**Dudley Town’s Fund Board

Friday 15th January 2021 – 10 am until 12 noon
via Conference Call**

**Board Members Guest Attendees**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Andrew Lovett (Chair) | Ross Renton | Paul Brothwood |  |
| Hugh Burton | Diane Green | Jim Cunningham |  |
| Neil Thomas | Mick Donovan | Bill Kirk |  |
| Helen Martin | Rob Ellis | Clare Marshall |  |
| Katherine Sheerin |  | Samantha Bright |  |
| Amanda Tomlinson |  | Julian Pye |  |
| Corin Crane |  | Phil Thomas |  |
| Jose Lopes |  | Vicky Smith |  |
| Derek Grove |  | Cllr Patrick Harley |  |
| Cllr Ian Kettle |  | James Pearson |  |
| Cllr Khurshid Ahmed |  | Maria Salcedo, Amion |  |

 **NOTES**

1. Apologies for Absence - Traci Dix-Williams, Jeremy Knight-Adams, David Green, James Fleet, Lowell Williams, Steve Johnson, Pete Bond, Andrew Barrett, Nick Mallinson, Stuart Everton

Declarations of Interest - None provided at Board meeting.

Following the recent email request to provide a short profile with picture together with a declaration of interest to include membership of other Boards by 20th January, attendees were advised to make contact if they were unsure what information to include. The details were to be published on the Council’s website.

1. Minutes of the last meeting on 4th December 2020 – Approved as a correct record.
2. Matters Arising/Action tracker

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Subject | Detail | Action |
| 1 | Update from ARUP Hub Co-ordinator on lessons learnt and bid requirements | DMBC to ensure draft when circulated be supported by a steer as to which areas comments are particularly sought so the effort can be prioritised.ALL to consider draft plan when circulated and to provide comments by deadline.  | **COMPLETED** |
| 2 | Update on progress of the Town Investment Plan and projects | DMBC to action the agreement by board that DI project should be removed from consideration in TIP as the funding is to be found from alternative sources.DMBC to update ward councillors on prioritisation process.DMBC to provide a breakdown of the scoring. | **COMPLETED****COMPLETED****VS TO INCUDE IN BID** |
| 3 | Design development of the HEI project | DMBC to provide detail of Metro route through Castle Hill to be incorporated in visuals**.** | **COMPLETED AND ONGOING** |
| 4 | Dashboard of Risk Register | To be discussed further at the next Board meeting. | **TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA.** |

* Draft TIP (VS)

The comments on the TIP received from Board members had been reviewed and incorporated as necessary. A key aspect of the bid was that it focussed on a single building. The Test and Challenge Session with Julian Pye on 11th January had been helpful.

Julian Pye said the TIP was well structured and that any suggestions provided had centred on refinement and improvement to strengthen the bid by enabling the assessors to have a clearer understanding of the TIP so that the story was given in an evidential way.

Maria Salcedo said the comments received from the Board were 4 fold including, rewording, factual amendments, raising aspirations and interventions around Top Church and Resonance, to strengthen the university park concept and the VLR Innovation Centre plus boost student accommodation within the TIP. The Towns Hub had been included as an appendix to the report. There had been 10 comments received, with some recurring themes:-

- To ensure clarity over how the university centre fit in with other parts of the bid.

- Boosting rationale as to why there was just the one project.

- Highlighting that the bid was to bring in other funding (ensuring evidence was
 provided about where the other funding was to come from). The Chair raised the
 question of whether the information was up to date regarding the monies coming in
 from other projects. **ACTION: VS** to discuss this further with BCLM outside the
 Board to ensure an up to date list was held.

- Engagement activity – to strengthen the reference to private sector partners and
 the need to give more detail around future engagement activity and how to bring
 partners in. **Action CM** to discuss with Worcester University.

- Vicky Smith was to include further visuals/maps for the bid.

- The economic benefits needed to be highlighted.

The Leader raised the need to clarify the student accommodation offer.

College/University confirmed student accommodation numbers had been submitted which, although lower than anticipated, was a realistic assessment as the need for accommodation would not be required from day one.

Phil Thomas said he would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with the college and university and asked to see data on the longer term need for student accommodation.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed drew attention to the need for quicker action and to consider the opportunity for students to come in from areas outside Dudley (ie. Birmingham and Wolverhampton) via the development of the Metro.

Student accommodation remained critical to the bid (in relation to travel between the university park and town centre) and work would continue with partners as there remained time to address this matter.

Katherine Sheerin asked that further detail be included on the recovery from the pandemic and the expectation that this would take the next decade to achieve.

The Chair expressed his thanks to everyone that had been involved in the huge effort and complex task in preparing the bid.

The Board members approved the bid subject to any further finessing.
1. Update on Engagement Activity (CM)

A total of 950 surveys had been completed.

Check and Challenge results were in the process of being updated.

Work was progressing well on the design element of the TIP document.

The foreword had been drafted which Helen Martin and Vicky Smith had approved. This was now to be sent to the Chair and Leader for their approval. **ACTION CM**
**Programme for communication and engagement** – The comments received were being incorporated into the document and, once finalised, would be put onto the Council’s website.

Board Member profiles and Declarations of Interest were to be uploaded onto the Council website by the Comms team.
2. Any Other Business

**Terms of Reference** – to be revisited and proposals put forward for the Board’s comment, including how often the Board was to meet going forward.
3. Date and Time of Next Meeting

To be arranged.