



WE ARE COLCHESTER

BOARD MEETING

1 September 2020

DECISIONS & ACTION POINTS

Present: Simon Blaxill, Cllr Mark Cory (CBC), Adrian Pritchard (CBC), Alison Jennings (Homes England), Tracy Rudling (Community 360), Lucy Johnson (University of Essex), Chris Rhodes (Hiscox), Ashleigh Seymour-Rutherford (Colbea), Steve Evison (ECC).

Apologies: Shona Johnstone (Homes England), Cllr Tony Ball (ECC), Mark Carroll (ECC), Adam Bryan (SELEP), Mark Jarman-Howe (North East Essex Alliance).

In attendance: Cllr David King (CBC), Cllr Mark Durham (ECC), Mandy Jones (CBC), Simon Thorp (CBC), Clare Ratcliffe (CBC), Matthew Brown (CBC), Joshua Resoun (ECC).

DECISIONS AND ACTION POINTS

1. Project progress report. The Board noted an update on scoping and exploration phase work, Covid-19 response incorporation into bid preparation, external support/critical friend function and accelerated funding bid submission (£1M - forms part of Town Investment Plan). The Board also noted that the project is on track for bid submission in October 2020.

The Board also noted and agreed a timeline and key milestones for bid submission phase (September-October 2020). It also noted the assessment phase timeline (November-December 2020), anticipated development phase timeline (January-December 2021) and implementation phase timeline (January 2022-December 2027).

2. Engagement update. The Board noted a range of online and face to face engagement activity that has taken place or is planned during and after submission phase in support of How We Grow, How We Live and How We Connect project themes, including direct public feedback through an online survey and from the We Are Colchester Advisory Group.

3. Town Investment Plan – developing strategic investment programmes. The Board noted and agreed the approach to refining potential investment programmes. It also agreed the 'bundles' of specific projects – a) Skills & Enterprise, b) Built Environment, c) Transport infrastructure, d) Digital & Communications and e) Conditions for Growth. Sub-themes for these projects were also noted and agreed. Board members offered additional comments and support – see Appendix.

4. Next meeting. 12 October 2020. An additional Board Meeting may be held on 29 October 2020 if required.

Appendix

Town Investment Plan – strategic investment programme development – additional Board comments

- **The We Are Colchester Advisory Group accepted that a 'narrowing down' of the bundles of projects was required (Cllr David King)**
- **It is incumbent on the Board to provide leadership (Adrian Pritchard)**
- **Positive, constructive and regular external communications are important, with 'virtual Town Assembly' and business-focused updates an important element of this (Cllr Mark Cory, Cllr David King, Simon Blaxill, Ashleigh Seymour-Rutherford)**
- **'You Said, We Did' format suggested for capturing and sharing public feedback, feeding into bid preparation (Steve Evison)**
- **Bid needs to stand out, and appeal to younger people (Steve Evison, Lucy Johnson)**
- **Important to consider links between public realm improvement, leveraging additional funding, and re-skilling of young people/employment (Adrian Pritchard, Cllr David King, Alison Jennings)**
- **5G initiatives are important (Chris Rhodes)**

- **Utilising external expert support is welcomed (Adrian Pritchard)**
- **Important to explore social media channels for engagement (Lucy Johnson)**
- **Longer term strategy should not be just 'Town Centre-focused' (Steve Evision)**
- **The themes/bundles of projects presented are right (Simon Blaxill, Ashleigh Seymour-Rutherford)**
- **Transport and infrastructure including cycling should be the 'bedrock' of the bid (Lucy Johnson, Alison Jennings)**
- **A successful £25M Town Deal should be viewed as 'seed capital' for longer term investment (Simon Blaxill)**
- **The detail of the final proposed projects will be crucial, including reference to existing areas of significant investment – eg. Northern Gateway, First Site (Alison Jennings)**