WE ARE COLCHESTER
BOARD MEETING
17 November 2022
DECISIONS & ACTION POINTS

Present:

Simon Blaxill, Kent Blaxill (Chair)
Pam Donnelly, Colchester Borough Council
Laura Eardley, Hiscox
Mark Jarman-Howe, North East Essex Alliance
Lucy Johnson, University of Essex
Tracy Rudling, Community360
Cllr David King, Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Tom Cunningham, Essex County Council
Steve Evison, Essex County Council
Alison Andreas, Colchester Institute

Apologies:

Simon Mead, Colbea
Adam Bryan, SELEP
Alison Jennings, Homes England
Shona Johnstone, Homes England
Will Quince MP

Others attending:

Rory Doyle, Mandy Jones, Lindsay Barker, Simon Thorp, Clare Ratcliffe, Matthew Brown – Colchester Borough Council.

Ian Turner, Louise Denyer, Amie Hall – Essex County Council

1.Apologies & declarations of interest. Apologies were noted from Simon Mead, Adam Bryan, Alison Jennings, Shona Johnstone and Will Quince MP.

The Chair welcomed Laura Eardley (Hiscox) to the Board.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Progress report & engagement update.   The Board noted the Programme Progress Report circulated in advance.   The Board noted an update on progress highlights and Delivery/Time/Cost RAG headlines.   Programme RAG Status overall is Amber, meaning time and cost issues for some project may affect features delivered but are being managed. Cost escalation and legal issues are the main current risks to the programme.

The Board noted that a monitoring return must be made to DLUHC by December 2022. This return covers the reporting period April-September 2022.   Section 151 Officer has reviewed the draft return and confirmed he is content with Progress, Funding, Outputs, Outcomes and Risk Management.   The Board noted the importance of remaining diligent particularly where risks were in close proximity (3-6 months).

The Board also noted an update on recent and forthcoming engagement activities.

3. Issues, Risks & Mitigations.   The Board noted that the top programme risks were: 1) Cost Escalation (though not all projects), 2) St Nicholas Square (accelerated project), 3) Greenstead land acquisition, 4) Holy Trinity Church (building, priority repairs, future funding and lease arrangements), 5) Jumbo (cost uplift).

4. Project Spotlight – Physical Connectivity: Walking & Cycling route (Town Centre-Greenstead-University). The Board noted an update on the project, including the wider strategic and policy context, delivery phases, stakeholder engagement, next steps and other related work.

5. Levelling Up & Shared Prosperity Fund bid updates. The Board noted that no definitive decisions had yet been received, with the current expectation for Levelling Up Fund being a decision in late December 2022.

DECISIONS

The Board <u>agreed:</u>

1. <u>St Nicholas Square (Town Centre & Gateways).</u>   Prioritisation of finalising all ECC Highways permissions for this project promptly.

2. <u>Heart of Greenstead (Tamarisk Way).</u>   Focus on the Community Health and Wellbeing Hub as 'phase 1' of the project and continue to pursue land acquisition options.

3. <u>Holy Trinity Church (Town Centre & Gateways).</u>   The need to de-risk the Holy Trinity Church Community Hub project with Colchester Borough Council potentially leading the Heritage Lottery Fund submission work and re-engaging Community360 to operate the building.

4. <u>Jumbo (Town Centre & Gateways).</u>   To explore the opportunity to link the Jumbo project and Balkerne Gate Phase Two project without putting at risk delkvert or funding of either project.

5. <u>Programme.</u>   Continue to seek routes to mitigate cost inflation for projects, pursuing options to attract extra finding, value engineer and tailor projects.

6. <u>DLUHC Monitoring Return.</u>   Submit Colchester's Town Deal Monitoring Return to government by 16 December 2022, with any further comments or questions to be received by the Programme Office by 1 December 2022.

7. Future meetings.

Thursday 23 February 2023 – 12 noon
Thursday 25 May 2023 – 12 noon