

STRATFORD- UPON- AVON TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN CENTRE/TOWN TRANSPORT TASK & FINISH GROUP
MEETING

9 November 2020

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Present:

Councillors:

Coles	Jackson
Curtis	Lee
J Fradgley	Rolfe
How	Taylor
	Vos

Clerk: Town Clerk, Committee Clerk J Mayes

Absent: Cllrs Dowling, Fotjik

1. Notes from 12 October 2020 meeting

Noted

2. Input on proposed vision. Draft Town Centre Strategy Document and Presentation for Strategic Partnership

Cllr Lee gave an overview of the draft Town Centre strategy document and presentation, which had been circulated before the meeting. He explained the aim is to sell a concept of developing a long term strategic partnership to deliver the NDP. The document sets out the 9 projects in the NDP, including the project to set up the Strategic Partnership. These projects should be seen as discrete pieces of work and there needs to be understanding that they cannot all be delivered at once. Consideration should be given to the geographical location of the project, what funding is available and the sequence of delivery of the projects. Ideally this should avoid relying on one project to finish before another project can start. The document outlines a proposal to start with the Bridge Street project, considering pedestrianising and developing the street in the context of Covid. Cllr Lee suggested that there should be an aim to have a plan in place by May 2021 to start delivery of this project.

It was noted that the SDC are looking to review the Core Strategy over the next few years, which may result in some amendments, and whether this will affect the NDP should be considered. The Town Clerk responded that the vision in the NDP for the town centre is solid but it will need to evolve. If the NDP has to change fundamentally it will have to go to consultation. Cllrs agreed that it would be appropriate to remind members of the Strategic Partnership of the content of the NDP and that should discuss circulating the link to the document with the Chair of the Strategic Partnership. The Town Clerk reminded Cllrs that the Chair wished to see the presentation before it is circulated to the rest of the Strategic Partnership. It was suggested that the current state of Bridge Street, with the BHS site and increasing number of empty shops gave impetus to the project.

19.30 Cllr How left the meeting.

Cllr J Fradgley joined the meeting.

Cllrs discussed the challenges of encouraging certain shops to the town and how retailers may be more willing to join if the street scene looks like the scene outlined in the NDP. Cllrs agreed that they should have separate conversations with individual members of the Strategic Partnership once Geraldine Collinge, the Chair, has been briefed on it. The Town Clerk recommended that Cllr Vos have a discussion with Mark Haselden, who was the Steering Group chairman of the NDP for his understanding of what the work of the Strategic Partnership should be.

Cllrs **agreed** that they were keen for the Strategic Partnership to move forward on projects to improve the town centre.

A meeting will be arranged between the Town Clerk, Cllr Lee and the Geraldine Collinge to discuss the presentation in advance of the next meeting on 4 December.

3. Input on other ideas that could be submitted to the Strategic Partnership meeting on 4 December

The committee clerk confirmed that she would prepare a draft agenda for the Strategic Partnership meeting for the Chair to consider. The agenda and papers for the meeting will need to be circulated on 30 November.

4. Update on progress with CIL funding bid for Bridge Street

The Town Clerk noted that a discussion on CIL funding will be on the Full Town Council meeting on 24 November. She referred to her report, circulated before the meeting, which gives a summary of the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2019/2020 recently considered by SDC's Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Unfortunately the submission for the Bridge Street Layout Upgrade Concept Design has not been accepted.

Cllr Fradgley noted that WCC are putting regeneration plans in place and suggested that there should be discussions with them about including the project for their consideration when allocating funding. There was a discussion about whether it would be better for the Strategic Partnership to promote the project to WCC, if they all support it, sending a powerful message that all stakeholders support it.

It was noted that it would be useful to obtain feedback on why the project was not allocated funding to help with future applications. A further discussion on prioritisation of projects for CIL money will take place at the Town Council meeting on 24 November. It was also suggested that the Town Council should receive further information on the proposed work on Birmingham road from WCC.

5. Date for next meeting

The next meeting will be set when dates for the Strategic Partnership have been agreed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lee for his work on the documentation for the Strategic Partnership.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.18