



## **Cleator Moor Towns Fund**

Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 10am

### **1. Meeting Protocol**

All participants were reminded of the virtual meeting protocol, to remain on mute unless speaking and to use the 'hand up' function to indicate a wish to speak.

### **2. Attendances and Apologies**

#### **In attendance**

##### **Board Members**

- Kayleigh Daniels – Chair – REACT Engineering
- Bob Metcalf [e](#) – Vice Chair – Regen North East Copeland
- Oliver Dorgan – Deputy for Trudy Harrison MP – Parliamentary Assistant
- Corrine Watson – Deputy for Jo Lappin – Cumbria LEP
- Joanne Crowe – Operations Manager, Phoenix Enterprise Centre
- Paul Rowe – Project Manager, Phoenix [Enterprise Centre Youth Project](#)
- Rev Nicki Pennington – Faith Representative
- John Bamforth - Finance Director, Brannan & Sons Ltd
- Joe Martin - Head of Energy & Funding, BEC
- Cllr Frank Morgan – Cumbria County Council
- David Farrell [– Moor Sports Ltd](#)

##### **Also Present**

- Michael Barry – Cumbria County Council
- Eleanor Farrell – Cumbria County Council
- Lauren Newby – Hatch Associates
- Naomi Hollows – BEIS
- Damien Morris – ACT
- Marc Watterson – ARUP
- Louisa Guyon, Hatch Associates

- Elaine Herbert, DWP
- Maria Hewitt, Cumbria County Council
- Pat Graham – Chief Executive – Copeland BC
- Sarah Mitchell– Copeland BC
- Diane Ward– Copeland BC
- Jenny Brumby – Copeland BC
- Stephanie Shaw– Copeland BC
- Clive Willoughby– Copeland BC

#### **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Jo Lappin, Mark Telford, Cllr Hugh Branney, John Murphy, James Varah and Cllr Peter Burns.

### **3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Arising from the minutes, Joe Martin asked for clarity and more detail on the projects chosen for Accelerated Funding and were they part of the Town Investment Plan (TIP).

In reply, Sarah Mitchell advised that they were not part of the TIP, that details would be re-shared with Board members and that a meeting to discuss would be arranged prior to Christmas.

**RESOLVED:** – That the minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be agreed as a true record.

### **4. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items**

Declarations of Interest were made as follows:-

Paul Rowe declared an interest in Concept 2 (Phoenix Youth Zone) due to being Project Manager at Phoenix Youth Project.

Bob Metcalfe declared an interest in Concepts 9 (Town Square Redevelopment), 14 (Phoenix Court Refurbishment) and 17 (Phoenix Media and Creative Hub) due to being a Director of BEC.

Frank Morgan declared an interest due to being a Director of BEC and a Cumbria County Councillor.

Corinne Watson declared an interest due to the Cumbria LEP providing Grant Funding to Copeland Borough Council in a project relating to Leconfield.

Joe Martin declared an interest in Concepts 11 (SPARK Centre) and 13 (The Bus Stop) due to being Head of Energy & Funding at BEC.

Joanne Crowe declared an interest in Concepts 9 (Town Square Redevelopment), 14 (Phoenix Court Refurbishment) and 17 (Phoenix Media and Creative Hub) due to being Operations Manager at Phoenix Enterprise Centre.

Oliver Dorgan declared an interest in Concepts 9 (Town Square Redevelopment) due to being a Cleator Moor Town Councillor and a Board Member of Regeneration North East Copeland.

Kayleigh Daniels declared an interest in Concept 4 (Cumbria/Cleator Moor Curiosity Centre) due to being a Trustee of REACT Foundation.

## **5. Town Investment Plan Prioritisation Assessment**

An overview and update was given by Lauren Newby, the Study Manager for Hatch, on the Town Investment Plan Prioritisation Assessment.

The Board was advised that in total, 19 Concept Forms were received across the range of themes totalling approximately £45million.

These had been scored against the criteria and the suggested way forward was put forward for discussion.

In reaching a shortlist, Board members were asked to consider:-

- The ability for good ideas to be strengthened through project development
- The need for the shortlist to be scalable to build resilience to change
- How schemes could be amalgamated
- Whether projects could realistically be funded through alternative means

The Board was reminded that the focus of the Towns Fund was on sustainable economic growth, which would support the levelling up agenda.

A proposed shortlist of six was then put forward:

- Revitalised Town
- Healthy Town

- Learning Town
- Connected Town
- Enterprising Town
- Campus Town

Reference was made to a recent Star Chamber where external views were obtained. The feedback provided included that this was a part of a solution and not all the solution; that the bid should align with what MHCLG want to fund through this programme; that the proposal should be realistically ambitious; Focus on leveraging key assets to support economic growth and agreeing a plan focus to ensure the bid is not spread too thinly.

The Star Chamber suggested that the Board ask itself if the project is going to make a real difference.

It further suggested that the bid provide a clear focus on the problems that are trying to be addressed and what is to be achieved through the bid. That the Board prioritise 2 or 3 Anchor Projects. That the Board position other projects as enablers to support inclusive growth.

A full discussion then followed where the Board were asked:-

- What do the Board see as the Anchor Projects which will make the biggest difference?
- What are the projects which 'Hang' off these as enablers of sustainable economic growth?
- Using the agreed thematic areas of focus, can we proceed to work with thematic working groups to develop project ideas to the required level of detail?

All Board members contributed to the discussion and were in broad agreement.

Projects, such as Broadband connectivity, although important to Cleator Moor, could be picked up outside of the Town Investment Plan by other initiatives.

The Board were advised that the process was not a competitive bid against other bid, but would be judged on whether the proposals aligned to the MHCLG criteria. They were also encouraged to focus on the local impact, before looking at the regional or national impact.

Clarity was also provided on the amount of the bid that could be put forward.

Up to £25m is available, provided the criteria are met. The TIP should not exceed this. If the TIP did exceed £25m it would be subject to extra scrutiny. It was also clarified that if funding was to be received for a project, and that project did not continue, the funding for that project would be lost.

The next steps were then outlined, which would be Thematic Working Groups meeting weekly and Consultant led.

A vote was taken on the proposed four focussed working groups.

**RESOLVED:** – That the Board unanimously agreed to proceed with Four focussed working groups:-

- a) Revitalised Town
- b) Enterprising Town
- c) Connections between those opportunities
- d) Healthy and Learning

## **6. Workplan**

Lauren Newby advised that now the four groups had been agreed, meetings would be arranged and the project developed, a working draft of section one of the Town Investment Plan would also be developed. Progress to be shared at the next Board meeting.

The Board was then taken through the proposed workplan to submission of the Town Investment Plan at the end of January 2021.

**RESOLVED:** – That the updated workplan be noted.

## **7. Stakeholder Insight Report – Phase 1**

Lauren Newby provided the Board with an update on the outputs of the stakeholder engagement undertaken by Hatch Associates Ltd which involved strategic and delivery partners and key businesses, complemented by the community led by ACTION for Communities in Cumbria (ACT).

Further stakeholder engagement will take place as the project moves into the next phase.

A further update will be provided for the next Board meeting.

**RESOLVED:** – That the Board note the completion of Stakeholder Engagement Phase 1 activity.

#### **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next Cleator Moor Towns Fund Board Meeting will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 9am this will be a virtual meeting.

**Meeting closed** at 11:55am