

## Corby Town Deal Board

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Meeting via ZOOM

### Present:-

Lorna Dodge (Chair)  
Councillor Tom Beattie  
Tom Pursglove MP  
Valerie Finke  
Atul Joshi  
Sandy Cruickshank  
Jessica Daldas  
Ian Achurch  
Nick Bolton  
Hilary Chipping  
Helen Wilmott  
Councillor Owen Davison  
Dan Pickard  
Kyra Joy  
Georgina Ager  
Steven Norris  
Lyn Buckingham  
Jonathan Waterworth  
Simon Phipps

Love Corby  
Corby Borough Council  
MP for Corby  
Corby Borough Council  
Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH)  
Cities and Local Growth Unit  
Homes England  
Cities & Local Growth Unit  
Electric Corby  
SEMLEP  
Made in Corby  
Rural Area Forum  
Corby Business Group  
Tresham College Student Ambassador  
Tresham & Bedford Colleges  
Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH)  
CENTARA  
Corby Borough Council  
Sovereign Centros

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Charles Amies (replaced by Jessica Daldas), Paul Ilko and Paul Thompson.

### 2. Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 6 November 2020 had been circulated. It was confirmed that the actions recorded had been completed.

### 3. Highlight Report

A copy of the Project Board Highlight Report (Dec 2020) had been circulated and the following achievements since the previous meeting were noted:

- Telephone engagement surveys commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the full report was due at the start of January 2021.
- The Business and Community Engagement Groups had been set up and more detail would follow.
- The dedicated website for the Towns Fund had gone live on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020 and more details would be provided later in the meeting.
- A presentation had been given at the Love Corby meeting including details of the website.
- The study on the pedestrian/cycle and vehicle routes from the train station to the town centre was underway and the report was due in early January.
- The multi-use building study was also underway and would be reported in January.

Key decisions for this meeting were:

- To agree dates for the next two board meetings.

- To agree the project direction for the Town Investment Plan.
- To support and share the website.

Targets for the next period were:

- To agree the final Town Investment Plan to go forward for approval.
- CBC Members briefing on the Towns Fund and the projects going forward.
- Ongoing community and businesses group engagement.

It was agreed that the 'not achieved' section and reference to travel issues due to Covid-19 should be removed as they were no longer relevant.

It was asked if the Corby Walk project which had been discussed previous was 'off the table'. VF confirmed that resurrection of this scheme had been considered but it was deemed to be too expensive due to the requirements for a bridge over the railway line and demolition of a property.

#### 4. Accelerated Fund

A briefing note had been circulated. Six projects were going forward and updates were noted as follows:

- Partial pedestrianisation of George Street - designs and site visit being arranged.
- Cycleway infrastructure Improvements to link town parks – costs confirmed and Kier to undertake work.
- Corporation Street public realm and market improvements – Interkey Fabrications appointed following procurement exercise and ordering underway.
- Market walk site remediation – tenders due in 18 December and successful contractor should be appointed before Christmas for works to start in early January.
- Outdoor gym equipment for Tresham College – a separate update had been circulated showing photos of site and proposed gym equipment. Installation was expected to start before Christmas.
- Play area equipment replacement – Boating Lake procurement undertaken for the total budget of £160k (including an increase of £90k following a successful bid to FCC Communities Foundation). Orders to value of £30k were underway for Wharfedale and installation for both sites would be completed by 31 March 2021.

#### 5. Website

LD gave a presentation on the new website. It was felt important to have a separate, stand-alone site to increase visibility and independence and provide for surveys and engagement.

The domain name was Corby Towns Fund and branding had been developed from scratch but kept simple. Feedback on accessibility had been taken on board in respect of colours, font sizes, etc. Unfortunately, time had been too tight to involve Tresham students.

She took the meeting through the design and development principals, roll out, testing, security and going live. The site was being marketed/shared as widely as possible, including via social media, and a press release had been issued by the Council. A link to the site was provided on the Council's website and further comments and feedback were welcomed.

OD asked why 'Towns' and not 'Town' and the reasons were explained. He suggested this be clarified in the 'About' section.

**Action** – VF to look at amending 'About' section.

Comment was made that the top banner was over large at present and a screen shot was forwarded. LD would amend as necessary.

It was asked if any additional funding could be found for dropped kerbs which were not included in the cycleway infrastructure project, thus excluding a section of the community

**Action** – IA to raise funding for dropped kerbs with NCC colleagues.

## 6. Projects and next steps

The following updates were noted:

- Tresham College Centre at Chisholm House – this would address a key gap and had been costed. It was a shove-ready project offering exciting opportunities with sustainability/green issues high on the agenda and potential for a significant increase to the local economy.

GA explained that a specialist centre for North Northants had been an aspiration for some time. Marketing showed that there was demand and it would increase footfall in the town centre and also on public transport. The refurbishment would be as carbon negative as possible with renewable energy, etc, and she hoped the Board would support the project.

SP confirmed that Sovereign was fully involved and supportive of the plans. The Arts Centre currently occupying the space was engaged in discussions around relocation to an empty shop unit for a period of time until more permanent arrangements could be made.

- Market Walk East Site – this was a key gateway site for a mixed-use hub with incubation space for arts, creative and cultural activities, youth and community facilities, etc, with sustainability being a major consideration. Many organisations were engaged and were very keen and high-level design principals were underway.
- Corby Station Links – improving connectivity, particularly for cycling and walking. Delivery proposals, cost estimates and programme of works were being pursued together with a site visit with Councill officers/NCC. The project linked into the placemaking agenda under the Joint Core Strategy.
- Smart and Connected Corby – ideas and costings were being prepared and the network would provide real-time information on how the town operated in terms of traffic, energy, schools, libraries, movements, etc. Digital messaging could be used to encourage use of the town centre and active travel/electric vehicles would be supported to build on the success of Electric Corby, including more rapid charging points. Location of sensors was fluid and costs would be inclusive of capital and maintenance for five years with more detail to follow shortly.

It was asked if the 6<sup>th</sup> form college would have food outlets on site. GA confirmed it would have a coffee shop to meet free school meal requirements. In Bedford, the majority of the students went into town for breaks and it was similar in Wellingborough.

On the Market Walk East Site project, more engagement with local groups was requested, particularly on community/youth facilities.

**Action** – VF to follow this up.

The possibility of widening the area for cycleways was raised and it was confirmed that the Culture & Leisure team was looking at this from other funding sources as the Town Deal fund was too narrowly targeted.

TP said he loved the projects and the focus on innovation and skills. Speaking to colleagues in Parliament it was important to demonstrate leverage for private sector investment to maximise the benefit of the grant. AJ confirmed this would be kept in mind as plans moved forward.

NB believed that an e-mobility hub would definitely attract private sector investment and he would like to see the station as a transport hub promoting wider e-mobility with charging points and solar panels, etc.

A flow chart of the next steps was presented.

TB commented that the move to Unitary was fast approaching and it would be preferable if the Town Investment Plan was submitted and the decision made before this. HC confirmed the Northampton Town bid submission was imminent and it had received input and support from all three Authorities. She suggested this could also be done for Corby. This was supported as it was important to show a united front.

JW agreed this would be a good approach. The Plan would go in front of Members in January and could be taken to Shadow Council for early engagement. Consideration to be given to a joint letter/statement.

Queries were raised in relation to the community and business focus groups. VF confirmed there were 15 members on each which was a good number but she was happy to liaise with other interested parties and point them to the website to have their say.

**7. AOB**

None.

**8. Close of Meeting**

Meeting closed at 11.05 am. The next meeting would take place at 10 am, 15 January 2021. The proposed date for the following meeting was 19 February but members should let VF know if this was not suitable.