

## BRIGHOUSE TOWN BOARD MEETING

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### MINUTES

#### **Present:**

Councillor Whittaker (Co-Chair)  
David Whitehead (Co-Chair)  
Councillor Blagbrough  
Councillor Robinson  
Jason Carlton  
Anne Colley  
Colin Gordon  
Carl Wrigley  
Richard Mitchell

#### **In Attendance:**

Ebrahim Dockrat, Calderdale College  
Rebecca Weeks, Calderdale College  
Richard Spensley, Calderdale Council  
Duncan Cooper, Calderdale Council  
Jess Thompson, Turner & Townsend  
Peter Foy, Turner & Townsend  
Helen Cliffe, Turner & Townsend  
Xanthe Quayle, XQLA Landscape Architects

#### **Apologies:**

Steven Lee, Calderdale Council  
Kate McNicholas, Calderdale Council  
Heather Waddington, WYCA

#### **1. DECLARATIONS**

See item 3 below (Industry 4.0). JC declared that his wife is currently employed by Huddersfield University.

#### **2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone, started the meeting handing over to the professional team.

#### **3. UPDATE ON SCHEME PROGRESS AND LOOK AHEAD**

##### Industry 4.0 Project Update

ED and RW from Calderdale College provide an update about this project pilot initiative and the fact that the principles underpinning the agreed TIP outputs remain intact.

The update included a summary about the College's lead project sponsor and delivery role working in partnership with other project stakeholders, including West Yorkshire Manufacturing Services, Calderdale & Kirklees Manufacturing Alliance, University of Huddersfield.

A power point was shown to the Board to help illustrate the Industry 4.0 principles. This included a focus on small and medium sized business and using modern, advanced manufacturing technology to assist business transformation, encourage innovation and improving productivity.

ED and RW summarised some of the benefits for investing the Town Deal monies in Brighouse emphasising the advantages of utilising the former KITTs facility as a local Industry 4.0 enterprise Hub; a centre for business collaboration, knowledge sharing and upskilling. This will help counteract current negative trends such as an aging workforce profile within the SME business sector. The KITTs facility also providing a locally well-known, non-daunting / comfortable learning environment.

ED and RW emphasised the fact that it is likely that when completed, the Hub facility will be the only one of its kind in the UK and will help raise the profile of Brighouse nationally and potentially even to an international business audience too.

RW outlined the various project components that the Town Deal monies would help fund including the creation of IT, Transformation, Digital and Automation Labs. Each room will be fitted out with equipment utilising Town Deals monies. RW summarised the outputs that this investment would deliver such as the number of companies engaged, apprentices supported, training courses delivered.

JC declared an interest that his wife is currently employed by Huddersfield University (see item 2 above).

In response to a question from JC, ED flagged up that the College are in on-going discussions with various parties (including WYCA) investigating any 'match funding' opportunities such as Shared Prosperity Funding, to help further enhance the project. Other potential match funding opportunities were also referred to such as "Made Smarter" legacy funding, also sponsorship.

ED also mentioned that the College were in discussion about securing long term lease arrangements for the former KITTs facility.

Cllr Robinson asked that the Board sub-group should continue to be actively involved in the shaping of the project as it progresses beyond the current Full Business Case (FBC) stage. It was mentioned that a further meeting of the Industry 4.0 sub-group and College is scheduled to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> May to discuss and firm up the project FBC.

The Board agreed unanimously to support the Industry 4.0 project and progress the FBC as discussed.

### Market Revitalisation Project Update

A project update presentation was provided by Helen Cliffe from Bond Bryan architects. This included an overview of the site selection process identifying preferred locations for both the market and associated housing component.

HC referred to the fact that Daisy Street Car Park has been identified as the preferred location for the housing component and the existing market site will be the preferred location for the revitalised market.

There was a discussion about the proposed decoupling of the housing component from the market revitalisation. JC flagged up a potential risk that the housing proposal could be impacted by future changes / down turns in the economy. It is therefore important that the market revitalisation scheme is viable utilising Town Deal monies.

HC shared visuals of what a housing proposal could potentially look like and the revitalised market.

CG emphasised the importance of opening linkages and aspect between the market and the Canal.

JC also asked that the market proposal has the potential to be future proofed to accommodate options for integrating a roof covering if this were to be practicable and financially feasible at some point in the future.

HC flagged up that the various designs were still at concept level in line with the current FBC stage of the Town Deals initiative and will soon be costed by Turner & Townsend to reflect the evolved designs. These costs would also include management and staff costs as expected at FBC stage.

Councillor Blagbrough raised existing issues about anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the market and how these should be designed out.

The public facing communications being developed in readiness for the Brighthouse Town Deal Open Day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May should reflect the proposed decoupling of the housing component from the market revitalisation, and also the relationship with the wider A641 transport scheme.

The Board expressed its very positive support for the scheme including the proposed decoupling of the housing component from the market revitalisation that would need to be included as a Project Adjustment for approval by the Department for Levelling Up (DLUHC).

### Public Realm Projects Update

Xanthe Quayle (XQLA Landscape Architects) provided a summary update presentation of the public realm projects including how they will create or enhance town centre 'civic spaces' and 'green spaces', as well as delivering agreed outcomes including increased footfall and dwell time. XQ also flagged up how below ground constraints (such as utilities) have influenced the development of the conceptual designs and how on-going surveys and investigations will further inform the designs and costings as these develop.

As well as discussing tree planting and the creation of rain gardens, XQ also referred to prioritising public realm materials. For example, focusing natural materials in high priority areas and high-quality manufactured materials installed in lower priority areas.

CW reminded the Board that it was important to reflect the distinctiveness of Brighthouse which the concept designs sought to do. This will help people to further buy in to the proposals.

Councillor Blagbrough raised the potential opportunity to explore options for private local sponsorship, such as Marshalls as a possible example.

The Board supported the public realm proposals and expressed a unanimous consensus with the direction of travel.

#### Next Steps

Turner & Townsend will now produce revised costs for the various Town Deal projects. These revised costs will then feed into the finalisation of the draft Full Business Cases. The business cases are expected to be issued in advance of the next Brighouse Town Deal Board meeting that is due to take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **4. INDEPENDENT BUSINESS CASE ASSESSOR**

DC summarised the scope of the independent business case assessment that would be undertaken in line with the agreed Brighouse Town Deal Assurance Process. The assessment would be carried out by Bentley Project Management and Anthony Everitt (ADE Regeneration) who will produce a succinct report for the Board; setting out the findings and recommendations in order for the Board to make its decisions.

DC mentioned that when the Board receive the business cases and if they have any questions, they can also direct these to the independent assessors for advice and feedback.

Councillor Robinson asked if there is any opportunity to ask DLUCH for more money were there to be a future requirement. JT responded to say that this was highly unlikely.

#### **5. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAY OPEN DAY**

Publicity materials were shared amongst the Board for distribution prior to the May Open Day being held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing raised.

#### **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14<sup>th</sup> June 2022