

CITY CENTRE REGENERATION BOARD

ABERDEEN, 23 July 2014. Minute of Meeting of the CITY CENTRE REGENERATION BOARD. Present:- Councillor Boulton, Chairperson; and Councillors Laing, McCaig, Thomson and Young; and Derek McCrindle (Scottish Enterprise), Richard Noble (Aberdeen Inspired) and Professor Ferdinand Von Prondzynski (RGU). Officers in attendance:- Angela Scott, Gordon McIntosh, Rita Stephen, Andrew Win, Ciaran Monaghan, Dr Margaret Bochel, David Leslie, Angela Taylor and Stephanie Dunsmuir.

Also present:- Malcolm Hewines, Montagu Evans, and Russell Henderson and Scott Mackenzie, BDP.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2014

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 11 June 2014.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

PRESENTATION - CITY CENTRE MASTERPLAN

2. The Board received a presentation from BDP, the successful team for the city centre masterplan bid which set out how they would take forward the masterplan process, particularly in terms of consultation and engagement.

Members of the Board then asked questions of BDP. One of the main themes for discussion was transportation and connectivity, particularly travel behaviours and pedestrian activity in the city centre. It was noted that the car was the predominant means of travel in Aberdeen. Mr Henderson explained that the team would look at essential access to the city centre, in connection with the Council's policies on modal shift. He added that at present, the city centre carried a lot of strategic through traffic, and issues such as access to the harbour for heavy goods vehicles would need to be considered. Dr Bochel advised that discussions on transport and connectivity would need to link up with her team's work in relation to the AWPR.

Mr McCrindle asked how BDP would consult with and feedback to the Board, and members were advised that BDP would shortly be meeting with Sandy Beattie to discuss timescales for the project. As a result, the Chairperson explained that future meetings of the Board would be set in conjunction with the masterplan timescales and would probably need to be more frequent. She added that she would expect representatives from BDP to also meet separately with each Board member.

The Chief Executive added that Board members needed to consider how they could assist in facilitating engagement with different communities and organisations, and requested that members discuss this with Sandy Beattie. Mr Noble advised that the Aberdeen Inspired Board was very keen to engage with BDP.

Councillor Thomson mentioned previous suggestions for the city centre and asked how BDP would ensure the involvement of key business representatives and organisations.

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The Chairperson advised that information on how stakeholder information was to be progressed would be provided at a future meeting, once BDP had met with Sandy Beattie.

Mr McCrindle stated that it was a very aspirational presentation, and asked if areas of the brief might need to be reshaped given the scale of the geography involved. Mr Hewines advised that the process they had employed for the tender was tried and tested, and that the boundary being considered might expand or reduce once the process was underway. He added that it was important to revisit what the 'city centre' actually was.

Mr McIntosh highlighted that engagement with the energy industry was key, and Professor Von Prondzynski added that the developing industry of research and development also needed to be factored in to the engagement strategy.

Councillor Thomson noted that public confidence in the masterplan was vitally important and asked how BDP envisaged managing public expectation of deliverable projects. Mr MacKenzie explained that the engagement would comprise various strands, including open events, lectures and presentations from key individuals from other countries.

Mr McCrindle added that the business plan would be key to unlocking funding from other sources. The Chief Executive noted that the Council was currently bidding to the City Deal initiative and there would be discussions and workshops over the summer on the topic. She added that she would like BDP to connect to this strand of work through Rita Stephen and Gordon McIntosh.

The Board also noted the importance of a media strategy, and Mr MacKenzie advised that Kevin Murray would be the key person to take forward this strand of work. The Chief Executive suggested that Mr Murray make contact with the Council's Corporate Communications Team, and added that an early conversation on the masterplan with the media would be particularly important.

The Board thanked BDP for their attendance and presentation.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that BDP and Sandy Beattie were to meet to discuss the masterplan, following which there would need to be discussion around the timing of the Board's meetings;
- (ii) to request that BDP link up with the Council's Corporate Communications team at an early stage; and
- (iii) to request that members consider how they could assist with engagement.

- COUNCILLOR MARIE BOULTON, Chairperson