

City of Preston Town Fund Board

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16 June 2021

Present: Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; Ms R Connor , Vice Chair; Councillors M Brown and Borrow, Sir M Hendrick, MP, Mr A Phillips, Mr P Green, Ms A Parkinson, Ms K O'Reilly, Mr M Fleming and Mr R Binns

Also in attendance:

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| Mr J Crellin | – Assistant Director (Head of City Growth & Regeneration) City Development |
| Mr C Hayward | – Director of Development and Housing |
| Ms J Wilding | – Director of Resources & S151 Officer |
| Ms B Joyce | – City Development |
| Ms J Pollock | – Scrutiny Support Manager |

CD5 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 March, 16 April 2021 were agreed as a correct record. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2021 were agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment to the title of Sir M Hendrick, MP.

CD6 Towns Fund Implementation - June Monitoring Update (Paragraph 1)

Ms Joyce, City Development, presented an update to the Board. The Board had submitted a City Investment Plan (CIP) to the Government at the end of July 2020. This set out a 15 year plan for the city centre including a £24.98m Towns Fund investment programme focussed on the Harris Quarter.

In March 2021, the Board and Accountable Body accepted the Heads of Terms and in May 2021 submitted the Programme and Project Update to government.

At its meeting in May 2021 the Board also approved a Phase 2 work plan for the Towns Fund Technical Implementation Group (TIG) and the report set out project monitoring for June and updates on the associated work streams which form part of the work plan. This is the first cycle of monthly reporting and there are no issues requiring a Board decision.

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The local assurance for the Towns Fund programme requires that independent appraisal of business cases be considered and appropriate measures put in place. It is anticipated that the management and economic cases within each business case be independently appraised with the TIG appraising the remaining cases. A detailed scope for appraisal is being prepared and the procurement process for the appraisers will provide for the retained consultants to appraise additional cases if required.

The Board Members raised various matters including:-

- the possibility of setting procurement targets to aid suppliers in less well-off wards and those affected by the pandemic. It was noted that this would feature in a future report;
- the Board acknowledged the tight deadlines the TIG and project leads were working under and passed on its thanks;
- deadlines and other issues relating to the cinema development;
- progress with the provision of the youth zone and future plans for usage;
- revisions to the Public Realm Project following changes in funding. The Board agreed that a walking tour of the areas included would prove useful

Ms Dalton gave a stakeholder's update to the board on the youth zone, Harris Museum and Art Gallery and the cinema development and on further consultations to take place.

Members then discussed next steps involving updating Preston Partnership. It was agreed that the format of the report was excellent. The Board also agreed to continue with virtual meetings for the foreseeable future.

Resolved- (i) that the June progress monitoring report be noted and the format be confirmed as appropriate;
(ii) that of the June progress monitoring report be noted;
(iii) approval be given to the procurement process for external appraisal of business cases.

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