

**Minutes of The Bishop Auckland Stronger Towns Board Meeting
Thursday 24th July 2021, 0900 - 1000, Microsoft Teams**

Attendees:

David Land	DL	Chair
David Maddan	DM	The Auckland Project, CEO
Jonathan Ruffer	JR	The Auckland Project, Founder
Susie Doyle	SD	The Auckland Project, Head of Development
Rob Yorke	RY	Teescraft, Private Sector Representative
Graham Wood	GW	Durham County Council, Economic Development Manager
Geoff Paul	GP	Durham County Council,
Natalie Davison-Terranova	ND-T	Bishop Auckland College, Principal/Chief Executive
Mike Matthews	MM	Private Sector Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn	SQ	Councillor
Cllr Elizabeth Scott	ES	Councillor
Paul Robson	PR	Department for Work & Pensions
Liz Fisher	LF	The Auckland Project, Place & Purpose Director
Nik Turner	NT	Believe Housing
Dehenna Davison	DD	MP for Bishop Auckland
Jonathan Gilroy	JG	Cities and Local Growth

Apologies:

Bishop Paul Butler	PB	Bishop of Durham
Katy Severs	KS	DWP
Helen Golightly	HG	LEP
Amy Harhoff	AH	Durham County Council, Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

	Item	Action
1.0	Welcome/Introductions DL/ALL	
1.1	Board members welcomed by DL.	
2.0	Review of Previous Minutes	
2.1	Previous minutes approved as a true record. No comments raised.	
3.0	Declarations of Interest – if any	
3.1	No comments raised.	

4.0	Stronger Towns Fund: Head of Terms Steps	
4.1	DL noted the great news that Bishop Auckland has been successful in securing a £33.2m funding award. DL thanked the Board for all their efforts towards achieving this.	
4.2	GW tabled a report to provide board members with the requirements of the Heads of Terms issued by government with the award.	
4.3	The board was requested to formally approve the Heads of Terms (HoT) set out in Appendix 2 of the paper in order that we can successfully meet the 29th June 2021 deadline. GP advised that the HoT will need signed by the Board, the Council and Secretary of State. GP advised that Durham County Council have no concerns with the HoT and recommend signing. DL approved that the Board are happy to sign. MM seconds.	
4.4	There are now two months to undertake a review to refine and prioritise the proposed projects, which totalled £46.8m, to suggest a final programme totalling £33.2m for submission to government by 31st August 2021. How to bridge this budget gap is a key decision for the Town Board with advice on governance from DCC.	
4.5	JG advised that once the signed HoT is returned, there are eight weeks in which the Board must outline the plan for addressing any conditions attached to the projects. The Board is flexible to move projects around / omit some if they see fit.	
4.6	GW advised that there was always the expectation that for the Eastern Sustainable Access Corridor, because of its size and complexity, there would be a need for further detail to be provided to government for the development and sign off of the business case for this project.	
4.7	RY queried if the Stronger Towns Funding and Future High Street Funding can be merged or if they must remain completely separate. GW advised that the FHSF is subject to a separate HoT agreement and monitoring. JG noted it would be quite complex in practice but would look to provide a more definitive answer to the Board on this.	
4.8	NT noted that should the Board choose to omit a project it should be placed on a 'reserve list' and brought back in if any savings are realised.	
4.9	GW asked that the Board approve the key project prioritisation criteria proposed in item 28. DL approved.	

4.10	DL requested that subgroups be used again during the prioritisation process as this worked well and ensured that all board members opinions were considered. GP asks for the opportunity to take this away and work subgroups into the process. DL approved	
5.0	Any Other Business	
5.1	RY noted that it is important for us to deliver any projects that are omitted further down the line if possible. There are various funding streams on the horizon (e.g. UK renewal fund) that if we could get some background information on we can continue the momentum. DD agreed to seek insight on what might be coming down the line.	
5.2	ES advised that she has been working with AH to do some horizon scanning work so that we know what is coming on line and are prepared.	
6.0	Date of Next Meeting	
6.1	To be confirmed.	
	Meeting Closed	