

Glastonbury Town Deal Board

Minutes of the Project Board meeting held on Friday 17 July 2020 Hosted on Zoom (online)

Present:

Robert Richards (RR) – Chair and Glastonbury Festivals
James Heappey (JH) – Vice Chair and Member of Parliament
Cllr Ian Tucker (IT) – Glastonbury Town Council
Cllr Liz Leyshon – (LL) - Somerset County Council (alternate)
Cllr Peter Goater (PG) – Mendip District Council
Dr Lynn Sedgmore (LS) – Community Representative
Heidi Coombe (HC) – Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Kama McKenzie (KM) – Community Representative
Katherine Clarke (KC) – Street & Glastonbury YMCA/Redbrick
Katy Quinn (KQ) – Strode College
Lucy Martin (LM) – Department of Work and Pensions
Paul Manning (PM) – Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce

Apologies:

Cllr David Hall (DH) – Somerset County Council
Darryl Mitchard (DM) – Melhuish and Saunders
Jacqueline Cross (JC) – NHS CCG

In attendance:

Anwen Jones (AJ) – Cities & Local Growth Unit (BEIS/MHCLG)
Christina (Tina) McEwen (TM) – Lead consultant – Glastonbury Towns Fund
Cllr Jon Cousins (JCs) - Glastonbury Mayor, Glastonbury Town Council
Gerard Tucker (GT) – Glastonbury Town Council
Henry Seymour (HS) - Cities & Local Growth Unit (BEIS/MHCLG)
Jenny Pitcher (JP) – Mendip District Council
Julie Reader-Sullivan (JRS) – Mendip District Council
Paul Hickson – Somerset County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Due to the ongoing restrictions of Covid-19, the Board meeting was held online.

RR was introduced as the new Chair of the Glastonbury Town Deal Board and welcomed both the new Board for its first full meeting, following the interim Board in January, and the postponed meeting in March.

Roundtable introductions were provided introducing all Board members (for brevity, Board member bios to be developed for webpages), and further introductions were provided to TM (lead consultant for Glastonbury Towns Fund) and AJ and HS were also welcomed as representatives from the Cities and Local Growth Unit

JRS outlined the latest timescales and the updated guidance notes published by Government in June and FAQs in July. Owing to very short deadlines, the

Glastonbury Town Investment Plan will now be submitted in January 2021, with one further final revision allowed in March.

2. Vision, Mission and Values and SWOT analysis for Glastonbury and Covid-19

JRS and TM highlighted the requirement for a Vision, Mission and Values statement, following JRS pre-circulated short paper and RR led a group discussion on the vision and values for the Board and those reflective of the wider communities of Glastonbury.

RR highlighted the importance of anchoring environmental sustainability and benefits at the heart of the Vision, Mission and Values, supported by JH, he also noted the importance of ensuring economic recovery in light of the changing Covid-19 challenges.

LS, KM and other Board members emphasised the importance of inclusivity for all parts of the community and ensuring a 'listening ear' for all communities, residents and businesses without pre-judgement. KC and KQ also noted the importance of young people in contributing their voice to the future of the town. KQ is also the Chair of Governors at St Dunstan School and KC and KM are also governors, and this was felt to be a positive opportunity to engage with the schools in the town. KC also has links through her work with the YMCA and the Redbrick with young people.

LS said that transparency would be vital, and by drafting a shared vision, the Board could then share and adjust or refine within the scope of public consultations. The group agreed to submit further comments to TM for drafting and circulation at the next meeting.

Due to time restrictions on the discussion due to the project Accelerator Fund deadline, it was agreed that a SWOT analysis would be circulated for Board members to contribute and comment on for the next meeting.

Action: Board members to submit comments to TM for drafting

3. £500,000 Accelerator Fund Grant Project Discussion

Following earlier discussions, JRS and JP noted that a further capital Accelerator Fund of £500,000 is also now available for Glastonbury, in order to provide support to Towns Fund areas by Government in response to Covid-19. The criteria provided particularly suggests capital-only improvement schemes such as:

- Green spaces, Parks, Sustainable travel
- Re-purposing empty buildings in the town centre
- Site remediation and/or demolition

To start the discussion, initial project suggestions included improvements to cycling/walking routes following the production of a Sustrans report in 2018 indicating areas for improvement in the town.

Complementing Climate Change and active travel discussions already held by all three tiers of local authorities, it was noted this could offer benefits for commuters,

leisure opportunities for residents, and visitor enhancements. Any projects must be situated within the agreed Glastonbury Towns Fund boundaries - map available online at www.mendip.gov.uk/glastotowndeal

Feasibility studies for larger schemes were also raised, including the renovation of empty buildings on the Morlands Enterprise Park including the Baily's building or Building C at the Redbrick. The group noted that most capital schemes at Morlands would require planning permission and multimillion pound investment for refurbishment or repurposing, which would put them beyond the timescales for the 14th August.

It was suggested that larger schemes at Morlands would be better considered through wider Town Investment Plan discussion and town engagement.

Additionally, provision for employment and particularly youth hub provision had been highlighted as an area of need by DWP (JCP) and other agencies prior to the Board meeting. This is part of a wider need across the county in response to the evolving Covid-19 situation, particularly with the predicted impact on the retail, hospitality and leisure sector and for young people between 16-24 years old.

Potential capital spend could be used to increase the town's provision for employment and skills support, although it was noted that the £500k did not include any revenue funding. Other in-kind support though could include work with the local JCP team, Strode College Jobshop, the Redbrick, Somerset County Council's library service and other town schemes. A question was also raised about the capitalisation of digital assets.

Action: HS - to explore and feedback on capitalisation of digital assets query

LS raised the question of business support in light of Covid-19, and LM also noted that one-stop shop provision for employment, skills and business advice may be useful.

KM noted St Edmund's Hall at Windmill Hill could also offer potential opportunities through refurbishment to ensure community benefits and a hub for local residents.

Next steps

A letter of proposal is required, and must be signed off by MDC's S151 (Finance) Officer, and submitted to Government by 14th August 2020. In order to meet the extraordinary deadline, it was agreed that TM would hold a series of one-to-one consultations with Board members to gather a project list for discussion with the Chair w/c 27 July 2020. The Accelerator projects will be the main focus for the next Board meeting to be held on 7th August 2020.

JRS noted that the extremely short deadline for the Accelerator funding would render wider public consultation inappropriate at this stage, however the project list would be gathered on schemes already identified as important by communities within the town.

RR, JH, IT, LL and the group agreed that the additional Fund was a real opportunity for Glastonbury and that the priority must be to secure early positive outcomes for the town. Full public consultation is still to be undertaken for the main Town Investment Plan, and will include key consultation on economic recovery planning.

HS noted deliverability is vital, with work on any proposed scheme submitted in August required to be well underway by end of March 2020. Proposals not included for the Accelerator funding proposal may still be considered for the main Town Investment Plan.

JH noted that a further key action would be to review any planning/environmental constraints in advance of further project discussions for Phase 2 due to the short timescales involved for the next part of the Plan.

Action: TM to consult with Board members for potential Accelerator schemes

4. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

The date of the next meeting is **Friday 7th August 2020, 2.00pm** to be held online by Zoom invitation.