



# CITY DEAL

Preston, South Ribble & Lancashire

## **Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal - Executive**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th July, 2020 at 2.30 pm at the Virtual Zoom meeting**

#### **Present**

Stephen Fogg (Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Brown

Councillor Paul Foster

County Councillor Geoff Driver CBE

Mark Rawstron

#### **In Attendance**

Karl Tupling, Director of Emerging and Developing Markets, Homes England

Nicola Elsworth, Head of Public Sector Land, Homes England

Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive and Director of Resources, Lancashire County Council

Adrian Phillips, Chief Executive, Preston City Council

Gary Hall, Interim Chief Executive, South Ribble Borough Council

Sarah Kemp, Chief Executive, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

Stephen Young, Executive Director of Growth Environment Transport and Community Services, Lancashire County Council

Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council

Phil Green, Director of Growth, Environment and Planning, Lancashire County Council

Jo Ainsworth, LEP and Special Projects Finance Manager, Lancashire County Council

Marcus Hudson, Planning Manager, Lancashire County Council

Phil Wilson, Central Lancashire Master Plan Delivery Manager, Lancashire County Council

Sarah Parry, City Deal Programme Manager, Lancashire County Council

Sue Roberts, Commercial and Business Support Manager, Lancashire County Council

Jonathan Noad, Director of Planning and Property, South Ribble Borough Council

Deborah Holroyd-Jones, Senior Development Manager, Homes England

Andy Milroy, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council

Misbah Mahmood, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council

Craig Alker, Democratic Services Officer, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Peter Moss, Preston City Council (nominated City Deal Observer)

County Councillor Michael Green, Cabinet Member, Lancashire County Council (nominated City Deal Observer)

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman, Stephen Fogg, welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies received.

**2. Minutes of the City Deal Executive meeting held on 3 March 2020**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the City Deal Executive meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Minutes of the City Deal Stewardship Board meeting held on 3 March 2020**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the City Deal Stewardship Board meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

None

**5. Declarations of Interest**

None

**6. Homes England City Deal Quarterly Report Q4 2019/20**

Karl Tupling and Nicola Elsworth from Homes England presented a report (circulated) which provided City Deal Members with the Quarterly Monitoring for Quarter 4 – January 2020 to March 2020.

Updates were provided on the progress made across the Homes England Portfolio. In terms of specific updates:

- Preston City Council granted planning permission in February 2020 for 715 new homes at the site of the former Whittingham Hospital.
- In relation to Croston Road North, a lease agreement had been entered into with Keepmoat in March 2020 and they have submitted a planning application for the site.

It was reported that there had been 67 completions carried out during Quarter 4 of 2019/20.

Following a discussion, concerns were expressed relating to the sustainability of activity during the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact this would have on the City Deal. It was noted that these concerns were also being reported nationally and it was not just localised to Lancashire.

**Resolved:** That, the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board noted the contents of the report and the progress made by Homes England during Quarter 4 of 2019/20.

## **7. Preston Western Distributor Progress Update**

Phil Wilson, Central Lancashire Master Plan Delivery Manager, Lancashire County Council provided a verbal update on the progress of the Preston Western Distributor.

The update provided details of the challenges the project has faced since the outbreak of Covid-19 and the progress made since the last update was provided to the board.

Following the update, the Executive and Stewardship Board requested that a detailed written report should be provided to the next meeting of the board, to assist the board in better understanding the costs involved.

**Resolved:** That;

- i. the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board noted the update; and
- ii. a written report would be provided to the next meeting of the board detailing the costs involved in the project.

## **8. Affordable Housing in the City Deal Area**

Cllr Matthew Brown, the Leader of Preston City Council and Cllr Paul Foster, the Leader of South Ribble District Council provided a verbal report on affordable housing in the City Deal area.

During the update, both Cllr Brown and Cllr Foster expressed their concerns at the lack of affordable housing in the area and the need to provide more affordable council housing which could benefit families on low income, such as those key workers who have continued to provide assistance to those in need during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Responding, Homes England stated that they are currently in talks with a number of other Local Authorities who want to explore having a direct relationship with Homes England to deliver affordable housing directly via a long term strategic partnership.

It was agreed that Homes England would therefore contact and arrange a meeting with Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council to discuss this in more detail. An update of the outcome following this meeting would be provided at the next meeting of the board.

It was also requested that a robust baseline of the current position of affordable housing within the City Deal and what had already been achieved on each site be provided at a future meeting of the board.

**Resolved:** That;

- i. The City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board noted the update; and
- ii. A report detailing the current position on affordable housing in the City Deal area would be provided to a future meeting of the board.

**9. Any Other Business**

None

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next Combined City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 2:30pm.

**11. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as indicated against the heading of each item. It is considered that in all the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**12. City Deal Review**

Sarah Parry, Programme Manager – City Deal, Jo Ainsworth, Principal Accountant and Marcus Hudson, Planning Manager all from Lancashire County Council presented a private and confidential report (circulated) which provided a position statement on the City Deal Review.

It was also reported that no response had yet been received from the Government following a letter that was sent in February in relation to changes to New Homes Bonus.

Following a period of debate, it was agreed that the that the Leaders of Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council would arrange a meeting to discuss City Deal finances in further detail and to resolve any identified issues.

**Resolved:** The City Deal Executive:

- i. Approved the release of £1.07m from the A582 Scheme allocation in the Infrastructure Delivery Fund in order to progress the Business Case for £50m of MRN funding for the A582 Dualling Scheme (topped up by £440,000 (to £1.51m) from DfT which it reserves the right to re-claim if the scheme does not get delivered).
- ii. Confirmed its funding commitment of £1.6m from the Cottam Parkway allocation in the Infrastructure Delivery Fund, in order to provide the local contribution required to deliver the £24.4m New Cottam Parkway Railway Station as part of the Transforming Cities Programme and note that the drawdown of this funding will be made in 2023.

- iii. Approved the release of £47,500 in order to deliver urgent bus provision/public realm works for health and safety reasons in Bamber Bridge, as outlined in the report.
- iv. Noted the future City Deal funding commitments, in particular, the Harris Quarter Cinema Scheme and full cost of the A582 Widening Scheme, required to be determined in Oct 2020 in line with current programme.
- v. Noted that the potential risks to the City Deal arising from the Covid 19 pandemic cannot be fully quantified at this stage, but further assessment of the implications will be undertaken as they become more fully understood.
- vi. That a meeting would take place within the next three weeks, between the Leaders of Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council, Steve Fogg and Mark Rawstron, in order to discuss future funding arrangements and terms.

### **13. Homes England - Business and Disposal Plan Update**

Nicola Elsworth from Home England presented a private and confidential report (circulated) which provided the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board with an update on the overall performance of the 11 Homes England sites contained within the City Deal.

**Resolved:** That, the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board:

- i. Noted the progress towards the successful delivery of the 11 Homes England City Deal sites;
- ii. Noted Homes England's current and future investment into the City Deal; and
- iii. Endorsed the updated Business and Disposal Plan (BDP) setting out the site milestones and financial forecasts to March 2023.

### **14. Infrastructure Delivery Performance Monitoring Report - Quarter 4 (January - March 2020)**

Sarah Parry, Programme Manager – City Deal, Lancashire County Council, presented a private and confidential report (circulated) which provided the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board with an Infrastructure Delivery Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 4 – January 2020 to March 2020.

**Resolved:** That, the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board noted the contents of the report.

### **15. City Deal Finance Monitoring Report - Quarter 4 (January - March 2020)**

Jo Ainsworth, Principal Accountant, Lancashire County Council, presented a private and confidential report (circulated) which provided the City Deal Finance Monitoring for Quarter 4 – January 2020 to March 2020.

It was noted that the figures in relation to the Homes England grant in the report did not match that of the Business and Disposal Plan, for the reasons Homes England had previously discussed. The report showed that the grant would be paid out by year 9 (2022/23). However, the grant would now have to be stretched out beyond that year. The updated figures would be included in the next update to the board.

It was also noted that the housing count which was normally provided twice a year, could not be done by the districts this time following the outbreak of Covid-19. This would be addressed as part of the mid-year counts over the Autumn.

**Resolved:** That, the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board

- i. Noted and accepted the Financial Report for Quarter 4 – January 2020 to March 2020 Finance Update; and
- ii. Noted the work ongoing and required to be resolved.