

**St. Dunstan's Regeneration Steering Group**  
**7<sup>th</sup> June 2013 1130 to 1330**  
**Marion Attwood Room, Canterbury City Council Offices**

Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW

**MINUTES**

<b>Attendance List</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Chair: David Brazier (Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment ) Deputy Chair: Peter Vickery Jones (Canterbury Councillor) Graham Gibbens (Ward Councillor) Richard Moore (Transportation Manager, Canterbury City Council) Tim Read (Kent County Council, Head of Transportation) Andrew Westwood (Kent County Council , Traffic Manager) Katie Clarke (Kent County Council) John Gilbey (Canterbury City Council, Leader) Bob Jones (Canterbury City Centre Partnership) Paul Southgate (Managing Director, Stagecoach) John Todd (Kent County Council, Communications) Nick Churchill (Representative for Paul Barrett)	Paul Barrett (Canterbury for Business) Colin Carmichael (Canterbury City Council , Chief Executive) Martin Vye (Ward Councillor)	All Steering Group members

<b>Item</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<b>Apologies for absence and opening of group by Chair</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Steering Group terms of reference</b>	
	The proposed terms of reference (ToR) for the group were presented by the KCC Officer	
1.1	It was queried whether the ToR should be widened to cover the whole of the city centre due to the likelihood that any proposed schemes in this area would have an effect on the surrounding road network and economy. However, the group decided that, as Canterbury has a Transport Strategy which is currently being reviewed, the focus should continue to be St Dunstan's	
Decision	The ToR was accepted and the Chair noted that the document can be	

	evolving and can be amended by the group if necessary.	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>A draft list of objectives was presented to form the starting point for discussion (see below).</p> <p>2.1 Stonewest have completed a structural survey on the Westgate Towers concluding that protection of the Towers is important. The report highlighted the impact damage caused by large vehicles and smaller cars by spray eroding the stone surface.</p> <p>2.2 The Chair suggested that all objectives were of equal value and that there was no need to number or prioritise them. This was agreed upon by the group.</p> <p>2.3 The group discussed the last consultation and the lack of buy in by local businesses and residents. The business opportunities of the scheme were not fully understood and therefore support was limited. It was agreed that that going forward we would need to consider the local residents, business and road users and to “take them with us” on this process.</p> <p>Decision The objectives (below) were agreed by the group, without any numbering and an additional overarching objective added encapsulating the idea of congestion, residents, quality of life and consultation process.</p> <p>Aim: To regenerate the St Dunstan’s area of Canterbury by consulting fully with the community to identify a scheme that will deliver real benefits to local business, the wider community and visitors.</p> <p>Scheme Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Positive Economic Impact for the community</li> <li>▪ Improve walking and cycling routes between the West Station and City Centre</li> <li>▪ Improve Public Transport (both Buses and Taxis)</li> <li>▪ Enhance the Public Realm</li> <li>▪ Improve air quality</li> <li>▪ Preserve and Promote the Historic West Gate Towers</li> <li>▪ To maintain the quality of life, mitigate any changes in congestion and gain community support by engaging in a full consultation</li> </ul>	<p>KCC Officer to amend</p> <p>All to note</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Review of group membership</b></p> <p>Requests have been made prior to the Steering Group meeting that Westgate and St Stephens Ward Cllrs and representatives from Get Canterbury Moving (GCM) should be included. It was also requested that the meetings be held in public in the evenings.</p>	

3.1	Ward Cllrs will be consulted as a key stakeholder, KCC City Councillors are part of the Steering Group and can consult the Wards Cllrs and represent the views of residents.	
3.2	GCM is also a key stakeholder so will be included in the first set of one to one consultation meetings. Involvement will be required when there is something to which they can contribute.	
3.3	Occasionally commercially sensitive information will be discussed at the meetings, it was agreed that for this to be discussed in public would not be appropriate.	
3.4	The KCC Communications Officer raised the issue of the local press and their potential involvement in the process. The press were considered important in the success of the project and will be brought in to the process.	
Decision	Group membership will remain as it is, and meetings will remain private. Summary minutes from meetings will be made available.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Identification of key stakeholders</b>  The KCC Officer presented a list of key stakeholders who will be contacted on a one to one basis or via a questionnaire to discuss the St Dunstan's regeneration scheme before going out to a full public consultation.	
4.1	For clarification, a key stakeholder is a group identified to help generate options to go forward to public consultation. Taking a proactive approach to gather information from relevant parties.	
4.2	A general discussion took place as to how to communicate with the press. The group should take a proactive approach and go to the press when we have things to share and when there is something to say. The group can use the press to demonstrate that we are achieving objectives. The KCC press officer suggested that the group could invite the press in to share information.	
Decision	The group were asked to review the key stakeholder list and email The KCC Officer with any additional key stakeholders that had been missed.	All
<b>5/7</b>	<b>Agreed approach/Draft program</b>  The KCC Officer presented a proposed program of key milestones with an outline of the approach to be taken at each.	
5.1	Reasonable timescales proposed, but there are some ground issues which need addressing ahead of the implementation of any agreed scheme (see Next Steps)	
5.2	KCC confirmed that funding was available for implementing a scheme. The budget available has not been confirmed to date. Further work will be carried out to identify the budget available. It was also suggested that other funding options should be reviewed such as Heritage Lottery.	

5.3	A question was raised on where and who by the final decision on the scheme would be made. Due considerations will be made following the consultation process, but it should be noted that the consultation is not a referendum. The Steering Group will only make recommendations and the final decision will remain with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.	
Decision	Informal agreement on timescales and approach	
<b>6</b>	<b>Next steps</b>	
6.1	The Stagecoach representative raised the fact that, currently, buses have been rerouted to avoid travelling through the Westgate Towers.	
	They stated that during the Westgate experiment, buses ran reliably and on time, despite the view that the area was more congested. Following the end of the scheme and the re-opening of the Towers, the company took the decision to re-route services. The new route has led to more buses travelling along London Road, and there is now a petition from local residents here asking Stagecoach to stop the increased use.	
	In autumn the university students will return and on the run up to Christmas the current rerouting will not be viable as the routes would be too busy, and the lack of buses down through St Dunstan's would impact the busiest student route therefore potentially reducing footfall in the St Dunstan's area.	
6.2	Stagecoach, therefore requested that an interim measure should be considered that will enable Stagecoach buses to negotiate the Towers. The KCC Officer responded that an initial assessment considered that this is not viable within the site constraints and would lead to similar issues experienced during the experimental scheme. It was agreed that a separate meeting will be held between KCC and Stagecoach to demonstrate the problems and discuss the implications for bus services during the consultation.	KCC Officer
<b>8</b>	<b>Date for next meeting</b>	
	To be set following completion of stakeholder consultations at the end of July	