

Oswestry Co-Ordination Workshop – 26th of March 2019, 7pm

Oswestry Town Council, Council Chamber

Attendees:

Cllr Steve Charmley (Shropshire Council) Cllr Robert Macey (Shropshire Council), Cllr Joyce Barrow (Shropshire Council), Cllr Steve Davenport (Shropshire Council)
Cllr Vince Hunt (Shropshire Council and OTC) Cllr Paul Milner (Shropshire Council and OTC)
Cllr Chris Schofield (Town Council) Cllr Sandy Best (Town Council and Mayor)
Cllr Duncan Kerr (Town Council) Cllr Mike Coppick (Town Council) Jas Davidson (Townscape and Transport Group) David Ward (Civic Society) Adele Nightingale (BID) Ian Follington (BID) Tim Morris (BID) James Woodward (BID) Adam Shillock (BID) David Preston (OTC) Arren Roberts (OTC)
Corrie Davies /Joe Bubb /Gemma Davies (Shropshire Council Economic Growth)

Apologies: Cllr Mark T Jones and Peter Lloyd, Matt Johnson, Mark Barrow, Adrian Cooper

Welcome provided by Cllr Steve Charmley Chair outlining the purpose of the meeting.

Presentation as part of the scene setting to be circulated.

Outline provided of **2020 Neighbourhood Plan** – vision, five key themes, objectives and 70 actions

Tim noted that the vision, themes and objectives still stand. Implementation of the actions had been more difficult with no formal group to continue to monitor its delivery.

Examples of actions delivered were provided by Corrie.

The **Public Realm Strategy** had been worked up, with all schemes identified totalling £30m. The Implementation Plan identifies those elements of the strategy that could be brought forward as a priority.

Oswestry BID –Adele outlined the key objectives and representation of the Board. BID is currently talking with OTC in relation to signage and wayfinding, connecting with the Police and PCC in relation to CCTV, and Pubwatch to encourage links and looking at cost implications.

Ian noted that we need to understand how people use the town and opportunity to link footfall monitoring with WIFI gather data and information that will enable the team to measure and market in a more targeted fashion. New website aimed at raising profile of the business and the area. Cllr Steve Davenport asked how data would be collected in relation to WIFI. Ian noted that the scheme was fully GDPR compliant and they had sought expertise from other BIDS.

Joe provided an update on work being undertaken by Shropshire Council on the **Growth Corridor** including the Innovation Park and bid to Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) for improvements to the Mile End junction. HIF funding of £9.3 millions has been approved for improvements to the road junction improvements to support planned housing developments. In response to the query about the inclusion of a footbridge to the proposed Innovation Park, the footbridge could not be included within the overall costs as HIF is to primarily support housing rather than the development of employment land. However, the

solutions for the Innovation Park including options for pedestrians and cycle paths, will be considered as part of the proposals and option appraisals for the Innovation Park. This work will form part of the wider development appraisals planned for the Innovation Park.

Cllr Joyce Barrow asked for an explanation of One Public Estate. One Public Estate (OPE) is a programme delivered in partnership by the Cabinet Office, MHCLG and the Local Government Association (LGA) to direct funding and expert support through regional networks and competitive bidding rounds. The Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Estate Partnership, led by Shropshire Council, brings together key organisations across the public sector to consider activities on service transformation, work in collaboration, utilise their shared estate to increase efficiencies, enable housing and economic growth and act as an enabler to improve services for local people.

As part of the One Public Estate programme, funding has been secured by Shropshire Council to undertake the development and options appraisal work to re-consider opportunities for the Innovation Park and other sites within Shropshire Council ownership.

Jas asked if there was anyway of improving the key gateway at Mile End by the SUE development. This will be looked at, as part of the development appraisal work planned and will inform future phased work to bring forward employment land opportunities

Tim Morris noted that the lack of employment land is a long-term issue for Oswestry. Vince Hunt stressed that the housing and development of employment opportunities, particularly skilled labour, needs to go hand-in-hand.

The improvements to the Mile End junction will be completed in 2022, and it was noted by Cllr Steve Charmley that some initial infrastructure works could be undertaken as part of the HIF improvements, which would support the innovation park delivery.

Cllr Chris Schofield asked if a record of requests from businesses was held by Shropshire Council. Gemma responded on the work of the Business Growth and Investment team who work with businesses on growth and expansion needs. Joe noted the refreshed market assessment undertaken by Leggett Owen on market need which will be reviewed as part of the development appraisal work. Cllr Steve Charmley reflected on the work to promote investment sites within Shropshire and the significant interest received for Oswestry.

Dave Ward noted it was important that wider work wasn't undertaken piecemeal and there was a need for long term plan for the area (reference 2050 work) and a wider view taken on the growth corridor and how the A5 works.

Future High Streets Fund – Chris asked about match funding included within the Expression of Interest. The Expression of Interest highlights the opportunities of match funding to be considered by Oswestry Town Council, BID and Shropshire Council, which were included to reflect the partners' commitment to support the proposal. Any funding decisions would need to be taken by the partners' respective members.

Cllr Paul Milner asked about investment from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and noted importance of the Morrisons site. Future funding opportunities, including the LEP will be considered as opportunities arise.

Taking forward the 2020 plan and visions of the partners were discussed as a group and through smaller group discussions.

It was agreed that the visioning from the 2020 plan was a good starting point and had been consulted on widely.

Key points from breakout discussions

Strategies developed (OTC, 2020, BID, Oswestry Economic Growth Strategy) all shared common visions.

Suggested membership to reflect OTC, SC and BID.

Suggested core group to form the nucleus, supported by task and finish / working groups to support key activities / actions. Work of Townscape and Transport Group was noted.

Review of the Oswestry 2020 plan to broaden its objectives to incorporate other initiatives and to widen its remit to include Growth Corridor and possibly key hubs for development.

Key priorities from all need to be listed and combined to show joint list noting who is responsible, where there are gaps and identify short, medium, long term priorities.

We need to understand how all the pieces fit and how we can work together on agreed objectives and where any information should be fed into. There then needs to be a Statement of Intent (or a Memorandum of Understanding).

Group would need to identify funding and resources to support this group and identified activities.

ACTIONS:

Partners from the BID, OTC and SC to take back to their committees and nominate two representatives, to be supported by officers.

Once nominations are confirmed, initial meeting to be arranged in April with scheduled future meetings.

TOR and Memorandum of understanding etc. to be considered at initial meeting
Presentation slides and action notes to be circulated to those in attendance