

MINUTES

Meeting: Meeting of the Board of the Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation

Date: 7th May 2020

Time: 10.00am – 11.00am

Place: Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Members of the Board

Lord Bob Kerlake (Chair)

Danielle Gillespie (Homes England)

Councillor Mark Hunter (Liberal Democrat Group Leader - Stockport)

Councillor Mike Hurlston (Conservative Group Leader – Stockport)

Simon Nokes (Greater Manchester Combined Authority)

Pam Smith (Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council)

Councillor Elise Wilson (Leader of Stockport Council and Labour Group Leader)

Officers of the Corporation

Paul Richards (Interim Chief Executive)

Michael Cullen (Finance Director)

Kate Bentley (Corporation Solicitor)

Observers

Councillor Adrian Nottingham (Independent Ratepayers Group Leader - Stockport)

Caroline Simpson (Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council)

1. Welcome and Chair's Opening Remarks (Item 1)

1.1 The Chair welcomed those present to the third meeting of Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC). The Chair confirmed how pleased

and excited he was by the opportunity to chair the MDC and that despite the challenging circumstances due to Covid-19, he very much believes that the fundamental opportunity in Stockport and the need for action remains.

- 1.2** The Chair confirmed that in order to comply with the legal requirement of ensuring the meeting is accessible to the public, the meeting is to be live streamed on the MDC's website. The live streaming will be stopped for those agenda items which are confidential (Items 6, 8(a), 9 and 10 on the agenda). To assist with this, item 6 would be moved further down the agenda.
- 1.3** It was noted that the meeting had been due to take place on 30 March 2020, but that it had been postponed due to Covid-19.

2. Apologies for Absence (Item 2)

None.

3. Declarations of Interest (Item 3)

- 3.1** Paul Richards and Caroline Simpson each declared their directorships of Stockport Hotel Management Company Limited and Stockport Exchange Phase 2 Limited. The companies each have an interest at Stockport Exchange which lies within the MDC boundary. No further action required to be taken.
- 3.2** Danielle Gillespie declared an interest in Items 8 and 9 due to her employer's (Homes England's) financial interests in the St Thomas Hospital Site (clawback arrangements), Weir Mill (HIF Grant) and the Interchange (HIF Grant) – transactions entered into with Stockport Council.

- 3.3** There were no other declarations of interest relevant to items on the agenda.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2020 and matters arising (Item 4)

- 4.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 were approved as a correct record and the Chair was authorised to sign them.
- 4.2** There were no matters arising.

5. Appendices to the Constitution (Item 5)

- 5.1 The outstanding documents to be approved were the Finance Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rule, having been finalised between Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Drafts of these were presented to the Board.
- 5.2 **The Board agreed that the Financial Procedure Rules and the Contract Procedure Rules be approved and adopted by the MDC.**

6. Update on recruitment to the Board (Item 6)

Note this item has been moved to lower down the agenda.

7. Presentation on Stockport Town Centre Infrastructure Planning (Item 7)

- 7.1 The Interim Chief Executive presented an update to the Board on the work being undertaken in connection with the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Programme (GMIP).
- 7.2 GMIP will be a multi-year, multi-decade investment programme co-funded by Government and Greater Manchester (GM), to deliver the transport, site infrastructure, and decarbonisation infrastructure GM needs. GMIP's ambition is to deliver within 18 months an in-principle 5-10 year capital and revenue funding settlement with Government sufficient to deliver all the infrastructure GM needs to 2025-30. A Statement Outline Case is currently being developed to formalise the ask of Government. Stockport's case study for GMIP is its Town Centre (including the MDC area of Town Centre West).
- 7.3 Four workstreams are underway to consider (1) what Stockport will look like in 20 years (2) what Stockport's current infrastructure provision is (3) what infrastructure and development projects Stockport have already committed to and what impact they will and (4) what identified steps are required to meet the demands of a SMART town.
- 7.4 The objectives and outputs of each work strand were confirmed and members discussed the opportunities and challenges faced. It was noted that the focus was likely to be on investment to kick start economic recovery and that Homes England are actively involved with GMCA and the MDC to identify scheme opportunities. Work needs to be undertaken to recognise Stockport's existing USPs and to demonstrate the benefits that infrastructure investments would bring.

7.5 The Board:

- (a) noted the contents of the presentation and the work undertaken to date;
- (b) noted that further work is to be carried out and that further updates will be presented at future meetings.

8. Five Year Strategic Business Plan 2020-2025

8.1 The Interim Chief Executive introduced the MDC's new Strategic Business Plan (SPB) which covers a five year period and sets out the MDC's guiding purpose and objectives, the workstreams it is undertaking to deliver those objectives, and how the organisation functions. It is supplemented by an annual action plan which contains an additional level of detail about what the MDC will achieve over the coming financial year.

8.2 Members provided comments on the draft plan, particularly in relation to the impact of Covid-19, social infrastructure, community outcomes, and the MDC's commitments. It was agreed that the plan would be updated to take account of these comments.

8.3 Clause 13.1 of the MDC's Constitution provides that the SPB must be approved by the MDC prior to the start of its financial year, prior to being submitted to GMCA and Stockport Council for approval. It was noted that it had not been possible for the MDC to do this, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and the postponement of the board meeting on 30 March 2020. This was the first opportunity for the SPB to be presented to the Board.

(a) Appendix to the Five Year Strategic Business Plan - Annual Action Plan (CONFIDENTIAL)

8.4 The Board is recommended to agree to exclude the public and press from the meeting, in accordance with Part 1, paragraph 3 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in order to consider items 8(a), 9, 6 and 10.

8.5 The Board agreed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of items 8(a), 9, 6 and 10) in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in that such items would be likely to involve the disclosure of information relating to the business affairs of the Stockport MDC.

8.6 The Board provided comments on the annual action plan and it was agreed that the annual action plan would be updated to take the comments into consideration.

Although the approval of the SPB is a function reserved to the Board pursuant to Part 2, Section B, paragraph 1(b) of the Scheme of Delegation, the Board confirmed their approval in principle to the SBP, and agreed that, on this occasion the Chair could finalise the SBP.

8.7 The Board:

- (a) confirmed its approval to the format of the SPB and confirmed its approval of the content of SPB (subject to the plan being updated and finalised by the Chair pursuant to 8.7(b));**
- (b) delegated authority to the Chair to finalise the SPB (including the Annual Action Plan);**
- (c) approved the adoption of the SPB, subject to further approval by the GM Combined Authority and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.**

9. Update Report on Delivering the Interim Strategic Business Plan (CONFIDENTIAL) (Item 9)

9.1 The Interim Chief Executive introduced the report providing an update to the Board on the work the MDC has undertaken against the interim SPB since it was established in September 2019 and the progress it has made in delivering its agreed objectives.

9.2 The Board:

- (a) noted the update on delivery of the interim SBP;**
- (b) agreed that in light of the progress made to-date, the interim SBP would be superseded by the more comprehensive long-term five year business plan outlined at Item 8.**

10. Update on recruitment to Board (CONFIDENTIAL) (Item 6)

10.1 The Chair updated the Board on the search for further private sector board members and confirmed that he did not recommend appointing any of the candidates from the recent recruitment process.

10.2 The Board confirmed its agreement to the Chair's recommendation and noted that a further recruitment process would be undertaken.

11. Role of Interim Chief Executive (CONFIDENTIAL) (Item 10)

11.1 The Interim Chief Executive left the meeting.

11.2 The Chair recommended the formal appointment of Paul Richards as Chief Executive Officer of the Stockport MDC on the terms set out in the confidential report.

11.3 The Board:

(a) noted that the appointment of the first Chief Executive of the MDC is a function reserved to the GM Mayor;

(b) confirmed its approval to the proposed appointment of Paul Richards as Chief Executive Officer of the Stockport MDC;

(c) agreed for the Chair to recommend the appointment to the GM Mayor.

12. Close of Meeting (Item 11)

The meeting ended at 11.00.

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Chair

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Date