**Staveley Town Deal Board**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 17st July 2020, (Via Zoom)**

**Attendance**

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| **Board Members**  |  |
| Ivan Fomin (Chair) | MSE Hiller |
| Cllr Tricia Gilby (Vice Chair) | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Warren Manning | University of Derby |
| Mark Potter | Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd |
| Cllr Paul Mann | Staveley Town Council |
| Richard Morocombe | Chesterfield College |
| Mervyn Allcock | Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society |
| Lee Rowley, MP | Member of Parliament, North East Derbyshire |
| Toby Perkins, MP | Member of Parliament, Chesterfield |
| Sajeeda Rose | D2N2 LEP |
| **Officers in support** |  |
| Huw Bowen | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Neil Johnson | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Lynda Sharp | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Lindsay Wetton | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Allison Westray Chapman | Derbyshire County Council |
| Mark Evans | Staveley Town Council |
| Craig Busby | Office of Toby Perkins, MP |
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| Consultants running the Workshop |  |
| John Till & Sarah Perry | Thinking Place |
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| ARUP assisting with Town Deal Development  | Jade Tilley & Adriana Moreno Pelayo  |

**1 Apologies**

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| Ian Wingfield | Springwell Community College |
| Daron Abbott | Derbyshire Police |
| Angela Stansfield | Department of Work and Pensions |
| Cllr Tony King | Derbyshire County Council |
| Matthew Southgate | Chesterfield Borough Council |

1. **Welcome and introductions and apologies (IF)**

Ivan welcomed all and introduced Lindsay Wetton as the new Staveley Town Deal Manager.

Apologies were recorded as detailed above.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 31st January 2020 (IF)**

Minutes were approved as an accurate record. All actions had been completed but there was recognised need to keep Board membership under review.

**Action Ongoing membership of Town Deal Board to be reviewed HB**

1. **Update from Chesterfield Borough Council (HB)**

Huw updated the Board on the impacts of COVID-19 on the Staveley economy. Chesterfield Borough Council had updated the Staveley economic position paper previously circulated to highlight the impacts of COVID 19. Huw advised that unemployment in Staveley had risen by 2.6% between March and May 2020. There had been 840 new claims, representing an 84% uplift. This mirrored what had been seen in Chesterfield, but was less than the 110% uplift seen nationally. Of note, youth unemployment had markedly increased between March and May in Staveley and was ahead of the national position.

From a retail perspective, a survey undertaken on Staveley High Street in July 2020 showed that 50% of businesses had been closed. This was now easing with more businesses re-opening.

Huw reported that data showed that 1 in 5 employees in Staveley had been furloughed by their employers. Nationally, there is a worry that up to 55% of staff that have been furloughed could be made redundant. Therefore, there was a concern that unemployment within Staveley could increase further. However, the research also showed that more people were employed in Staveley in higher resilient sectors than the national position, for example, health and social care.

Huw advised that Chesterfield Borough Council had produced a COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan. A copy of the plan would be shared with the Board.

**Action Chesterfield COVID Economic Recovery Plan to be circulated to the Board. LW**

1. **Town Deal Update**

Lindsay advised that in June 2020, the Government issued further guidance on Town Deals. This was followed up with the issue of detailed guidance in July 2020, on how Town Deal areas should develop their Investment Plans.

Lindsay advised that Arup have been appointed by BEIS nationally to support Staveley in the development of the Town Investment Plan. An initial meeting with Arup had been held and the Chair was in attendance for the session.

The guidance on Town Deals advised that Government were welcoming submissions of Investment Plans in 3 tranches. After reflecting, the Chair felt that Staveley needed to submit a bid of quality and that included the correct scoping of projects and activities. The Council were required to notify the Government which tranche they were intending to submit into. The Chair agreed to target submission to the second tranche bid deadline of end of October 2020.

Lindsay advised that Chesterfield Borough Council had moved forward with the procurement of consultants to support the Town Deal Board in developing the Town Investment Plan. The deadline for receipt of tenders was 30th July 2020.

Lindsay advised that the Government had also written to Huw Bowen to advise that Staveley had been allocated £500k accelerator funding, to bring forward project activity that would fit with and support delivery of the Town Investment Plan. The letter arrived a week ago and no firm plans for projects had been developed at this stage. It is a requirement that Chesterfield Borough Council confirms to Government by 14th August 2020, what they would seek to spend the funding on.

Huw advised that this was new funding and that it had to be spent on capital projects. All funding had to be spent by 31st March 2021. Projects would therefore have to be immediately deliverable (for example, have planning permission in place). There was discussion at the meeting as to whether this was “new” funding or whether it would form part of the final Investment Plan funding of “up to £25 million”. Melanie confirmed BEIS position that it was additional funding but advised that it was aligned to the Town Investment Plan proposals.

Huw informed that Board that there were a range of projects that may be suitable for the accelerator funding. As examples, he identified the DRIIVe project at Barrow Hill, the potential for a construction skills hub at Mastin Moor on a site that Chatsworth were seeking to develop for housing, the possibility of development of a trials bike trail, and a potential project at Staveley Miners Welfare Football Club. He advised that this list was not exhaustive and the Board needed to move quickly to establish which projects would be suitable for the funding.

Toby Perkins, MP raised the potential of Chesterfield Canal as potentially benefiting from this funding and highlighted that the Canal could contribute significantly to the economic uplift of the local economy. This was supported by Councillor Mann. Mark Potter, representing the Canal Partnership, advised that the Trust had submitted a planning application for its further development and that there were elements of work in scope that could be delivered by the accelerator funding deadline.

It was agreed that Lindsay would explore options for use of the accelerator funding and share details with the Board.

**Action: Details of proposals for Accelerator Funding to be shared with the Board in advance of the 14th August 2020 deadline. LW**

1. **Thinking Place Facilitated Session (1.5 hours)**

Thinking Place led a facilitated session for the Board to seek initial ideas about developing a vision for the Town. Summary notes from the session will be prepared and circulated.

**Action: Summary notes from the workshop to be shared with the minutes of the meeting. LW**

Following initial presentation as part of the session, Toby Perkins reflected that in terms of place, Staveley is made up of a number of separate communities that don’t all share the same view of what makes up Staveley. For example, residents of Inkersall or Hollingwood may align themselves with being part of Chesterfield, rather than Staveley. How the role and purpose of the Town Centre is viewed would vary between different communities.

Councillor Mann concurred that each Staveley village had its own identity and in part this had been based on the town’s industrial past. He highlighted that Staveley people expect quick results and will want something they can see. Ivan agreed and added that the accelerator funding would assist with this as it had the potential to delivery quick results.

1. **Next Steps**

John Till advised following the session that Staveley is a town of significant potential. He thanked participants and concluded that he felt all had had a good say. Thinking Place could support the Board moving forward with developing the shared vision and narrative for the place.

Ivan thanked all for participating in the session and reminded the Board that the clock is ticking towards the October submission deadline. The appointment of consultants, scheduled for the end of the month, would support the development of the Town Investment Plan.

Melanie advised that prior to submission Staveley Town Investment Plan would be subject to a “check and challenge” session, led by Arup. The final plan should only be submitted when ready. The submission should be led by quality, not speed.

1. **Any Other Business (IF)**

No other matters were raised at the meeting.

1. **Date of Next Meeting, Friday 11 September 10am - 12pm, Venue/Virtual tbc**