

Dewsbury Town Board Minutes

Meeting 24TH June 2021.

1. Item Attendees and Apologies

Attendees: Keith Ramsay – Chair (KR), Martyn Broadest (MB), Cllr Shabir Pandor (CSP), Iqbal Bhana (IB), Mark Eastwood (ME), Bruce Bird (BB), Martin Hathaway (MH), Martin Walsh (MW), Charles Smith (CS), Marie Gilluley (MG), Paul Burnett (PB), Lily Hall (LH), Heather Waddington (HW)

Officer Support from Kirklees Council: Simon Taylor (ST), Michelle Illingworth (MI), Yolande Myers (YM), Nicola Sylvester (NS), David Shepherd (DS),

Formal apologies received:

Nancy Barratt (NB), Angela Blake (AB), Peter Thompson (PT), Marcus Bowell (MB), Chris Duffill (CD),

2. Declaration of Interest

Marie Gilluley on behalf of Kirklees College noted her interest in the TEAMS chat in relation to Construction Skills village project in the TIP.

3. Minutes from previous meeting – paper circulated

Minutes from the 18th March 2021, were previously circulated and agreed.

- **Agreed:**

Actions from the last meeting

- CSP noted Communications Strategy Plan has been addressed and steps are being taken to progress this
- ST noted capacity funding submitted to Government has approved £40k of the £120k ask
- DS was clear that despite lower than anticipated outcome resource will be available to ensure next stage work is carried out
- CSP welcomed new chair and also wanted to recognise and thank Rob Norreys the former Town Board chair for all his efforts and input into chairing the board.

Action: He encouraged board members to also show their appreciation by sending Rob a letter of thanks.

4. Permanent chair and Introduction

CSP – Introduced item and referred to paper circulated to Board

KR introduced himself to the board and is keen to set up a face to face Town Board meeting as soon as government guidelines allow. MB has offered the use of the Connect Thrive building to host future meetings going forward.

KR would also like to conduct monthly Town Board meetings going forward to ensure a consistent communication process. He would also welcome one to one meetings with individual board members.

Action: KR will circulate his contact details in due course so this can be arranged.

KR acknowledged the recent announcement confirming a Town Deal for Dewsbury and wished to thank Mark Eastwood and Cllr Pandor for all their efforts as well as Council Officers.

KR confirmed Heads of Terms have now been signed by both him and the Chief Executive of the Council. KR noted that the HoT did note a shortfall in the Town Fund ask (£780k) and two conditions against two of the projects.

ME – requested clarification on conditions and funding. ST was able to confirm that conditions were resolvable and that further discussions were being held to find the best way to bridge the fund gap. This would be a matter for the next round of the TIP.

BB requested for the minutes that the conditions be noted:

Heads of Terms state the following conditions against Two TIP projects –

Creative Culture Programme

- Provide confirmation of match funding arrangements
- Provide further detail in respect of quantification of outputs/outcomes

Fibre Capability

- Provide further detail in respect of quantification of outputs/outcomes
- The accountable body is encouraged to work with the local BDUK delivery team to optimise value and complimentary of activity and to explore use of recommended routes for procurement for new fibre infrastructure such as RM6095 that is managed by the Crown Commercial Service

5. Town Deal Next Steps – paper circulated – Michelle Illingworth

BB would like the minutes to reflect the Fast Track projects noted in the HoT.

- The Arcade
- Dewsbury Market
- Building Revival
- Field House – potentially

BB noted he would like the contact details of the new Council Officers from Governance Nicola and Yolande.

CS noted the following comments on the TEAM' chat;

"In terms of fast tracking it would be good to ensure the chosen projects include a quick win in terms of an end result. Quick wins give belief that the TIP can make a difference, and that brings momentum to other projects."

MB raised a question around when the funding is likely to be released once the business case stage has been approved.

Action: MI to liaise with LH Consultant/Future Gov to find out further information on timelines

IB wanted to express his thanks to all those involved in securing Stage 1, the feedback from businesses is very positive. However, the importance of having a good communications strategy is important to allow people to fully understand that the funds have been ring fenced to specific locality.

CSP agreed as the investment in one borough will benefit all going forward.

BB/MG both noted the importance of a communication strategy being developed going forward.

Next steps need to focus on the following –

- Preparation of a Programme which will include a Risk Register
- Communication Strategy to be developed
- Delivery of Business cases

6. Dewsbury Bus Station

- ST noted at the beginning of the meeting that the Bus Station agenda item will not be presented at this town board as the transport team are not in a position to release information publically around the bus station project. Will be opportunity to do so at the next meeting in July.

7. A.O.B

BB raised the following –

- Next steps around the further discussion items noted in item 11 of the 18th March minutes which included the following:
 - Town Centre Living Aspirations
 - Project Matters
 - Governance –to review the future role of the Board.
 - Future Delegation to Chair
 - TIP Implementation Plan
- Communication Strategy and update of that discussion to the board

- The development of a working group around the annual programme of festivals and events so that the Board has an oversight and provide strategic direction and support.
- Discussion around coordinating training and skills development but no means of taking it forward. Other Town Boards have working group structures that the board may wish to consider.

KR was in agreement with BB items and will take this into consideration going forward.

MB noted that the beginnings of a Communication Strategy has already begun, details of this can be viewed on the Town Board TEAMS link. More work is required by the Town Board members to develop this further.

MB noted that it would be useful to have an idea around timescales and milestones for all investment projects to help map out the communication opportunities.

CS agreed that focused working/sub groups would be a good delivery model to ensure progress on particular themes/projects

MH wanted to acknowledge thanks for a good quality bid submission by all involved.

8. Date of next meeting

KR noted possible next meeting to take place on **Thursday 22nd July**. To be confirmed