

## **CITY CENTRE REGENERATION BOARD**

ABERDEEN, 11 June 2014. Minute of Meeting of the CITY CENTRE REGENERATION BOARD. Present:- Councillor Boulton, Chairperson; and Councillors McCaig, Young and Yuill; and Robert Collier (Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce), Sir Ian Diamond (University of Aberdeen), Steve Harris (Visit Aberdeen), Derek McCrindle (Scottish Enterprise), Richard Noble (Aberdeen Inspired) and Professor Ferdinand Von Prondzynski (RGU). Officers in attendance:- Angela Scott, Ciaran Monaghan, Dr Margaret Bochel, David Leslie, Karen Donnelly, Anna Crilly, Angela Taylor, Sandy Beattie and Stephanie Dunsmuir.

### **APOLOGIES**

1. Apologies were noted from Rita Stephen.

### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 12 May 2014.

Mr McCrindle referred to article 2 and the decision to invite Don Kent to attend a meeting to discuss the work being undertaken in terms of travel planning. The Chairperson advised that Mr Kent would attend the September meeting of the Board to allow the focus of the meeting to be on the draft report to Council on 25 June.

#### **The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to note that Don Kent would attend the Board meeting in September to discuss travel planning; and
- (ii) to approve the minute as a correct record.

### **CITY CENTRE REGENERATION BOARD UPDATE & CITY CENTRE MASTERPLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAMME**

3. The Board had before it a draft report by the Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure which was intended to be submitted to the Council meeting of 25 June 2014. Sandy Beattie, Team Leader, circulated an updated version of the report. The report presented the work undertaken by the City Centre Regeneration Board since its establishment in October 2013, outlined the procurement process for the City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme; and sought Council approval to award the contract to the successful tenderer.

The Board firstly heard from Karen Donnelly, Legal Manager, who reminded members that any of the information shared with them at the meeting in relation to the tender process for the masterplan was exempt and not for publication, and therefore should not be disclosed outwith the meeting. The Board heard that due to the procurement

**CITY CENTRE REGENERATION BOARD**

11 June 2014

process, the names of the bidders could not be released to members at this stage, until they had all been notified of the outcome of the process. Mr Beattie explained that all Councillors and the Board members would be notified at the same time. A press release would follow shortly afterwards.

Mr McCrindle sought clarification on the role of the Board in the process and it was agreed to request a presentation to Board members from the successful bidder as soon as they were named. It was noted that engagement between the Board and the masterplanners was key, and that it was important to ensure that there was a timetable in place for engagement. Mr Beattie advised that a detailed communications and engagement strategy would be produced. He added that while there would be no difficulty with requesting the successful bidder to give a presentation to the Board, this would have to wait until the end of the standstill period. It was therefore suggested that an additional meeting of the Board be arranged for July. Mr Collier proposed that the Board's availability be sought for a meeting, and then all six bidders could be advised of the date and the request for a presentation.

Mr Beattie then took the Board through the content of the report in terms of the Masterplan and Delivery Programme and explained the process which had been followed to identify the preferred bidder. He advised that although the bidders had been asked to provide information on delivering the project in six, nine or twelve months, during the process it had become clear that the preferred timescale for delivery was nine months. Delivery of the project within six months would be particularly challenging, and it was felt that there would be risks in relation to community and stakeholder engagement. The Board requested that the draft report to Council be amended so that the reasoning behind the preferred nine months' project delivery was clarified, and asked that it was presented in the report ahead of the results of the tender process, so that the context of the decision was clear.

Mr Collier noted his appreciation for the thoroughness of the team involved in the procurement and tender process, and thanked them for their time commitment.

The Chairperson suggested that officers could make the proposed additions to the report and then circulate it to the Board for information.

Angela Taylor, Communications Officer, advised that she would issue a press release following the meeting to advise that the Board was making a recommendation to Council on the preferred bidder.

Finally, there was some discussion around the external contributions to the masterplan process and some of the external Board members advised that they had not yet had a formal approach in relation to contributions. The Chairperson asked the Chief Executive (Designate) to follow this up outwith the meeting.

**CITY CENTRE REGENERATION BOARD**

11 June 2014

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to thank all those involved in the procurement and tender process for their hard work and time commitment;
- (ii) to request that an additional meeting of the Board be arranged for July, following the standstill period, to enable the successful bidder to make a presentation to all Board members;
- (iii) to request that the Chief Executive (Designate) take forward the issue of formal approaches to the external Board members in relation to funding contributions;
- (iv) to recommend that additional information be added to the report to Council to set out the reasoning for the preferred option of nine months for delivery of the project, and for this information to be included in the report ahead of the results of the tender process;
- (v) to recommend the preferred tenderer, as detailed in the report, to the Council for approval.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE - ANGELA SCOTT**

4. The Chairperson introduced Angela Scott to the Board. Mrs Scott explained that she had recently been appointed as Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council, and was currently acting in post as Chief Executive (Designate). She advised that Ewan Sutherland, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, would cover her previous post of Director of Corporate Governance and would be attending future meetings of the Board. Mrs Scott added that forward planning and engagement would be key issues for the Board to consider.

**- COUNCILLOR MARIE BOULTON, Chairperson**