

Draft minutes to be approved at the next Task Force Board meeting on 15th July 2011

Cheltenham Development Task Force Board Meeting

Friday 8th April 2011 - 2.00 – 4:30pm
Pittville Room, Municipal offices, Cheltenham

Open Minutes of meeting

Present: Graham Garbutt (Independent Chair)
Stephen Clarke
Robert Duncan
Antonia Noble
Andrew North
David Oldham
Michael Ratcliffe
John Rawson
Diane Savory
Bernice Thomson
Andrew Willetts

Other: Steve Jordan – CBC Leader of Council
Amanda Lawson-Smith – GCC Principal Transport Planning Officer
Mark Sheldon – CBC Chief Finance Officer
Jeremy Williamson (Managing Director)
Paul Jones – CBC Head of Financial Services (for item 27/11)
Donna McFarlane – Solicitor (OneLegal) (for item 27/11)
Mark Brunson & James Petherick – GVA (for item 27/11)
Simon Excell (sub for Nigel Riglar)
Martin Chandler (sub for Wilf Tomaney)

No.	Item	Action
	GG opened the meeting by welcoming all present and confirmed that Andrew Vines of English Heritage would be attending as a new Task Force member replacing Chris Smith. Members endorsed this.	
18/11	Apologies: Members – Cllrs Chas Fellows & Tim Cooper, Tony Bray, Sarah Irvine & Nigel Riglar (sub Simon Excell) plus Attendees – Nick Croft and Wilf Tomaney (sub Martin Chandler)	All
19/11	Declarations of Interest – none declared.	All
20/11	Minutes of previous meeting (21 01 11) Item 9.11 Cllr John Rawson requested that the last sentence be re-worded to say, “not that the matter was independent of political control but that a political consensus had been achieved in pursuing the objective.” Item 10/11 Nick Croft had requested that under indicative costs the second paragraph be continued to read, “Boots Corner in isolation c£3m with most of expenditure on ‘soft’ travel measures; to reduce the impact of traffic congestion and air pollution caused by closing Boots Corner to through traffic.” Under the same item Nigel Riglar had requested the following wording be added to the end of paragraph 6, “It was confirmed that there was no current GCC funding allocated with the exception of £50k of revenue available during 2011/12. Otherwise approved for both accuracy and content.	SW
21/11	Action Matrix and Matters Arising It was noted from the minutes previously circulated that almost all actions had either been completed or were on the agenda for further consideration. JW reminded board members of his previous request to be sent a photo and simple biography from each of them, as none yet received.	All

22/11	<p>Confirmation of Confidentiality of Items Unanimously agreed.</p>	GG
23/11	<p>Resignation of Daniella Tilbury The Chair proposed Dorian Wragg, whilst living locally, had a work base in Mitcheldean (Forest of Dean), working for 'Be Green' a green energy business. Dorian has a property background and will bring to the Task Force his experience in sustainable development and critically the financial implications relating to sustainable proposals. Members endorsed this proposal.</p>	GG/JW
24/11	<p>Local Enterprise partnership - update Simon Excell tabled a copy of the Gloucestershire (only) LEP bid that had been submitted to Central Government at the beginning of April and explained that Gloucestershire First had taken the lead in the production of the document. Whilst a Gloucestershire only bid, detailed strategic links particularly to Swindon and Wiltshire. Gloucestershire First were hoping to hear back from Government in May and SE will update Board accordingly.</p> <p>In response to a query from the Chair, SE explained that it was still to be resolved whether the LEP would have its own budget, but hoped funding would be available from existing revenue budgets, although recognised that these were being squeezed.</p>	
25/11	<p>(2:15 Robert Duncan and James Petherick joined the mtg followed by Mark Brunson at 2:25)</p> <p>Ultra Light Rail Michael Ratcliffe made an interesting presentation regarding a project that Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce is currently involved in with Gloucestershire and Birmingham Universities.</p> <p>The main focus of the project is to provide an ultra light tram system powered by the processing of waste using existing technology from countries such as Germany, Spain, and France linked to a Renewable Energy Park. An example has been developed at Selby, Yorkshire.</p> <p>The intention is to re-open the disused Honeybourne line between the main line station and Cheltenham Racecourse (as a shared use footpath / cycleway / ULR). A first phase would be Swindon Lane to Lansdown with later links to Uckington (Park & Ride) and Stratford, via the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire railway who are keen to establish light rail link into Lansdown Station.</p> <p>Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce have commissioned environmentalist Richard Davison, who has written a dissertation about funding light rail from a Gloucestershire waste and treatment plant which his examiner believes to be achievable through the Glos Waste Strategy and LTP3 and GCC have agreed to act as observers in their bid to the EU.</p> <p>The project is currently working on capital / running costs but it is believed at this early stage that it could be installed for under £10m. MR is hopeful that the InterReg (EU) bid would be submitted by the University of Gloucestershire and partners between Spring and Autumn 2011.</p> <p>SE confirmed that the Honeybourne Line is presently protected in LTP3 but its future status is dependent on the outcome of September's Inquiry. SE invited MR to take his presentation to Shire Hall – date to be arranged.</p>	SE/AL-S

26/11	Imperial & Montpelier Gardens John Rawson provided an update on the proposals for these two key areas with the aim of achieving a balance between the needs of the Festivals and the needs of other users of the gardens. The Chair asked that consideration be given to the space between the Town Hall and Quadrangle. Further investment in the Town Hall will be an important issue and Cllr Steve Jordan confirmed that the Town Hall was on the agenda for the next phase of any HLF approach.	
	The public part of the meeting concluded at this point.	