**Redditch Town Deal Board**

**Minutes**

**James Horne NWedR**

**Friday 29th May 2020**

**2:30 – 3:15pm**

1. Welcome and apologies

Lyndsey Berry

Simon Hyde (Faun Zoller)

Duncan Berry (YMCA)

1. Appointment of Chair & Adopt TOR

* Town deal must have a chair in the private sector
* Challenge to find someone:
* COVID-19 – demand on business leader’s time
* Someone invested and living in Redditch
* Resource requirement for the chair should be no more than once (day) a month

1. Government Guidance update and current position

* Private sector chair important
* Third delay to guidance being issued from central government:
* Still waiting for more detailed guidance; the level of detail needed for the TIP and grading criteria (% weighting per sector),
* timelines for submissions – first wave July (OP note that our deal is not ready for that deadline) Second cohort towards the end of the calendar year and third cohort towards the end of the final calendar year

1. Draft TIP

* Early stages currently
* OP to circulate ‘draft draft’ version of outline to colleagues
* Concerns raised around the value or continuation of the Towns Fund due to the financial challenges caused by COVID-19
  + OP - ‘Business as Usual’ so far but the criteria might change to focus on recovery and skills in light of economic downturn
* Concern whether there will be demand to build large offices block given the significant increase in working from home
  + OP – one emerging model is ‘hub and spoke’; workers attend the office for a few days a week as well as meetings (office-based businesses)
* Likely the guidance will encourage a towns deal submission to tie in with on-going economic recovery work streams

1. Skills survey

* OP – inaugural meeting stressed the importance of improving the skills provision in Redditch
* Skills priority could be removed from the government guidance depending on the importance of other COVID-19 economic recovery priorities
* HoW college well placed to provide the skills that Redditch requires

1. Community Engagement

* MyTown campaign
  + Comprehensive engagement process with local residents and stakeholder is required. Setting out priorities and what local people need.
  + “How do you want the money to be spent” is a key message from central government
* My Town campaign 77 respondents so far – focussing on entertainment provision so far
* OP – need to focus questions and utilise digital platforms to reproduce engagement workshops in light of social distancing

1. AOB

* OP - Neighbourhood engagement for the Matchborough and Winyates regeneration project. Linking this to the wider engagement for the TIP/Towns fund. The method for engagement here could be replicated for the wider Towns deal engagement
* OP to re-circulate Town deal boundary to board members

1. Date of Next Meeting - 3rd July 10am