

**Minutes of The Bishop Auckland Stronger Towns Board Meeting
Friday 17th July 2020, 12:30 – 14:30**

Attendees:		
David Land (<i>Chair</i>)	DL	Chair
Jonathan Ruffer	JR	The Auckland Project, Founder
David Maddan	DM	The Auckland Project, Chief Executive Officer
Susie Doyle	SD	The Auckland Project, Head of Development
Rob Yorke	RY	Private Sector Representative - Teescraft
Cllr Brian Stephens	BS	Portfolio Lead for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships
Amy Harhoff	AH	Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth, DCC
Graham Wood	GW	Economic Development Manager, DCC
Natalie Davison-Terranova	ND-T	Principle - Bishop Auckland College
Bishop Paul Butler	PB	Chair of the Brighter BA Partnership Board
Nik Turner	NT	Believe Housing
Mike Matthews	MM	Private Sector Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn	SQ	Counsellor
Cllr Joy Allen	JA	Counsellor
Margaret Coates	MC	Cities and Local Growth Team
Jonathan Gilroy	JG	Local Growth and Policy Advisor
Cathy Russell	CR	Associate Urban Designer, Ryder
Graeme Collinge	GC	Director, Genecon
Amie Glass (<i>Minutes</i>)	AG	The Auckland Project, Project Coordinator
Apologies:		
Helen Golightly	HG	CE, North East LEP
Dehenna Davidson	DD	MP for Bishop Auckland

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome & Introductions	
1.1	Amy Harhoff (AH) is welcomed onto the Board as the new Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth for Durham County Council.	
1.2	Graeme Collinge (GC) is introduced as Director of Genecon Consultants.	
2.0	Review of Previous Minutes	
2.1	No comments.	
3.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.1	N/A	

4.0	Town Investment Plan	
4.1	GC tabled a presentation to the Board. Please find attached.	
4.2	The Town Investment Plan (TIP) Support Team is proposed as Genecon and Ryder, as well as Arcadis in a cost management / programme planning role.	
4.3	Covid-19 will present challenges to public consultation. CR advises that online workshops, online surveys and launch of a public website have proved successful on other projects. It is agreed that outreach to the wider community, including those without internet access, needs to be planned.	
4.4	Main bids of up to £25m are expected. TIP does allow for submissions above £25m up to £50m, however the town must make an exceptional case and demonstrate how its projects can reach national and regional agendas. There is a strategic decision required by the Board to determine where to pitch at.	
4.5	There is clear direction to include narrative of the impact of Covid-19 on the town. AH comments that the Board should take this opportunity to highlight the unique assets of Bishop Auckland as an investment to drive the overall recovery of County Durham.	
4.6	Within her new role, AH has responsibility for Economic Recovery Plans and will ensure that Bishop Auckland is featured within these.	
4.7	GC confirms that the appraisal and approval of individual projects can be done by the local accountable body. Only TIPs over £25m will need to be reviewed by government departments.	
4.8	TIP should cover contextual analysis, challenges and opportunities facing the town, vision/aims for 2030 and engagement/delivery, with clear evidence of good consultation.	
4.9	The Board will also need to demonstrate their process for project prioritisation. It is likely that a long list of projects will be developed and shortlisting to no more than approx. six will be required. GC proposes a similar scoring system as employed during the High Street Fund bid.	
4.10	GC advises that the process of capturing all projects in one place is a very valuable exercise and the Board may wish to look at the projects prioritised for this Town Deal bid as 'Phase One' of a much larger vision / investment scheme.	
4.11	MHCLG have established a website where they are uploading useful resources townsfund.org.uk . The Town Coordinator for Bishop Auckland is Lisa Quinn.	

4.12	GC advises that it is not yet clear if a part-funded / two stage project would appeal for the Town Deal. ARUP agreed to go back to MHCLG and query this.									
4.13	GC advises that if there are projects that have green / clean growth agendas, such as Geothermal, then it would be recommended to prioritise them as part of the TIP. JA also comments that any green opportunities to develop a sustainable tourist destination would be welcomed.									
4.14	AH comments that the significant level of private investment into Bishop Auckland should be highlighted as a unique selling point.									
4.15	ND-T queries the funding split between capital and revenue. In response, GC encourages that the 10% revenue does go towards business support/training/skills agenda initiatives.									
4.16	The Arup team will review and comment upon the finalised list of TIP projects prior to formal submission.									
4.17	PB queries if we are allowed to put an economic value on volunteering as a matching contribution. GC confirms yes, the TIP does allow for a lot more flexibility to present the economic case in a way that responds to the project.									
4.19	DL recommends to the Board that Genecon are appointed as Programme Manager for the TIP bid. Financials as follows:									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total Budget</th> <th>Genecon Fees</th> <th>Ryder Fees</th> <th>Arcadis Fees</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£162,000</td> <td>£60,000</td> <td>TBC</td> <td>TBC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total Budget	Genecon Fees	Ryder Fees	Arcadis Fees	£162,000	£60,000	TBC	TBC	GW
Total Budget	Genecon Fees	Ryder Fees	Arcadis Fees							
£162,000	£60,000	TBC	TBC							
4.20	It is anticipated that the scope of Ryders input will be modest as their work from 2017/2018 will suffice. The footprint of the Masterplan will however need to be expanded to include gateway areas beyond the Market Place.	Approved								
4.21	The Board formally approves of the appointment of Genecon.									
4.22	DL/AG to liaise and coordinate a separate meeting w/c 27 th July at Vinovium House, in advance of the next Board Meeting on 31 st July.	DL/AG								
5.0	Stronger Town Quick Wins									
5.1	Letter received regarding Quick Wins funding. Up to £750k is available for capital projects to respond to immediate challenges. Projects must be completed within this financial year (31 March 2021). Submission deadline is 14 th August 2020.									

5.2	Board proposed the following 'Quick Win' projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kingsway Car Park - Statue at Canny Hill Roundabout - Link way from Fore Bondgate to Newgate Centre Bus Station - Junction Improvement Works at Woodhouse Close - Infrastructure Works as part of the Bishop Park Scheme - Completion of Market Place works 	
5.3	Financials to be confirmed and a finalised list of projects to be issued for decision at the next Board Meeting on 31 st July 2020.	GW
5.4	GW notes that Kingsway Carpark was included within the Future High Street Fund bid and it could complicate the assessment process if we were to include this again.	
8.0	AOB	
8.1	GW is working on a schedule of governance - looking to put Board Profiles in place and create a public webpage to allow transparency and easy access to plans, information and Board processes. GW will provide draft documentation to a subsequent meeting.	GW
8.2	DL is keen to progress with a CGI promotional video to support consultations and requests approval from the Board to spend budget on this. All Board Members approved.	Approved
	Meeting Closed.	