

Towns Fund Board
Friday 26th March 2021 at 11.00am via Webex

Present:

Andy Preston, Mayor of Middlesbrough
Tony Parkinson, Middlesbrough Council Chief Executive
Andy McDonald, Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough
Gary Macdonald, Group Director of Finance and Resources TVCA
Thomas Smith, Life Sciences Public Engagement Expert
Adam Suleiman, Cities and Local Growth Unit BEIS
Zoe Lewis, Principal and Chief Executive Middlesbrough College
Ian Wardle, Group Chief Executive Thirteen Group
Laura Sillars, Dean of mima School of Art & Design Teesside University
Daryl Thomlinson, Cleveland Police
Rachel Anderson, Assistant director of Policy NECC

In attendance

Andrew Perriman, Head of Legal Services MBC
Sam Gilmore, Head of Economic Growth and Infrastructure MBC
Louise Antill, Towns Fund / FHSF Programme Manager MBC

1.	<p>Apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>Apologies: Richard Horniman submitted apologies</p> <p>Andy McDonald raised the importance of transparency and appropriate declarations of interest in any governance and decision making of the group.</p> <p>Andy Preston declared an interest in property located in the Middlehaven area, as a decision was going to be made on where Towns Fund resource would be allocated and the Middlehaven area was one of those areas, AP withdrew from the meeting and Tony Parkinson took over as chair.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting agreed as a true record.</p>
3.	<p>Membership / Admin changes confirmed</p> <p>Following Kevin Parkes retirement, it was agreed that Richard Horniman Director of Regeneration and Culture would take his place on the Board; in a non-voting capacity.</p>
4.	<p>Board administration / voting rights and quorum</p> <p>Andrew Perriman, the Council's Head of Legal Services was invited to discuss the administration of the board and ensure a system was in place for any Board members to declare their interests in any decisions taking place. It was agreed that Andrew would review and rewrite a Constitution for the board.</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Revised programme and fast track preferences debate</p> <p>Sam Gilmore delivered a presentation detailing the programme of funding submitted and details of the funding Middlesbrough was awarded. Funding applied for was £25m and funding received was £21.9, therefore the programme needs to be reduced by £3.1m. The presentation made a number of suggestions on how the reductions could be made, based on how developed each of the projects are. The Board agreed the savings proposals debated.</p> <p>£1.875m would be withdrawn from the Urban Living programme</p> <p>£225k was removed from Centre Square Integration</p> <p>£1m was removed from the adaptation/consolidation of Civic spaces at the Town Hall and Central Library.</p> <p>The Towns Fund programme allows for projects to be fast tracked, as the Building a Knowledge Economy has a requirement to start on site in the next month, it was suggested that it be put forward for fast track.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Middlesbrough College presentation</p> <p>Further to the above fast track project, Zoe Lewis gave a detailed presentation on the overall developments at Middlesbrough College and the contribution the Towns Fund resource will make.</p> <p>The Board approved Middlesbrough College's Expansion programme, investment of £1.175m, to be fast tracked, given its advanced progress. This decision commits the funding subject to completion of the detailed business case documentation.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Next steps and Timescales</p> <p>By early May, key documentation needs to be completed detailing the amount each project requires, outputs and outcomes and how conditions of funding will be met etc. and submitted to MHCLG.</p> <p>Business cases can then be written for each project and submitted to the Board for local assurance and sign off, once these are agreed summary documents will be collated and submitted to MHCLG to access payment.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Tony Parkinson would like a strategic overview of how the Towns Fund fits with other key funding streams to be presented at the next Board meeting.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>21st May 2021 – 11am</p>