

Cheltenham Development Task Force Board Meeting

Item 68/19

Friday 19th July 2019 2.00pm – 4:45pm
Pittville Room, Municipal offices, Cheltenham

Open Minutes of meeting

Present: Graham Garbutt (Independent Chair)
 Bernice Thomson
 Cllr Andrew McKinlay
 Stephen Clarke
 Rob Duncan
 Cllr Nigel Moor
 Liz Kirkham (subbing for Chris Riley)
 Rosalind Andrews

Other: Jeremy Williamson
 Dominic Stead

No.	Item	Action
44/19	Apologies: Members - Michael Ratcliffe, Diane Savory, Cllr Paul Baker, Rohan Torkildsen, Joyce Clifford (jury service), & Dorian Wragg. Other - Cllr Steve Jordan, Tim Atkins, Chris Riley, David Oakhill, Tracey Crews, Scott Macauley Lowe, Simon Excell, Philip Williams, Howard Barber, Paul Jones & Fraser Reid Liz Kirkham was welcomed (subbing for Chris Riley, GCC).	
45/19	Declarations of Interest None	
46/19	Open Minutes of previous meeting 12/04/19 Noted that Dominic Stead omitted from attendees Other items picked up on action matrix and agenda; minutes agreed.	
47/19	Open minutes Action Matrix & Matters Arising 28/19 Wider matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JCS and Cheltenham Plan, J10 HIF bid, GD3 delivery - on agenda • Highways England audit – actioned • Local Transport Plan review – on agenda, also future meeting 29/19 Cheltenham Transport Plan phase 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of works including indicative timetable for A4019 – JW to chase PW for response • Comms provided – actioned • Fly-through shared with Cllr NM – actioned 31/19 Cheltenham Spa Station - on agenda for update 33/19 Quarterly update – actioned 34/19 AoB – LIS meeting convened and on agenda – actioned	
48/19	Confirmation of confidentiality of items Agreed as proposed	

CDTF – Open Minutes
 19th July 2019

	Matters for information	
49/19	<p>Wider matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Cheltenham BID update The BID board had decided to undertake a survey of its members on the impact of the Boots Corner trial prior to the Clarence St/Parade amendments being implemented. The response rate was very low with only 28 out of 531 potential respondents (5.2% return rate). Additionally issues with potential numeric anomalies and some logic flaws in analysis. Unfortunately the Echo had picked up & reported the ‘majority’ of retailers were opposed to the scheme; clearly not substantiated by evidence. JW has requested the BID review its data analysis and will hopefully meet with them next week.</p> <p>• Joint Core Strategy & Cheltenham Local Plan Suggested Main Modifications to the Cheltenham Plan submitted to Inspector for consideration. Inspector’s response anticipated in August before going to Full Council in October.</p> <p>No major update on the JCS other than two new officer appointments had been made to support the process.</p> <p>• G2050 A further meeting taking place w/c 22nd July to determine various County groups and structures. The Chair highlighted Severn Vale had the notion of a bridge between Sharpness and Lydney which appears in the Rail Strategy being driven by Leadership Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Cllr Moor reported on the launch of the Great Western Powerhouse, recently at the House of Lords. Seen as the ‘missing part of the jigsaw’ it includes the creation of a ‘city region’ by bringing together Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury to unlock the economic potential of the West Country & drive inclusive growth at scale through regional collaboration. Wider focus is on Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Wiltshire, Bristol, South Gloucestershire & Gloucester. At this stage unsure how it fits with 2050 & Leadership Gloucestershire but with much of Gloucestershire now actively at the centre of this framework CllrNM believed it would give the County much more traction, eg to push for improved rail services. The Chair raised concerns with what seemed like part of a bidding process fitting into Whitehall’s plans to form part of English devolution, linked to City Mayors etc. He questioned it being the right structure to fit in possible English devolved governance arrangements given its overlap with Wales. CllrNM stated previous focus had predominantly been on the M4, but the importance of the M5 and comments around Bristol-Birmingham rail links had now been included in the re-drafted launch document which follows the logic of Vision 2050. Action: JW to circulate copy of report.</p> <p>• Local Industrial Strategy The LEP had received c300 responses to the Call for Evidence and JW believe a first draft of the strategy document would showcase at the LEP Annual Review at Oxstalls on 19th September. Resource from BEIS had been seconded for this exercise.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">JW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JW</p>

50/19	<p>Growth Deal 3 presentation – West of Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme – UK Cyber Park</p> <p>JW tabled hard-copies of key elements of the presentation prepared by Scott Macaulay-Lowe; the drawings being the basis of the public share event. These events were well attended c500 members of the public with positive engagement around ambition behind detailed designs to increase capacity at the A40 roundabout.</p> <p>The first two phases of GD3 would cover Arle Court roundabout itself and the A40 up to J11 of M5. Whilst former challenges at Elmbridge Court had been dealt with, Arle Court remained an issue. Funding secured through GFirstLEP.</p> <p>The third phase of work will focus upon the Telstar Way junction at GCHQ whilst fourth stage provides a cycle route to Lansdown Railway Station, and will connect with the GWR works at Lansdown Bridge and also to the Highways England Gloucester-Cheltenham cycle link. Subject to final business case approval by LEP (late 2019) phase 1&2 works will start early 2020.</p>	
	Matters for consideration	
51/19	<p>Cheltenham Transport Plan phase 4 & wider High Street proposals</p> <p>A fly-through running the length of High Street was projected to demonstrate opportunities along the length of the High Street and at Boots Corner for greening & improvements if public space regained. Greening elements funded through successful EU ESIF grant. The fly-through had generally been well received by the media with positive coverage. Clearly works around Boots Corner entirely dependent upon the outcome of the TRO Committee, late in 2019.</p> <p>Members endorsed the ambition and looked for other ways to spread the message</p> <p>Action: JW to enquire about screening in empty shop by Boots for greater impact.</p> <p>GCC have completed amendments to Clarence Street/Parade junction & full lights should be installed within 2-3 weeks. TRO Committee meeting date being explored plus request for CBC confirmation of support for permanence.</p> <p>CllrNM stated the TRO Committee meeting would take place in Cheltenham & Cheltenham BC as stakeholders would have opportunity to address the Committee; no parameters.</p> <p>JW noted that footfall and cycling through Boots Corner had risen significantly and data from Stagecoach remained positive in terms of modal shift; all of which aligned with climate change declarations at CBC and GCC and the inevitable need to reduce carbon emissions. The economic impact beyond previous assessment of predicted outcomes and actuals as prepared for January CBC meeting was more difficult to document given the wider challenges facing the High Street. Clearly the BID survey would be included.</p> <p>Noted that Wilmott Dixon had been appointed by CBC to undertake feasibility works for the next phase - Strand & Cambray Place; next key stakeholder meeting would take place 1st August. Timeframe for commencement of next phase works was a challenge given Christmas period and need to satisfy trader's needs, whilst the longer term project was governed by the outcome of the TRO Committee</p> <p>Concerns raised around maintenance of existing greenery, which CllrAMc confirmed was covered for first 12 months by contractor.</p>	JW

	<p>BT was disappointed Cheltenham BC had declined to use the Mid-Summer Fiesta as an opportunity to promote the Boots Corner scheme to a broader audience. JW explained that it had felt inappropriate to promote the fly-through given its walking & cycling promotion sub-text after a road traffic incident on the network earlier that week involving a cyclist.</p>	
52/19	<p>Cheltenham Spa Station – progress update</p> <p>Positive news included in Quarterly update about the first package of works scheduled for completion by October. Part of a wider package of work also sees a number of small schemes, including Access for All finally coming together.</p> <p>The worst of the disruption would be the following week when train line works would result in bus linkages between Cheltenham & Gloucester. With no parking within the station for a week it would inevitably cause issues. BT also highlighted that Gloucester Road would be closed at night for roadworks which would exacerbate the situation for buses. JW tabled a GWR media release about timetable changes in December reducing train times just short of two hours from Cheltenham & Gloucester to London.</p>	
53/19	<p>Funding update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future High Street fund – bid unsuccessful. Nearest areas to benefit Swindon & Kidderminster. • Garden Communities – bid successful. West Cheltenham now on GC programme; £150k capacity funding secured. Awaiting inception meeting with MHCLG. • J10 HIF bid – day-long visit by Homes England on 11th July, preceded by 90 clarification questions and subsequent follow-ups as part of due diligence process. GCC continuing survey and analysis work ‘at risk’. Homes England report to be prepared by advisers for 23rd August; this triggers a scoring & moderation process within Whitehall – MHCLG, DfT etc. If successful notification anticipated October 2019 (potentially autumn statement) with scheme delivery by 2024. <p>Highways England met with Cheltenham BC on 17th July to give a progress update on the ‘missing link’ preferred route (route 30) & the 3 sub-routes to connect back to the top of Leckhampton. Still part of bidding process but final outcome expected by early next year. Target to be on site 2021. This aligns with J10 funding timeframe.</p> <p>I was noted that Ashchurch has secured Garden Town status but as yet is not a strategic allocation; part of JCS review process. CllrNM stated that through Western Gateway Tewkesbury BC submitted a bid for J9; whilst upper limit for bids is £75M 9 scored well so priority scheme for Western Gateway. Midlands Connect now leading on A46 work which extends from J9 to Hull and essentially connects the corridor to the ports at Hull and Bristol.</p> <p>Action: JW to bring report back to next meeting on A46.</p>	JW

54/19	<p>LTP Review – discussion on transport options</p> <p>The Chair highlighted the Local Transport Plan ‘refresh’ letter to CllrNM, and the follow-up discussion (notes provided) between Nicholas Falk (Urbed), Cllr Nigel Moor, Micheal Ratcliffe, Rob Duncan, Jeremy Williamson, himself & Frank Chambers (Uni of Glos/Travelwatch SW); the latter working on a developmental type of light rail. Agreed that CllrNM & Nicholas Falk would speak with others in late August, given need for credible research. GG noting his UWE interest (visiting professor) suggested he explore research funding opportunities.</p> <p>CllrNM further reported on Gloucestershire rail feasibility study being initiated to explore improved rail connectivity across the County. Colin Chick, interim at GCC had experience of rapid transport and was supporting the wider LTP ambitions. JW noted positive response from LEP C&I group to recent presentation by C. Chick; agreed that it would be useful for a similar presentation to be made at the TF if C.Chick available. Action: JW to invite Colin Chick to a future meeting.</p> <p>It is understood that Network Rail and GWR currently discussing a number of strategic matters between Gloucester & Cheltenham as part of franchise arrangement. A NR meeting scheduled for late July as rail connectivity part of Gloucestershire’s ‘ask’ with Great Western power.</p> <p>JW also noted that GCC had become a full member of JCS which was perceived as a positive step forward and reflected requests from LEP C&I sub-group for more joined-up working.</p>	<p>GG</p> <p>JW</p>
55/19	<p>Quarterly update</p> <p>Tabled for comments by week ending 26th July.</p>	<p>All</p>
	<p>Future meeting dates</p> <p>Friday 18th October 2019 Friday 17th January 2020 Friday 24th April 2020</p> <p>All 2:00pm at the Municipal Offices, Cheltenham</p>	<p>All</p>