

Towns Fund Board
Friday 24th February 2023 at 11am via Teams

Present:

Andy Preston - Mayor of Middlesbrough
Tony Parkinson, Middlesbrough Council Chief Executive
Andy McDonald - Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough
Laura Sillars - Dean of mima School of Art & Design Teesside University
Adam Suleiman – Cities and Local Growth Unit
Simon Clarke - Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland
Zoe Lewis – Middlesbrough College
Chris Smith – Thirteen Group
Rachel Anderson - Assistant director of Policy NECC
Mark Fenwick – Arriva
Wendy Tinckler attending on behalf of Marc Anderson

In attendance

Richard Horniman – Director of Regeneration
Sam Gilmore - Head of Economic Growth and Infrastructure MBC
Louise Antill - Towns Fund Programme Manager
Bill Vince – Arts Council

1.	<p>Apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>Apologies: Marc Anderson – Cleveland Police Mieka Smiles – Deputy Mayor Gary Macdonald - TVCA</p> <p>Meeting was quorate.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: N/A</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes were agreed as a true record</p>
3.	<p>Programme update and Q3 Progress Report</p> <p>LA shared a progress monitoring update for the overall programme and provided information on each project:</p> <p>Urban Living - Programme on hold awaiting outcome of Project Amendment Request.</p>

Middlesbrough Experience - Nature Reserve - Work is on-going. Sculptured gateway feature has now been designed and sent for fabrication lead in is expected to be 16 weeks before installation.

Ward Initiatives - Five schemes are now complete including 3 new growing areas, a new footpath at Cypress Road and planters in place at district shopping centres. The remainder are at various stages of delivery. The majority of funding will be spent in 2022/23 with a minimal amount carried forward in to 2023/24.

Community Hubs - Southlands Centre -The situation regarding the reprovision of playing fields at Southlands to enable development at Marton Avenue has been problematic and complicated. Officers are working closely with the Football Foundation on a funding bid which will look to contribute towards a new 4g pitch. The aim is to submit a funding application in July 2023, with a decision in September / October 2023. The aim is to start site development in November 2023 and as a result, the conditions relating to Marton Avenue housing development can be achieved in line with the expected build rates.

Nunthorpe Community Centre - The Council received interest from separate organisations proposing a community facility at two separate locations. Location 1 being next to the new Medical Centre, and location 2 being at Nunthorpe & Marton Playing Field Association. A bidding process was developed in Autumn 2021 to identify the most appropriate organisation to design, build and manage the community facility. The process was a two-stage bidding process in which initial expressions of interest were submitted, with further refinement at stage 2. The deadline for submissions at stage 2 was 17th December 2021. The bidding process was independently evaluated by external stakeholders, along with Middlesbrough Council staff, and a conclusion was reached regarding a successful bidder. However, this process was halted following an internal review.

An Executive report was approved in September 2022 identifying a new approach which outlined the need for a community consultation, and that the Council would manage the design and build of the new facility. The Executive report also identified a need to undertake a process to appoint an organisation to run the new facility. Consultation was conducted between December 2022 and January 2023 for a period of 6 weeks. The consultation asked members of the public to provide positive and negative feedback for both options and asked which location people would prefer. A total of 369 individuals responded to the consultation.

Building a Knowledge Economy

- Campus heart/ LRC/ reception (£1m) – Complete and in use save for some final Campus heart branding and furnishing
- IOT centre (£3.3m) – Works completed in late 2021. 1,100m² new space in use.

- T level builds Digital/Construction (£5.4m) – Works now complete.

Operationally all new space and facilities are operational and in use by students

All match expenditure has now been committed on Construction/ equipment/ campus

Student number data now updated for the August 2022 enrolment following confirmation of learner numbers for 2022/23 and achievements for the prior year

Enterprise Infrastructure

Historic Buildings - The Captain Cook Pub has completed, and the building is being marketed by Valuations and Estates.

Old Town Hall - Executive approved a report on the 12th July for an Expression of Interest to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund; this was scheduled for September 2022 however MBC were advised to submit the EOI following the HLF's site visit in early November. The EOI was submitted to the HLF on the 24th November, and rejected on the 7th December. Following feedback with the HLF in mid-January MBC have been encouraged to resubmit the EOI for consideration at their February board.

Centre Square Development - The building was completed and handed over to the freeholder, TVCA, on Monday 9th January, ahead of the projected 19th January date.

The lease over part of the Ground Floor, and all the first and second floors, with AXA completed on Monday 23rd January. Marketing activity is continuing to progress letting of the available floor space

The building and facilities management services are in place, providing liaison with AXA's contractors Overbury, who are commencing a 12 week fit out programme.

Boho Campus Infrastructure - Proposal to bring forward spend to carry out public realm works around the Old Town Hall.

AMc inquired about on-going revenue costs caused by the delays to the Southlands site. RH confirmed that no revenue costs were being incurred and that an Executive report will be considered on 7th March 2023 which will ask for approval to proceed with the recommended location for the Nunthorpe Community Hub.

ZL gave an update on Middlesbrough College's TTE development, regarding DfE control of FE finance, increasing financial costs due to specialised piling required at the dock and the requirement to sign contracts imminently to ensure the agreed costs and timescales can be achieved.

<p>4.</p>	<p>Towns Fund Audit - Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Following audits of the FHSF and Towns Fund both programmes were award Substantial Assurance. However, a recommendation was made to ensure that all Town Deal Board Members submit Declarations of Interest forms.</p> <p>SG asked that any Board members that hadn't already done so, to submit their forms as soon as convenient.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update on Project Adjustment Request</p> <p>SG informed the Board that Project Adjustment Request submitted in December was still awaiting approval from DLUHC. Although initial feedback indicated there were no issues</p> <p>AS added that a formal decision should be received in a few weeks.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Levelling Up Application Update</p> <p>SG provided an update on the Levelling Up submission. The Town Centre bid for the House of Fraser and Crown were unsuccessful in Round 2. However, the joint bid with Redcar and Cleveland was successful and will allow the creation of a new road to allow access to a housing site in Coulby Newham.</p> <p>AS confirmed, there was around £1 billion of Levelling Up resource available, and work was taking place to establish how this will be delivered.</p> <p>SC thanked those involved in the successful bid and highlighted the positive benefits of unlocking a major housing development.</p> <p>LS asked that lessons learned in previous rounds be considered should further resource be available and projects that weren't as developed at the time of submission be reconsidered in any future bidding rounds.</p> <p>AMc expressed disappointment at the town centre did not receiving much needed support to tackle the significant challenges being faced.</p> <p>AP informed the Board that despite an unsuccessful bid the Council had purchased the Crown and that Level X had opened the day before the meeting, the first development to open within the leisure hub.</p> <p>It is likely that the Towns Fund themes would form the basis of any future Levelling Up submission.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the upcoming vote to for a Mayoral Development Corporation with Board members presenting arguments for both sides.</p>

7.	Any other business N/A
8.	Date and time of next meeting TBC