchange

iii. Penlee

iv. Morrab Gardeners House

- CH noted that this was a strong theme in the guidance, as well as a key part of Penzance's identity.
- There were four projects that came forward, three existing assets and one potential new asset.
- Cornwall Council and EKell worked with partners to pull together a cohesive proposal.
- HG declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 08:39.
- CH noted that the four projects were working on a collaborative approach to include proposed audience sharing, shared ticketing and collaborative events.
- EKell advised that the use of a national cultural asset calculation had highlighted that every pound of Town Deal spend would result in £20 of economic impact.
- JM advised Members as to the discussions on the scoring panel when considering these projects. She noted that the group had viewed the Morrab project as being transformational in its own right, the other three would rely on a shared approach in order to fit the criteria.
- It was noted that two of these projects would individually be eligible to apply for the discretionary fund.
- EKell noted the step change in providing the ability of each asset to offer a step change to the town and that they had worked closely recently to form a partnership, with Towns Fund acting as the catalyst to bring them together.

- There was discussion around the longevity of the partnership and EKell noted that the applicants intended to build in a form of coordination/overseeing body into their business model.
- EKell and NB left the meeting for the vote at 09:01.
- The Board agreed Morrab Gardens for inclusion in the TIP.
- The Board agreed a cultural partnership of the Penlee, Newlyn School of Art and Newlyn Gallery is also included in the TIP.
- EKell and NB re-joined the meeting at 09:05.
- CH noted that all projects discussed in this meeting required further development work, and this information be brought back to the next Board meeting.

c) LiveWest

- CH advised that TW had provided a response to all questions raised at the last Board meeting, which was circulated with the agenda pack.
- CO queried the expansion of recreation space within the revised plan.
- TW advised that LiveWest would look to use areas under their ownership but would be keen to work with partners such as Cornwall Council in order to develop new spaces.
- TW declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 09:13.
- Members discussed the fit with the intervention framework. There was concern that there was no obvious fit and narrative in the TIP would be a challenge.
- There was support for the proposal and Members could see the benefit for residents. But there was concern that the Town Deal was not the appropriate fund to support it within the guidance.
- The Board agreed that this proposal should not go forward for inclusion in the TIP.
- The Board hoped that LiveWest would proceed with this project and seek support from appropriate funds as necessary.
- CH noted that this project, along with others that the Board were supportive of but were not able to include in their ask should be mentioned in the TIP as a bigger picture and longer term strategy in order that the document served the town beyond the 2026 spend deadline.
- TW re-joined the meeting at 09:37.

6 Projects for consideration:

a) Oasis nursery

- MT noted that a report had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. He provided the Board with an overview of discussions to date.
- The comments from earlier in the meeting were noted.

- TD and CO declared an interest in this item, and both spoke on the subject before leaving the meeting at 09:48.
- There was some concern that the ongoing discussions and conduct of Members with regards to this project.
- CH summarised the project and reminded Members, with regards to all projects, that they needed to keep in mind the fit with the overall investment plan and alignment with the intervention framework. Skills/training provision was noted.
- Members acknowledged the importance of nursery provision in the area but wondered if this was the appropriate fund.
- The fit of this project within the framework was considered, and the merit of scoring this project to objectively review the fit with the criteria.
- EK confirmed that a sufficiency study was currently live.
- Members voted in favour of the project proceeding to scoring. The voting pattern was 4 votes for, with 4 against. The Chair had the casting vote in favour of progressing to scoring.
- It was noted that the scoring process would need to be undertaken quickly and an extraordinary meeting may be required to consider the recommendation.
- TD and CO re-joined the meeting at 10:10.
- SSt requested that Members involved in this project desist from any further lobbying of other Board Members.

b) Big Dance Company

- CH noted that this was a late submission.
- Members considered the merit and fit of this project against the criteria and the resource that would be required to progress.
- Members considered that this would be an appropriate fit for the discretionary fund.
- Members agreed that this project would not progress to scoring. The voting pattern was 4 votes for scoring, with 5 votes against.
- It was noted that future work could be done on this project, and MT would contact the applicant to discuss possible temporary accommodation.

7 Review of final shortlist

- CH noted that this would be circulated after the meeting.

8 Feedback/advice for consideration

- CH reported that feedback from Arup indicated the Board is currently in a good position and there would be another meeting in January to review the final draft, including all projects.

9 Final steps to submission, to include:

a) Stages/timeline

- Next Board meeting to consider final draft of TIP to take place on Monday 11th January.

b) Comms and consultation

- Not covered due to time constraints.

10 Budget update

- The budget remained the same as reported at the previous Board.

11 AOB

- SSt raised delivery mechanism for regeneration projects that do not have Cornwall Council ownership.
- Proposal for CDC to set up subsidiary company in order that this will be delivered by a known entity, minimising risk of delivery.
- Board of subsidiary to include Board Member representation.
- This proposal was agreed by the Board.
- Capacity funding was then discussed, with the need for investment for regeneration projects and the Newlyn Skills projects in order to develop them adequately for TIP inclusion.
- SSt proposed to commission Lavigne Lonsdale, who would subcontract as appropriate, to undertake works at a total maximum Board spend of £63.5k.
- The proposal was, in consultation with EK, to request £53.5k from Cornwall Council, with £10k match funding from the capacity fund.
- The Board agreed with this approach.
- CH noted that she was working on mapping out additional requirements for capacity fund spend across the approved projects.
- The involvement of Arup in the project development/delivery work was queried. EK advised that a cross check was required.
- LP advised that the Towns Hub would be available to support Boards until late 2021 and that a pack was being prepared outlining the post-submission support available. LP would liaise with CH going forward.
- The proposal to spend £10k of capacity fund budget on development works was agreed by the Board.
- The Board agreed that CH, SSt and EK work with Cornwall Council on establishing the level of contribution available from Cornwall Council in order to progress procurement of these works.

- The retention of CH past her current January engagement was then discussed. The Board agreed that CH should be retained in post.

12 Date of next meeting

- Monday 11th January, 08:15 to 10:15.