

Future planning for Crewe – next steps after the TIP

1. Introduction

As a consequence of the process to determine a project list for inclusion in the TIP, members have raised concerns regarding a need to respond positively to the large number of innovative ideas submitted by local government, community organisations, the business sector and individuals that have not been selected.

One of the conclusions arrived at by members was that whilst there were many ideas which demonstrated a commitment to the improvement of Crewe, very few of these were developed to the extent that they could be described as “oven ready” and were therefore not selected for the TIP because insufficient time was available to create a viable and deliverable project.

Recent announcements and developments in Crewe demonstrated just how much time and effort is required before a project of some size can be implemented.

This paper describes an approach that the TIP subgroup considered should be considered by the Board

2. Developments in Crewe

- a) The last few years have seen substantial investments in the town of which the following are some examples:
 - Cheshire College South and West
 - Crewe UTC
 - Crewe Lifestyle Centre
 - Basford East and West
 - Crewe Green roundabout
 - Jack Mills Way and David Whitby Way
 - Sydney Road Bridge
 - Middlewich Road Bridge
 - Royal Arcade
- b) Further schemes have been developed or in the early stages of development which include:
 - Crewe HS2 Hub station
 - NW Crewe
 - Crewe History centre
 - Future High Street Fund projects
- c) The Towns Fund has provided an opportunity to invest in additional projects which are intended to revitalise the town but crucially to create a plan for Crewe which ties together all the disparate schemes and ideas for Crewe but which also sets out a vision for the next 10-15 years
- d) It has become clear that very few projects submitted for consideration for the TIP have been sufficiently developed to allow their inclusion and that for them to be considered in future, organisations need to be supported to increase the chances of success and implementation

3. Proposal

It is proposed:

- a) To create a structure which encourages local government, community organisations, businesses and individuals to cooperate in developing strategies and projects which deliver those strategies
- b) Establish thematic groups along the lines of the successful Cultural Forum which has over a few years brought together a strong coalition of interests and has been able to create projects which are being delivered
- c) Thematic groups could include those focussing on
 - Railway heritage
 - Sports and open spaces
 - “Meanwhile use” of vacant land or buildings in the town centre
 - Longer term development of the town centre not being developed as part of the Royal Arcade
- d) Thematic groups to be lead by a Board member with membership from stakeholders with an interest in the theme. Terms of reference to be agreed with the Town Board

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board consider this concept and, if approved in principle, identify the themes to which this would apply