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TOWN DEAL BOARD**Notes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18 June 2020
5.30p.m. via Zoom****Board Members in Attendance:**

Name: Craig Moule (Chair) Very Revd Peter Atkinson Cllr Marc Bayliss Sally Ellison MBE Cllr Simon Geraghty David Green Cllr Adrian Gregson Mohammed Iqbal Cllr Roger Knight Cllr Jan Scrine Mark Stansfeld Nicki Williams Robin Walker Laura Worsfold	Representing: Sanctuary Dean of Worcester Leader, Worcester City Council Worcester Community Action Leader of Worcestershire County Council University of Worcester Deputy Leader, Worcester City Council Community Representative St Peters Parish Council Warndon Parish Council Worcestershire LEP Heart of Worcestershire College and Worcester BID Member of Parliament for Worcester Severn Arts
Also in Attendance: David Blake Andrew Round Julian Pugh Oliver Hindle Graham Russell and Maria Salcedo	 Managing Director, Worcester City Council Corporate Director Place, Worcester City Council Democratic Services, Worcester City Council West Midlands and South West Cities and Local Growth Unit Amion

Item No.	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions David Blake welcomed everyone. He made reference to the presentations for items 3 and 5, which had been emailed to Board members earlier in the day.	
2.	Aims of Meeting Andrew Round's presentation under item 5 would update everyone on the main elements of the newly-published Guidance. The principal item on the agenda was the presentation on the Evidence Base (item 5) as consensus is required on the key issues to take forward to inform the TIP.	

3.	<p>Update Presentation from Andrew Round. Main points:</p> <p>Town Investment Plan Boundary - Now same as City Council boundary.</p> <p>My Town Website - This was launched by the Government in the Autumn of 2019. The site invites the public to submit ideas for projects. The City Council had promoted this via social media. There had been approximately 80 responses to date. The most popular issues raised so far were in relation to Walking/Cycling and Landscape/Green Space.</p> <p>Further Guidance on Preparation of the Town Investment Plan- This was issued on 15 June, see item 5.</p> <p>-</p> <p>Key points arising from the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Round will circulate a more detailed analysis of the responses. • It is acknowledged that the findings to date should not be taken as representative of the wider population. • Sally Ellison can promote the consultation amongst voluntary sector organisations. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>AR</p> <p>AR</p>
4.	<p>Evidence Base Presentation from Graham Russell. Main topics: Impacts of Covid-19, Changing Economic Structure, Lower Wage and Lower Value Added Jobs, Lower Entrepreneurship, Changing Demographics, Skills and Education, Social Mobility and Deprivation, Connectivity. The presentation concluded with a summary SWOT analysis of the headline findings.</p> <p>Key points arising from the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Geraghty asked if the opportunities for green growth/e-commerce could be highlighted. • Connectivity is a key issue – ease of travel into and within the City, cycling and public transport, congestion and completion of ring road were all raised in the discussion. • Urban extensions will impact but can be both opportunity and threat. • The city’s heritage, cultural and sporting assets all play a key part in driving the visitor economy. • David Green raised Worcester’s track record in promoting inclusion through disability sport and highlighted future opportunities in this area, which could be referenced in the Evidence Base. • It was acknowledged that levelling up to is a key feature and projects should be identified with this in mind. 	

	Graham Russell will pick up all of these points.	GR
5.	<p>Latest Guidance Andrew Round presentation. Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fundamental change to scope and direction of Fund due to Covid 19, but Covid 19 recovery should form part of strategy. • Some specific references to green growth and cultural assets • Over-arching theme of places/communities left behind. • Expectation that the Towns Fund forms part of wider public and private sector investment strategy/package. <p>AR summarised the main components of the TIP including Context Analysis, Strategy, Engagement and Delivery, Business Plan, Projects List.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board needs to agree submission date - July, October or January • Work up Vision and Spatial Strategy • Develop project list via pro-forma <p>With regard to the submission date, AR explained that the Future High Street Fund bid needs to be completed by the end of July. Oliver Hindle advised that it is important to take time to build the evidence base and support can be provided. The conclusion of the Board was to aim for October, but if not ready this can then shift to January. Oliver Hindle will check and confirm that the process allows this.</p> <p>There was a discussion about public engagement and the challenges due to Covid-19 restrictions. David Blake emphasised the contribution that Board partners can make in this respect and the Chair encouraged all to feed back to AR on how they can use existing resources and bases to support engagement.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>AR/All to note</p> <p>OH</p> <p>All</p>
6.	<p>Conclusions The Chair acknowledged the progress that has been made to date, although there is still plenty to do. The next meeting should focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firm up Evidence Base • Vision and Strategy • Template for seeking views on projects • Engagement Strategy 	AR
7.	<p>Any Other Business None.</p>	
8.	Date of Next Meeting	DB

	To be confirmed – dependent on progress with next steps.	
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The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Key

AR = Andrew Round

OH = Oliver Hindle

GR = Graham Russell

DB = David Blake