**Redditch Town Deal Board**

**Minutes**

**Friday 18th September 2020**

**10:30 – 12:30pm**

1. Welcome and apologies

Minute taking: James Horne (NWedR)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

* Board members agreed the previous minutes

1. Accelerated Fund Update

LB advised the submission was made in August and the announcement of the fund will be imminent. LB confirmed with government that any potential use of the money for the Railway Quarter would not be duplicated with the £1million awarded to WCC through the Get Britain Building Fund.

The board asked about the flexibility of the fund and options to use reserves depending on the cost of the different scenarios – government advisor stated it was at the board’s discretion once figures were clarified.

Any PR Marketing for the Accelerated Fund should make reference to the upcoming consultation to make the public aware.

1. Lessons Learnt from Cohort 1

LB attended a webinar of lessons learnt from those towns that have already submitted their TIPS. The webinar stressed the importance of board support in the development of the TIP/Deal and to utilise the Board’s networks/connections to support engagement in the TIP and wider Towns deal.

The board discussed their connections with community group/wider networks and agreed for NWEDR to create and coordinate this information with the engagement consultants to garner support.

RB discussed if the board should use consultants for the development & writing of TIP which was supported by members.

SG - COVID reality check of the market is needed- COVID-19 and the current economic condition could impact the viability of our proposals. We may not have that specialised knowledge and experience within the board

OP – A decision to use the Towns Fund network of support and develop the TIP through NWEDR. Appointing consultants will effect the budgeting and will become a financial responsibility for Redditch BC. Developing business cases is where the specialist technical knowledge is really needed

PU – is their a standard format/template for the TIP? – LB to send guidance

**AF – vote held on whether consultants should be appointed for the development of the TIP.**

**Board agreed to use consultants to develop the TIP**

A socially distanced Town centre walkabout was suggested by board members – NWEDR to organise.

1. Group Vision Exercise – led by Rebecca Collings

* Clear vision is very important for a successful TIP
* Objective – economic regeneration, skills, connectivity
* Pointer from Cohort 1 – clear ‘golden thread’ through the TIP
* Using evidence/data to support the options/appraisals
* Sense of place with the TIP
* Vision shouldn’t be what the TIP can afford – vision should be holistic approach that links in with different strategies/stakeholders e.g. LEP, County, Health, National government etc.

Comments from the board

* + Current visions within other Redditch documents are not Redditch specific and too generic – fails tippex test
  + Unique issue is that Redditch hasn’t had capital investment since the 60’s
  + Culture/heritage needs to be addressed.
  + Unique assets of Redditch – great location for connectivity
  + Redditch has an identity crisis - very poor town centre, particularly the Kingfisher lets the town down.
  + The Town centre lacks vibrancy when compared to other local town centres.
  + social and softer issues should tie in with the deal – obesity (health) and skills are big issues in Redditch
  + strongly recommend the TIP/Town deal should evidence the social value of each project and side conversation should be undertaken with relevant board members and NWedR to decide on how this can be achieved

1. AOB

1. Date of Next Meeting – Friday 23rd October.