

Planning Obligations Board (POB)
Meeting Minutes



Date:	7 February 2017
Time:	14:00 – 16:30 pm
Location:	Dunkery Room, West Somerset House
Chairperson:	Cllr Mandy Chilcott
Minute Taker:	Sara Penn

	Name	Organisation
Attendees:	Cllr Mandy Chilcott (MC)	WSC Board Member (Chair)
	Brendan Cleere (BC)	WSC Board Member
	Andrew Goodchild (AG)	WSC Board Member
	Cllr Peter Downing (PD)	SDC Board Member
	Doug Bamsey (DB)	SDC Board Member
	David Eccles (DE)	EDF Energy Board Member (Reserve)
	Mark Lewis (ML)	EDF Energy Board Member
	Andy Coupe (AC)	SCC Board Member
	Cllr David Hall (DH)	SCC Board Member
	Lisa Redston (LR) Justin Sargent (JS)	CIM Fund Manager (Presenting) Somerset Community Fund (Presenting)
Apologies:		

1. Welcome, Agree Previous Minutes, Declarations of Interest

MC welcomed everyone to the Meeting and introductions were made. AG introduced Sara Penn, who would be acting as Minute Taker.

David Eccles confirmed that he and Mark Lewis are now EDF's representative Board Members and that Matt Ollie and Marcus Ransome are confirmed as EDF's reserve Board Members.

No declarations of interest were stated.

LR updated the Board on actions from the previous Minutes, all of which are now complete.

Action - LR to provide Board members with copies of the slides from Claire Pearce's presentation on 8 August 2016.

Action – LR to provide Board members with an electronic copy of the map illustrating projects funded by the Section 106 Agreement in Bridgwater (not including the economic cost of congestion projects).

The Minutes were agreed.

2. Update on West Somerset Council Decisions, Expressions of Interest (EOI), Project Monitoring and Financial Position

LR informed the Board that the joint publicity initiative had generated a significant increase in the number of Expressions of Interest received since the relaunch on 1 October 2016. Twenty expressions of interest had been received.

Discussions took place regarding the South West Heritage Trust Archaeological Project (EOI). The Board decided that the submission did not demonstrate a clear mitigation of impact and that the Trust should be advised by LR to liaise with the Hinckley Tourism Action Partnership, Somerset Museum and Stogursey and Cannington Parish Councils before continuing with their application. D Hall informed the meeting of his Membership of the Board of the Heritage Trust.

DB and MC raised concerns about the size and scale of the bids now coming forward and suggested that the Board consider an overview of the bids to ensure effective advice is given to applicants.

Discussions took place regarding the Horrington Cricket Club (EOI). The Board felt that, while distance from the HPC site was not a bar, there needed to be a clear demonstration of how HPC was directly impacting on the local community in these areas and how the projects would directly mitigate these impacts. In relation to the impacts of quarry movements, the Board agreed that applicants would have to demonstrate how the movements have increased due to HPC and are not due to other quarry works and if the movements were outside agreed levels of activity at the quarry.

Discussions took place regarding the St Margaret's Hospice EOI in respect of palliative care provision. DE advised that EDF are currently providing £1.1m funding to the CCG via the s106 to mitigate potential increased demand for care. It was agreed that the CIM Fund would not support an initiative of this nature and it was recommended that St Margaret's Hospice be advised to approach the CCG to access s106 funding.

LR updated the Board on the current position regarding funded projects, the majority of which were either within timescales or completed. She confirmed that the Minehead Beach Hotel Project was nearing completion and would be opened on 25 February 2017.

Action - LR to provide an update on the Wembdon Village Hall Project at the next meeting.

LR submitted a paper detailed the current financial position of the CIM Fund.

3. Consideration of CIM Fund Applications

Steam Coast Trail

LR presented the application from the Friends of Steam Coast Trail.

Phase 1 of this project, from Dunster Beach to Blue Anchor, has been completed. Phase 2 plans to construct a trail from Blue Anchor to Washford. The Application to the CIM Fund is to fund the construction of a tarmac path between Old Cleeve and Washford. LR advised the Board that the Application had been adjusted to take into account additional VAT costs. The revised bid is for £331,310 of the total project costs of £543,000.

DB advised the meeting that he had received one negative communication from a member of the public regarding the Coast Trail.

Discussions took place regarding the funding requested for the ongoing maintenance of the route and how the route would be maintained past the funding period. LR confirmed that the applicant plans to utilise volunteers and fundraising to pay for nominal annual costs involved.

A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that the CIM Fund would support this bid.

Somerset Education Business Partnership

LR presented the application from Somerset Chamber of Commerce.

A lengthy discussion took place.

The Board agreed that an Education Business Partnership was needed in Somerset to address the key issues highlighted in the application.

The Board recognised the impacts on local businesses due to displacement.

Some Members of the Board highlighted concerns in relation to the following points:

- Salaries and on costs and what these would cover. LR provided some clarity.
- The amount of funding requested in relation to the annual payment.
- Chamber membership and what this provides. There were concerns that the fees could be used to bolster the income of the Chamber and not spent as part of the project. LR provided some clarity.
- The overall project costs and value for money.
- The requirement to fund the entire project if match could not be raised.
- Lack of measureable outputs and lack of outcome measures to show the numbers of those accessing services and the difference the project is making to young people and businesses.
- The difficulty in judging value for money when the number of beneficiaries are unknown.
- Lack of evidence of the potential for success based on other EBP models, especially in relation to income generation and financial sustainability.
- The ability of schools to fund careers advice, travel to events etc that they have been signposted to through the service.

DE explained that the funding will be used to mitigate the impacts of displacement in the labour force and will not be used to fund the everyday work of the chamber.

DE explained how the wrap around service would function and what it would deliver and that its reach would be Somerset wide and deliver direct impacts.

DE strongly advocated supporting this bid and highlighted the need for approval to be given in order for the Chamber of Commerce to secure match funding from the CEC.

AC highlighted that the bid was aiming to mitigate impacts that have not yet been mitigated.

While acknowledging that this project has the potential to address the need for co-ordination within this sector and initiatives to tackle displacement of the local workforce, other Board members were concerned about the lack of data to support the bid.

DE suggested that the Board agreed to fund half the project costs subject to the applicant securing match funding.

BC suggested that the Board agree the following:

The Board is minded to agree up to 50% of match funding subject to submission by the applicant of additional information to support the application and the Boards satisfaction with the information as follows :

- **Specific targets against each of the key performance indicators in the business plan to demonstrate the expected extent of the benefit of the project.**
- **A selection of case studies that demonstrate the journey of a young person in relation to the project.**
- **A revised budget that reduces the amount of direct financial benefits to the Chamber.**
- **Further information on the relationship between the project and the work of other agencies and projects, such as the Inspire project.**

The Board voted unanimously in favour of this recommendation.

AC advised the meeting that a member of his team has been involved in compiling the application for the Somerset EBP and explained that he has not had any direct involvement in the bid. DB and DH also advised the meeting that they have not been party to any discussions about this bid which have arisen in other forums in which they are involved.

It was agreed that LR will provide feedback to the applicant which reflects the decision of the Board and highlights the additional information requested to support their bid application.

The Board agreed to hold an extra-ordinary meeting to consider the additional information provided by the Applicant, in order for the Board's decision to be considered by Cabinet and Full Council in March 2017. LR will liaise with MC to arrange this meeting.

Stogursey Lengthsman Scheme

DB expressed the view that this was not an appropriate project for consideration by the CIM Fund, as ring fence funds remain unspent in Stogursey and the project will solely benefit the residents of Stogursey.

DE supported this view and stated that while this was a laudable scheme, funding should come from the Stogursey Ring-Fence Fund.

AC advised the meeting that if the project was funded from the Ring-Fence Fund, SCC would be prepared to waive the licence fee for working on the highway.

The board unanimously agreed the following recommendation to WSC Cabinet:

That the application from Stogursey Parish Council for the Stogursey Lengthsman project is not granted funding from the CIM Fund ring-fenced for West Somerset and to recommend to Stogursey Parish Council that the project is more suited to receiving funding from the CIM fund ring-fenced specifically for projects in Stogursey.

4. Any Other Business

SDC Housing Scheme Update

DB presented the recommendation in the POB Report in relation to joining the Empty Homes and Living Over the Shops schemes, funded in Phase One of the Site Preparation Works s106 Housing Contribution Fund strategy, into one joint scheme.

The Board unanimously agreed this proposal.

Update on Community Fund

JS outlined the current position regarding the Somerset Community Fund and thanked everyone for their help and support. He advised the meeting that the agreement between EDF and SCF is ready to be signed. Once signed, JS intends to recruit a team, begin research of community priorities and design the systems around the Community Fund.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 16.30 PM

Date of next Meeting: **2.00 pm on 4 April 2017, West Somerset House**