

Crawley Town Deal Board

Wednesday, 19th July 2023

Meeting Notes

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome, apologies and minutes of the previous meeting Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from Suzanne Holloway, Louise Blackwell, Henry Smith, Wendy Bell, Suzanne Carey, Paul Rolfe, Peter Rainier, Neil Cooper, Steve Sawyer, Simon Cuckow and Tony Middleton.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (7th June 2023) were approved with all actions either completed or to be discussed at today's meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) update Emma Smith (ES) reported there are likely to be several announcements from Government before the summer recess including updates on the future of Local Enterprise Partnerships and the next round of Levelling Up funding. ES stands ready to support partners, as required.</p> <p>At a recent LGA conference, Michael Gove stated that he is keen to improve the approach towards the next round of funding bids, moving away from a competitive process. As part of a broader simplification plan, DLUHC is also trying to improve the way they use local governance structures and procedures e.g. Project Adjustment Requests will only be required for changes over a 30% threshold. More information can be found at Simplifying the funding landscape for local authorities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>ES has recently visited the area including a pre-meet stakeholder event ahead of the Gatwick Economic Summit in November, a visit to see regenerat29.4 50.04 45.04 45.04</p>	

3. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)

Georgina Bouette (GB) introduced herself as the Head of Community Services for Crawley BC and referred to the [briefing paper](#) which had been circulated before the meeting. The report provides an update on the UK SPF for Crawley and makes recommendations for the proposed governance model moving forward. Key points include:

- Crawley received £1m over three years, up to March 2025
- Previous discussions agreed to focus activity in three geographical areas: Broadfield, Bewbush and West Green
- Activity in year 1 resulted in a detailed community engagement exercise to provide the evidence base for a delivery plan in years 2 and 3
- Summary of grant allocations awarded to six local community organisations in Year 1, to the total value of £62,548.
- Neighbourhood Action Teams (NATs) established in each area to identify and inform local needs and submit proposals to the SPF fund, managed by Crawley BC as the accountable body, on behalf of the Town Deal Board.
- Proposals will be considered by the UK SPF Steering Group and Town Deal Board Partnership Sub-Group who will make recommendations to the Town Deal Board.
- Community organisations will be invited to submit applications for the next round of SPF funding during August.

CM thanked GB for her presentation, referring to the findings of the community engagement exercise which highlight the diverse needs in each area. On this basis, it will be a challenge for the Town Deal Board to ensure funding reaches the whole community.

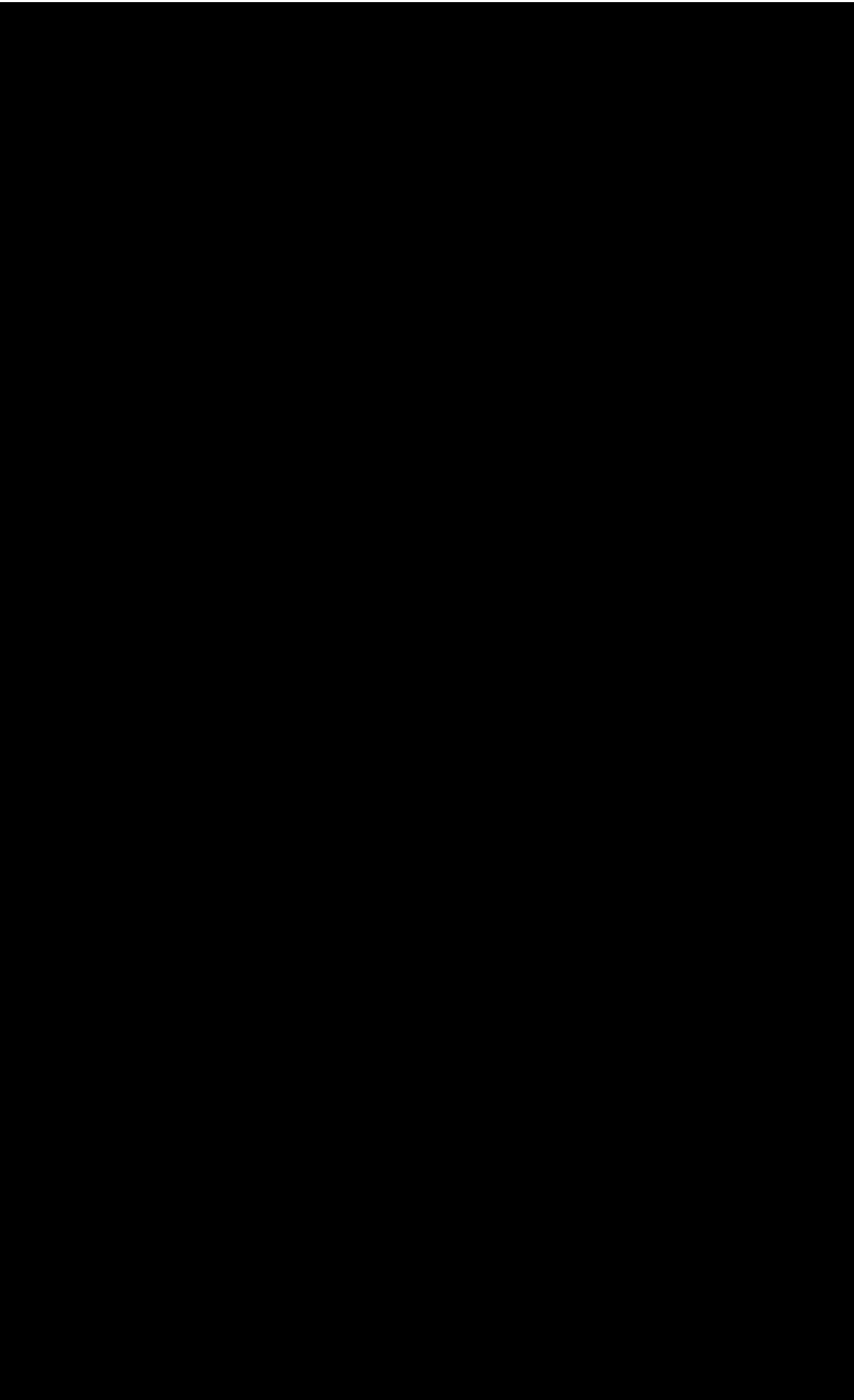
Jeremy Taylor asked if St John's Church are included in the NATs; Kathryn Ripley confirmed that they are.

Daran Bennett asked about the timescales for delivery. GB confirmed that we are keen to move forward as quickly as possible and recommendations will come back to the Town Deal Board in October/November for approval.

4. Towns Fund Project Updates

Innovation Centre - Clem Smith (CS) presented an update on the Innovation Centre project highlighting:

- Morgan Sindall and the design team have concluded Stage 4 designs to convert the innovation space ahead of the preliminary construction phase.
- Indicative floor plans comprising 24,500ft² include laboratory and workshop space, collaborative work space, meeting and study space supported by kitchen facilities and breakout space. The building exterior will remain largely unchanged.
- The original cost estimate was £3.595m against a budget of £4.239m.
- A revised cost plan to the end of Stage 3 required an additional outlay of £1.6m as a result of needing to replace the mechanical and engineering infrastructure.
- Morgan Sindall were asked to identify options for value engineering reductions and this resulted in a new cost estimate of £4.66m - leaving a deficit of £428k.
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5. Towns Fund programme update - Nigel Tidy presented [an update](#) on the Towns Fund programme including feedback from the recent Towns Fund conference:

- £2.2bn Town Deals shared between 101 towns;
- 684 project business case summary documents submitted to DLUHC;
- Challenges across other towns