

Carlisle Town Deal Board

Interim Meeting

Wednesday 29th March 2023 12:00-12:50

MINUTES

Item	
1	<p>Welcome / Apologies</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Porter – Chair (EP) • Debbie Kavanagh (DK) • Jane Meek (JaM) • Samantha Aly (SA) • Andrew Mackay (AM) • Cannon Benjamin Carter (BC) • Cllr Marilyn Bowman (MaB) • Cllr Lisa Brown (LB) • Paul Musgrave (PM) • Elaine Hargreaves (EHa) • Cllr Cyril Weber (CW) • John Stevenson MP (JS) • Callum Ward (CW) • Julie Mennell (JuM) • Michael Barry (MiB) • Darren Crossley (DC) • Cllr John Mallinson (JoM) • Elaine Herbert (EHe) • Jo Lappin (JL) • Mark Nott (MN) • Rob Brittain (RB) <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Robinson <p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>No new declarations of interest declared</p>
2	<p>Project Adjustment Request (PAR)</p> <p>A report had been circulated to board members for discussion. DK talked through the report which set out the timeline and process. JaM highlighted that each of the projects in the programme are at different stages. JL questioned why the Carlisle Business Exchange Centre project had been RAG rated red/amber in the report but had been allocated the highest amount of additional funding. JaM explained that there has been a lot of work in the last week around the PAR and since the report had been finalised a meeting had been held with representatives from the University of Cumbria who had provided JaM with confidence that they can deliver the project in the Town Deal timescales.</p> <p>JL questioned if CaCC are confident that DLUHC will be happy with the revised BCR for the Carlisle Business Exchange Centre which is set out in the report as being 1.4. DK explained that Mott MacDonald have advised that there is an option to look at the length of the project appraisal to increase the BCR. In the original business case for the project the appraisal period length is 10 years but in most projects of this scale it would be 15 years. If this change was made then this may increase the BCR to 2.</p>

DK explained that the original business case for the Carlisle Business Exchange Centre was written by a different consultancy firm than the others in Carlisle's programme but now the BCRs have all been assessed by Mott MacDonald which means there is now consistency in the approach to BCR which aids comparison.

DK talked through the revised proposal for the reallocation of the £3.015 million as it is set out in the report.

JuM questioned figures on page 15 of the Mott MacDonald report. DK advised that this can be looked at to confirm accuracy and explained that the figures have needed to be revised multiple times due to resubmissions from University of Cumbria.

JuM apologised that the University of Cumbria (UoC) did not submit their request before the deadline.

AM expressed that he is disappointed with the reprofiling recommendation in the report as he feels that the process has been compromised. AM expressed that as there was deadline that the University failed to meet it appears that the process has been amended to accommodate the university's funding gap. AM explained that Tullie House's ask was backed up by evidence and they will now need to revise the scheme due to the reduction in additional funding.

CW concurs with AM. Feels that decision should've been made last week and that it was wrong to compromise in the process to accommodate the University.

JoM was disappointed at the views of AM. JoM feels that there is nothing more important for Carlisle than the University of Cumbria.

JL questioned if the overall outputs of the programme will be affected by losing the Market Hall project and reprofiling the funding. JaM explained that as a whole the outputs of the programme remain strong.

LB was in agreement with the proposal in the report and agreed with JoM regarding the University's importance to the city.

AM supported the university as a priority but expressed concerns with the process.

RB supportive of the content of the report and feels it looks to get the best for the city.

CW asked when UoC expect to go to tender. JuM explained that this project is part of a larger Citadels project so it may not be appropriate to discuss this with the board. CW asked if this means that UoC are not ready to go out to tender. JaM advised that in her meeting this morning with UoC she was given assurance of timescales. The Chief Operating Officer from UoC joined the meeting and confirmed that the project procurement is a 2-stage design and build process. The project is currently in stage 2 and this will take until October 2023 to complete.

MaB asked when the outstanding GFA will be signed by UoC. JuM advised that her team are working through the detail and expect this to be signed imminently.

There was a vote of Town Deal Board members on the proposals in the report. AM and JuM abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest. The majority voted in agreement with the report.

3	<p>Next Steps & AOB</p> <p>AOB: Cllr Bowman and Cllr Mallinson advised that this will be the last Town Deal Board meeting that they will be attending. We thank them for their contribution to the Town Deal Board.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAR document to be prepared reflecting the decision that was taken at today's board meeting. • PAR to be submitted to DLUHC by deadline of 31st March. • Next Carlisle Town Deal Board meeting has been scheduled for 10th May.
---	---