



# Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No. 19 Friday, 18 November 2022, 1:00pm Bickerstaffe House and MS Teams\*

## Blackpool Town Deal Board

Paul Smith - Chair	(PS)	Business in the Community
Bev Robinson	(BR)	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Dick Cartmell	(DC)	Together in Lancashire
Helen Warren*	(HW)	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Jane Cole	(JC)	Blackpool Transport
John Sullivan	(JS)	The Big Picture
Kate Shane*	(KS)	Merlin Entertainment
Mark Robinson*	(MR)	Ellandi
Paul Maynard	(PM)	MP for Blackpool North
Peter Cole	(PC)	Chartered Surveyor
Steve Williams	(SW)	Force Technology
Tina Redford*	(TR)	Leftcoast

## In Attendance

Charlotte Schofield*	(SC)	BEIS
Graham Cowley	(GC)	BITC
Kevin Sturley	(KSt)	Blackpool Council
Mark Gillingham	(MG)	Blackpool Council
Nick Gerrard	(NG)	Blackpool Council
Rob Green	(RG)	Blackpool Council
Robert Latham	(RL)	Blackpool Council

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>b) Apologies were received from the following:            Alan Cavill, Blackpool Council            Anna Blackburn, Beaverbrooks            Ben Mansford, Blackpool Football Club            David Gaffney, Arts Council            Debbie Francis, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership            Neil Jack, Blackpool Council</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>Peter Swann, Coolsilk            Richard Fee, Nikal            Steve Fogg, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust            Tracy Hopkins, Blackpool, Fylde &amp; Wyre VCFS            Trish Armstrong-Childs, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) The Chair asked members of the Board to declare any interests. The following previously notified interests were recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bev Robinson, Blackpool &amp; Fylde College Principal &amp; Chief Executive: Multiversity.</li> <li>Mark Robinson (Ellandi): Chair of the High Streets Task Force.</li> <li>Steve Williams (Force Technology): Blackpool Illuminations.</li> </ul>	
<p>3. Meeting 18, 2 September 2022 Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved minutes of meeting No 18.</p> <p>b) It was noted that the revised Terms of Reference for the Town Deal Board and Town Deal Investment Panel were circulated to the Board following the last meeting.</p> <p>c) eSports: Following the discussion at the last meeting BITC had convened a meeting of those pursuing eSports initiatives and those interested in the town and consideration was now being given to a proposal to set out a route map as to how Blackpool could make the most of this opportunity.</p>	
<p>4. Town Deal Update</p> <p>a) The Board noted the overall position on the progress of the Town Deal programme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All required claims and returns to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have been submitted to time and no outstanding issues reported.</li> </ul> <p>All seven Town Deal schemes are now in progress (the seventh, The Platform (Youth Hub) commenced as a Town Deal project on 1 October 2022).</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>Project Delivery - activity and planning is well underway and hence has an Amber RAG rating.</p> <p>Programme Spend - whilst project activity is well underway on all schemes, there is a programme level underspend against the original September 2021 profile and significant changes to project finance forecasts due to delayed delivery or potential scheme cost increases, is therefore a Red RAG Rating. However, re-profiling is to be expected for a programme of this scale, the position is retrievable, no resources are at risk and a re-profile of Town Deal annual spend is acceptable to DLUHC in principle, and will be undertaken this year by 16<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>Based on the latest actual and forecast project spends to end March 2023, there is a total current programme spend of £3,523,165.52 against the approved £17,102,135.00 amount and a likely under spend of £4,601,184.31 at the end of the current financial year, although there is a further reforecast of the Edge and Multiversity which will affect these figures.</p> <p>DLUHC’s Assurance and Compliance Team have confirmed that documents submitted to date have been reviewed and no issues have been identified. This also noted that Blackpool had not been selected for a second line of defence “deep dive” review at this time which was a positive affirmation of the governance and administration arrangements that Blackpool had in place.</p> <p>b) The Board also noted the “Supplementary Guidance for Town Deal Boards” issued by DHLUC and that the requirements set out therein were being met.</p> <p>c) It was also agreed that although the next DHLUC return by 16 December would be signed off by both the Chair and the Council’s Section 151 officer, the return would also be sent to the Board for all to review and comment on prior to final submission.</p> <p>d) The Board noted the overall encouraging progress on the schemes and in particular;</p> <p>The Platform (Youth Hub): Scheme was now an operational Town Deal project as of October first having previously been a Community Renewal Fund project and had now secured employment for the one hundredth young person.</p>	<p>Nick Gerrard/ The Board</p>



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>The Edge: The project has been subject to a considerable value engineering exercise since receipt of the tender was significantly in excess of the budget. Notwithstanding this, costs still exceed the budget and a decision had been made by the Council as a consequence, to retender the project to meet the budget requirements. The overall programme spend profile will be significantly affected by this but still possible to be completed within the Town Deal timeframe. The Board endorsed this approach.</p> <p>The Illuminations Rejuvenation: Noted to be going well with new features installed in the display including the Odyssey on the Comedy Carpet.</p> <p>Blackpool Central: Courts Relocation: Last week, £40m of funding was confirmed by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities for Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service towards the construction of a new Courts building, which is in addition to the £6.95 million of Town Deal money already confirmed for the demolition of the Courts and a contribution to the new build. Detailed plans are now in development to relocate the courts to the former Devonshire Road Hospital site, with completion planned for 2025.</p> <p>Revoe Community Sports Village: Sports pitches planning application has been submitted. The planning application for a new East Stand at Blackpool Football Club will not be submitted until next year. Owners of properties that are likely to be affected by the scheme have been contacted by Avison Young on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>Multiversity Land Acquisition: Every property within the Multiversity project scope has been contacted, and a number of properties either have been or are in the process of being acquired by negotiation. Timing of a potential Compulsory Purchase Order is being discussed but no formal resolution has yet been made, although any negotiations would continue regardless.</p> <p>e) BR asked for further clarity regarding spend on The Edge project. NG noted that quotes came in well above the budget. BR noted that we will clearly have to look at what can be taken out whilst maintaining a viable project. NG also noted that specification changes and requirements are also being looked at whilst seeking to maintain the primary components of the project. SW noted that ‘doing nothing’ on The Edge had been outlined as not being an option by the Town Deal Investment Panel</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>(TDIP). RL noted that Blackpool Council, since the last Board meeting, had made DLUHC aware of the underspend issues regarding The Edge and Multiversity, who expressed no concerns at this point</p> <p>f) In relation to the DLUHC RAG rating, PC mentioned that it would be useful to check if government are asking for specific detail regarding spend or regarding cash-flow, as this may change some of the 'red' in the current RAG ratings.</p> <p>g) CS confirmed that there are discussions taking place later this week that will help to outline next steps around what happens moving forwards with Town Deal overall. No concerns have been raised at present regarding Blackpool as all places seem to be struggling with projects at this time.</p> <p>h) SW gave an update from the TDIP meeting. The TDIP are happy with the new report format as it makes information clear. Tables have been adapted within the reports to provide a more flexible approach that allows relevant information to be shown at appropriate times. TDIP see the Programme Management Office process as excellent. TDIP is also happy with the state of play with regard to spend profiles given the current general national position, with no concerns at present. SW noted that a request had been made at TDIP for the reports to include a table that outlined spend against original Town Deal spend profiles approved by DHLUC and also a table showing spend against "internal" profiles which were more frequently reviewed to present a more realistic picture of performance.</p> <p>i) It was also noted that Blackpool not being chosen for a DLUHC "deep dive" is indicative that the processes in place are currently working and are thorough.</p> <p>j) PC asked for detail regarding the Football Club and the Football Foundation committing to the Revoe project. NG confirmed that there is no doubt being cast on investment levels from the Football Club and there was confidence in a successful contribution from the Football Foundation application process as very positive discussions had been held over a long period of time.</p> <p>k) BR asked if interest rates were of concern. NG noted the Council is attentive to it at present, and this may mean a different view is taken on some future projects.</p>	<p>Rob Latham</p>



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>l) The Board agreed to note the report, the risk register, the TDIP Minutes of 2 November 2022, and the progress being made, and to thank the TDIP for all their detailed scrutiny of the programme and projects.</p>	
<p>5. Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Programme Update</p> <p>a) The Board noted that in relation to the CRF programme:  All required returns to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have been made and no issues are outstanding.</p> <p>All four schemes have completed activity as at the end of September 2022.</p> <p>Programme spend: A total of £763,370 CRF is available to the programme to the end of September 2022. A total of £191,531.95 has been paid out to projects to date. Whilst this may seem a low figure, a programme delivery and RAG rating of Amber is proposed as other than the Inspira-led “Ready for Work” project, no “high level” scheme underspend or failure to meet substantial outputs or outcomes is determined at this stage.</p> <p>b) Not all monies have been paid out as final reviews are being undertaken on the paperwork received to date and discussions ongoing with DLUHC have confirmed this week that there are no issues with the Lancaster University and UCLan led CRF schemes, or the Platform, but the Inspira “Ready for Work” scheme is still being discussed based on underperformance on output delivery.</p> <p>c) The Platform project had very positive results with its outputs. A press release is being prepared regarding the one hundredth person being moved into employment via the CRF funded scheme.</p> <p>d) RL also noted that final claims for each project, as well as evaluations, are required prior to Blackpool Council’s final submission. Blackpool Council initially must pay all monies out, with Government reimbursing following approval of the final report.</p> <p>e) SW noted that TDIP looked into the payment process, and were content that payment had not automatically been paid to projects where not all outputs had been delivered.</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>f) GC asked how we receive value from the Innovation Catalyst project. NG noted that a major event which was the culmination of the project took place on Ethically Powered Data in September, where the challenges and wide range of opportunities were presented. There will be a final report issued but in the meantime there have been subsequent meetings regarding establishing a Demonstrator Project on the Enterprise Zone which could bring together the opportunities of Blackpool’s connectivity advantages with the transatlantic cable and the full-fibre network, the opportunities for renewable power (with the proposed Morgan and Morecambe wind farms and solar panels proposed at the Enterprise Zone to feed the energy hungry data centre demand), the increasing demand for small scale liquid-cooled data centres, and the opportunity to utilise waste heat for commercial and other premises.</p> <p>g) PM noted that he had visited a data centre, and an issue was raised of the potential to utilise more of the airport space for data centre usage. RG noted that much of the airport is in Green Belt, and there remain restrictions to power requirements in the area.</p> <p>h) The Board noted progress with the Community Renewal Fund projects.</p>	
<p>6. Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)</p> <p>a) The Board noted that we are still awaiting news on approval to the SPF Investment Plan. Timescales are very likely to be affected with regard the spend profile as a result of the delay to a decision being made. A rollover of 2022/23 funding into the 2023/24 year will be necessary if the profiled spend levels are to be achieved but this is a national issue.</p>	
<p>7. Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and Investment Zones</p> <p>a) The Board noted the information published in the previous day’s Autumn Statement which confirmed that there was continuing commitment by the Government to LUF with at least £1.7 billion to be allocated to Round two schemes before the end of the year.</p> <p>b) Capital local spending appears to be protected, alongside LU and it appeared that Investment Zones would not now be taken forward other than in some very specific circumstances.</p> <p>c) The Board also noted with some frustration the resources that had been wasted on the abortive Investment Zones bidding process and it was</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>noted that it may not always be visible to Ministers how much work is required for some bidding processes.</p>	
<p>8. Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones presented a slide deck outlining the context within which the Town Deal funded highways infrastructure.</li> <li>b) He explained that the EZ is well on the way to delivery of its key outputs. There have been a number of delays, particularly around planning permission, which has led to a delayed spend profile, and he anticipated a substantial increase in spend over the next year as the infrastructure project was now able to move forward and that many of the proposed outputs from the original business case should be exceeded by the project.</li> <li>c) Two key risks were highlighted: cost inflation; and planning consent, the latter having now been addressed. Some risk remains around highway pre-loading design, but this is built into costings.</li> <li>d) JC noted that there will also be public transport links routed through the site once connectivity has been completed.</li> <li>e) PC asked about delivering floor space on the newly accessed land. RG noted there is a strong list of enquiries coming forward with interest in development.</li> <li>f) The Board noted the report and thanked the Rob and the team regarding the work that is evidently going into the project.</li> </ul>	
<p>9. Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Board noted that a gifts and hospitality register is being established as one of the DHLUC governance requirements. It was confirmed that any Board member receiving gifts or hospitality that relate to their role as a Town Deal or TDIP member would be asked to declare them to the Secretariat for inclusion on the register. The register would be reviewed annually.</li> </ul>	<p>All</p>
<p>10. Future Meeting Dates</p>	





Notes and Actions	By Whom
Friday, 24 February 2023, 1pm to 3pm. Venue to be confirmed.	