

# Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT) Group and Town Deal Board

Wednesday, 21 July 2021

## Meeting Notes

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Henry Smith MP, Steve Burston, Marie Ovenden, Toby Shaw, Tony Middleton, Neil Cooper, Vikki Illingworth, Adam Godfrey, Councillor Steve Wraight, Peter Rainier, Louise Blackwell, Dave Savage, Steve Turner and Darren Ford.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (</p>	

ones. CM thanked RL for his presentation.

Town Centre BID – Simon Cuckow (SC) provided an update on behalf of the Town Centre BID, highlighting the following:

- New BID Manager in post, Wendy Bell, supported by Rachael Hughes as Operations & Enlivenment Officer. Both have been busy meeting key stakeholders and town centre businesses and co-ordinating BID activities.
- First major event taking place from 14 August, in partnership with Creative Crawley, with a full enlivenment programme being developed to April 2022.
- Town Centre Ambassadors appointed through 'The Welcome People'; to be mobilised in August.
- New footfall monitoring system to be procured – will provide data for existing and new businesses and enable to BID to measure impact of events programme.

Manor Royal BID – Steve Sawyer (SS) reported that Manor Royal remains relatively quiet, likely due to a combination of factors; reduction in office space and changes to how people are using that space. Lots of changes on the ground with a number of key buildings being demolished to make way for new logistics/warehousing space e.g. Churchill Court. As a result, Manor Royal is going to look and feel different to 'pre-pandemic' but this will bring new people and new investment to the area (including a number relocating from Croydon)

Peter Smith (PS) confirmed that planning permission has been granted for logistics buildings on the former Virgin building site and the former GSK site on Napier Way. Clem Smith (CS) highlighted that these sites were previously vacant so the developments will result in a net gain in jobs coming to Crawley.

Referring back to LH's presentation on the headline figures, SS reported an inconsistency between the number of vacancies being advertised and the level of unemployment locally. With some businesses struggling to recruit, this may change once the furlough scheme ends, or could suggest a skills mismatch within the local market.

The BID is making good progress on the [Micro-Parks](#) project with the first 'rabbits' arriving on site. SS is also working on a brief to deliver the first Superhub in Manor Royal, through the Crawley Growth Programme.

Ana Christie reported that businesses are experiencing global supply chain issues, particularly within manufacturing and construction. Costs have escalated by 200-300% in some cases and this is further impacting businesses and end users. Development and construction projects may have a longer project timeline, given the shortage in supplies and materials as well as labour.

Shelagh O'Grave confirmed that the Chichester College Group is to receive funding to run skills 'boot camps' in the construction industry, working with East Surrey College. This will help deliver short courses to fill skills gaps in that sector.

Mel Munro (MM) confirmed that DWP is currently running sector based work academies across Surrey and Sussex for hospitality. MM invited Board members to contact Alison Barrett within DWP about 'Hospitality Rocks'. Additional information: Their Hospitality Focus Group has put together a plan for increasing job entries into this sector, launched on 19 July and continuing for 3 months. There will be 3 months of activity, focussing on this sector, which includes a rolling sector-based work academy programme (SWAP) run by East STm0 grp

to have positive conversations with a range of existing and new airlines about growth prospects including EasyJet, British Airways, Norwegian, Wizz Air, JetBlue, Corendon and Condor.

<p>ambitious but necessary target if we are to keep on track.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board approved the Sub-Groups to progress development of PIDs for sign off at the next Town Deal Board meeting in September, and approved the fast tracking of the Green Business Grants (1C) and Manor Royal Gigabit (3A) projects.</u></p> <p>It was proposed that external consultancy resource is required to develop most of the business cases, using the Capacity Funding which was provided last year by the Towns Fund. SS suggested that some projects may need specialist, technical support, over and above generalist consultancy support.</p> <p><u>The Town Deal Board approved the procurement of specialist, technical consultancy support in order to progress business case development.</u></p> <p>CM thanked NT for the tremendous effort he has made in getting the Town Deal to this point.</p>	
<p>6. Any Other Business None</p>	
<p>7. Date of the next meeting 29 September 2021 from 9.30am</p>	LH