

# Grays Towns Fund Board

## Notes of meeting / Key action points

9am to 11am, 7 August 2020

Microsoft Teams meeting

### Attendance

#### Board Members:

- Justin Thomas, New River
- Cllr Mark Coxshall, Thurrock Council
- Lucy Harris, Creative People and Places Partnership
- Teresa O'Keeffe, Love Grays Partnership
- Jackie Doyle-Price MP
- Rhiannon Mort, SELEP
- External Support
- Rebecca Collings - The Nichols Group
- Nigel Stewardson, MHCLG

#### Council Support:

- Andy Millard, Director of Place
- David Moore, Interim Assistant Director Place Delivery
- Rebecca Ellsmore, Programmes and Projects Manager
- Brian Priestley – Programme Manager, Thurrock Council
- Irina Blanks, Senior Project Officer

#### Apologies:

- Kristina Jackson, Thurrock CVS
- Cllr M Kerin, Thurrock Council
- Steve Smith, South Essex College

1.	Welcome and Apologies	Action
JDP	JDP Welcomed everyone and apologies were noted Board welcomed Atul from LSH, who is now the project Manager for Grays Towns Fund Board.	
2.	Review meeting notes and actions and updates	
JDP	DM went through meeting notes and stressed that this meeting is to review the projects previously discussed by the board and agree on projects going forward, Projects for Accelerated Towns Fund must be agreed during this meeting. JDP confirmed £1.8M are allocated for substation for Gray's part of the New River development. Justin is happy to hear that this money have been approved.	

	<p>Board agreed the importance of getting Costing for Town's Fund Projects and Accelerated Fund projects. There is a deadline to spend money for Accelerated fund projects.</p> <p>Board agreed Moving projects quickly is a priority, there is plenty of projects Board can spend money on. Justin suggested a broad should allocate cost against each project and that would be a base to define a specification. In order to take this forward we need costs allocated against projects. If board members would allocate in their heads, that would help us to find specification. Help establish priority amongst members. Board needs to agree where we want to make an impact, as well as amount of resource and effort we put in each project.</p> <p>Nigel: costings needs to be done, description of the project would depend on the money applied for each project. More money would need a different description. Nigel confirmed he is assessing TIPs from Cohort 1 and he advised that one Bid for £29M missed out because their submission fell short, he stressed that submission should have been for £25M</p> <p>Grays is a coastal town, deprivation rank is lower than in Tilbury. Politically we should apply for £25M</p> <p>David Moore: Jetty Commission, quotes form MBP and Beckett Rankin. Further clarification whether some studies included.</p> <p>Rebecca Collings suggested checking their website for supporting information</p>	
3.	<b>Project updates:</b>	
JDP	<p>David provided update on FHSF. Projects and total bid</p> <p>Grays being treated as a coastal town, gateway to Thames Estuary, this is a big selling point. Residential town with café culture, small shops, places to go out to. It should tell a story that people would want to come and see.</p> <p>Potential projects for accelerated funding – Capital projects, to be delivered by 31.03.2021 up to £750,000. We need to agree on projects we will put forward. Submit on 14 of August to MHCLG. Must fit with Towns Fund criteria. Projects Must reference back to TIP. Must fit with bigger schemes.</p>	
	<b>Action: Find out if £750,000 is an addition or a part of TIP money?</b>	<b>TBC</b>
	<p>Government wants to deliver Accelerated Fund Projects by March next year. From Public point of view we should focus on projects with biggest impact for the residents, what would residents want. We need to do biggest impact.</p> <p>JDP supporting Grays Beach</p> <p>JT supporting Bus terminus and Grays Beach</p> <p>LH supporting Grays Beach, Towns Fund hub and adult education. We are in a really challenging time, looking to help people further extend their skills is really important. Better cycle routes. Looking for space for engagement activity. Residential development being priority.</p> <p>Green furniture what are we talking about? DM explained that it came from the Project bank idea and includes green walls and living walls.</p> <p>Cllr Coxshall support Grays Beach, Bus terminal and finally Orsett Road</p> <p>Andy Millard stressed that how the money will be used is critical</p>	

	<p>Board suggested to talk to environment team and do something really impactful.</p> <p>Board mentioned Advisory group should ideally be consulted with but realises there is no time for it now.</p> <p><b>Board agreed to move on to bigger projects:</b></p> <p>Lucy Harris: River Front, Adult Education, Accommodation for Cultural Activity. Happy with most of the things</p> <p>Rebecca Collings: not for me to comment on priority, vision must describe impact and an outcome will be a good way to do some further prioritisation, cultural business, expectation from the governance theory of change and logic.</p> <p>Cllr C: not enough laces to live of good quality, kick start area of destination, connectivity to Thames, Bus Terminus, Rail terminals, River Front. Do something around Orsett</p> <p>JT: in order to create regeneration we have to improve the sense of place and create better value.</p> <p>Andy: Private funding for Orsett Road</p> <p>Lucy: North and South connectivity, beautification will come with housing development with help of S106. What will be the heart of the town, how Towns Fund can help bring people in? We need to create a route people will walk after arriving at the River Front, walk around Grays, through the town and have cafes. It is important to have that route through.</p> <p>Rebecca Ellsmore: showed pictures from the project Bank document of the themes board discussed and also mentioned a meeting with environmental team who offered £100,000 for Grays beach. Rebecca went through Orsett Road, Grays Beach, Inspire team could come into the mix, cultural incubator space, walk to beach form Grays Towns Centre. Create a space rather than just beautification. Morrison's' wall Is a sample idea. Smart technology, water fountains, animation activity. Catalogue of projects, thinking what we have already done including the feedback from the public consultation back in March.</p> <p>JDP asked for feedback from the board. Asked for board members to be more productive.</p> <p>Nigel's pointed out: It is an incredible opportunity for Grays. Grays Riverside and night time economy is massive opportunity I would love to see a nice restaurant and nice café in Grays, enjoying a meal and a beer on the Grays Beach.</p> <p>Cllr C suggested that project 20 needs to be extended slightly, 26 and 28 should be linked together and become number 1 priority, Bus terminus needs connection rerouted. River Front of Grays is number 1 priority.</p> <p>Lucy Harris: We must think about public Realm work, give a reason to walk between Orsett and Grays Beach and to River Front. Inspire with Adult Education hub with them joint together. Creating destination for Grays Around River Front, have events, River Festival, create space for open air event.</p>	
4.	<b>Next Steps</b>	

	<p>How quickly we can get to the advisory group? Maybe update them on FHSF bids. Perhaps update them on what has happened so far.</p> <p>Email to Advisory group Post £750,000 grant application</p> <p>Rebecca Horne suggested presenting it as a newsletter, some guidance and support</p>	
	<p><b>Action: Rebecca Horne to draft a newsletter that can be shared with Advisory group and public.</b> Letter should be from the Chair and Vice Chair.</p>	<b>TBC</b>
	<p><b>Action: Pull together a priority package and budget request</b></p>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>AOB:</b></p> <p>Jackie stressed that Board need to communicate better with members of public.</p> <p>Cllr C: create a short and sweet paper for public. 1st opportunity to give them and update as to what is going on and asking for their feedback.</p>	