

# Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No. 21

## Friday, 9 June 2023, 1:00pm

Bickerstaffe and Microsoft Teams\*

### Blackpool Town Deal Board

Paul Smith (Chair)	(PS)	Business in the Community
Paul Maynard	(PM)	MP for Blackpool North
Peter Cole	(PC)	Chartered Surveyor
Steve Williams	(SW)	Force Technology
Dick Cartmell	(DC)	Together in Lancashire
Alan Cavill	(AC)	Blackpool Council
Tina Redford*	(TR)	Leftcoast
Helen Warren*	(HW)	DWP
Richard Fee*	(RF)	Nikal
John Sullivan*	(JS)	The Big Picture

### In Attendance

Nick Gerrard	(NG)	Blackpool Council
Robert Latham	(RL)	Blackpool Council
Kevin Sturley	(KSt)	Blackpool Council
Mark Gillingham	(MG)	Blackpool Council
Liam Waterhouse	(LW)	Blackpool Council

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) The Chair welcomed everyone to what would be his last meeting and thanked all for their attendance, contributions and support during his three years as Chair.</p> <p>b) Apologies were received from the following:            David Gaffney (Arts Council)            Steve Fogg (Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)            Scott Benton (MP for Blackpool South)            Neil Jack (Blackpool Council)            Tracy Hopkins (CVS)            Jane Cole (Blackpool Transport)            Bev Robinson (Blackpool &amp; The Fylde College)            Kate Shane (Merlin Entertainment)            Mark Robinson (Ellandi)</p>	

Notes and Actions	By Whom
Mark McGhee (Blackpool Football Club)	
<p>2. Board Membership</p> <p>a) It was noted that as this would be Paul Smith's last meeting, owing to his retirement from the Board, and that the Chair had to be from the private sector. The Board agreed that Peter Cole would now appointed as Chair to succeed Paul Smith.</p> <p>b) The Chair also noted the following board changes:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bev Robinson (Blackpool &amp; The Fylde College) will leave the Board at the end of August following her retirement and her successor would be the new principal of Blackpool and the Fylde College who would replace her on the Board.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ben Mansford (Blackpool Football Club), having resigned from the Club is to leave the Board and be replaced by Mark McGhee, Head of Finance at the Football Club. It was also agreed that he would replace Ben on the Town Deal Investment Panel (which he attended as an observer on 24 May).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Due to Paul Smith leaving the Board, as there would no longer be a Business in the Community representative on the Board, that Graham Cowley would now become a full member of the Board representing Business in the Community.</p>	
<p>3. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) The Chair asked members of the Board to declare any new interests other than those previously recorded. No new interests were declared.</p>	
<p>4. Minutes of Meeting No 20, 24 February 2023 and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of meeting No 20, 24 February 2023.</p> <p>b) Item 12A: Multiversity Project Adjustment Request has been signed off by the Chair and subsequently accepted by DLUHC on the 5 May.</p>	
<p>5. Town Deal Programme Level Update</p> <p>a) Overall Programme Progress:</p>	



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<p>NG provided an overview of progress as set out in the report and risk register with a focus on the overarching programme position in section 3.1. The Board noted the overall position on the progress of the Town Deal programme as follows:</p> <p>All schemes are in progress and there is an overall amber risk rating for programme delivery, spend and risk indicating everything is satisfactory. The top rated risks for each project are reported as derived from the individual project risk registers.</p> <p>The risks and project progress are reviewed in detail on the Board's behalf by the Town Deal Investment Panel (TDIP).</p> <p>On 8th June notification was received from DLUHC that further to the latest monitoring and performance return an additional "up front" programme allocation of £13,730,990 was due to be provided by the end of June subject to DLUHC SRO sign off and HMT consent.</p> <p>b) Project Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Enterprise Zone: There have been unavoidable delays by necessary consultation with Planning, Lancashire County Council Highways, Electricity North West and United Utilities with all matters now largely resolved and the project is expected to move ahead with increased spending in autumn which will put the project in a more robust position. It was also noted that the disruption caused by the Division Lane works has now been resolved.</li> <li>II. The Edge: The Board noted this project raised the most concern previously and the most challenges with the impacts of inflation and high tender prices. There has since been a considerable value engineering exercise resulting in a resubmitted planning application in late May and a cost plan much closer to the budget. The key outputs remain the same and the contract works were put out to competitive tender on 5 June. A number of contractors have already expressed an interest and the outcome of the tender exercise is awaited and, if satisfactory, work is expected to commence later this year.</li> <li>III. Illuminations Rejuvenation: No further substantive update following the presentation at the last meeting and the project is progressing well.</li> <li>IV. Blackpool Central Courts relocation: Project making good progress. HMCTS has appointed architects who are at the pre-application stage with the planning authority with proposals for the new Court facility on Devonshire Road and are due very soon to engage in a public</li> </ol>	



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<p>consultation. The project has an allocated contribution of £3million towards the new Court facility. HMCTS will need to vacate by March 2025, there is likely to be a gap between HMCTS vacating and the new courts being open but HMCTS have location contingencies available to them and have been advised the March 2025 date is non-negotiable to enable the demolition of the building and the completion of the Town Deal scheme by March 2025. It was also noted that the car park element of the wider Blackpool Central scheme is progressing well and would be completed later this year.</p> <p>V. Revoe Community Sports Village: Planning Permission Phase 1 community sport pitches submitted and formally approved on 22 March 2023. Phase 2 is on course with property acquisition activity underway, but not yet formally legally committed. A meeting is being arranged with the Club's owner to understand the latest position but both Ben Mansford and Mark McGhee have given assurances over the club's commitment to the phase 2 works. DC queried the reference to sports village when the only sport that appeared to be available was football but it was noted that other sports would also be available. A broader discussion also took place around feedback to the project lead and Blackpool Football Club to look at the scope to encourage disability-led sport and the issue of charging for local groups to use the facilities.</p> <p>VI. Multiversity: The Board noted that the current voluntary level of acquisitions progress was behind the projected spend profile but was gaining momentum with engagement with owners and tenants. The report set out the reasons why there is a likelihood of an eventual overspend due to a change in statutory home loss payments for tenants since bid submission and increases in wider property acquisition costs but that the Council had potential contingency arrangements in place should this occur. It was likely that the Council would move forward with a Compulsory Purchase Order later in the year owing the need to assemble the site in a timely manner, but in the meantime voluntary negotiations would continue as would the support being offered to tenants. In respect of the wider scheme, with the Levelling Up Fund approval progress was now being made on detailed design prior to the submission of a planning application.</p> <p>VII. The Platform: The project is performing very well, delivering opportunities to young people seeking employment and skills support. No issues raised.</p>	<p>Nick Gerrard</p>

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<p>c) RL noted the informal DLUHC visit made on the 28 April, where 15 delegates enjoyed Town Deal and Shared Prosperity Fund scheme presentations and a tour of some of the key regeneration projects. The visit had been very well received, so much so, they have requested NG to speak at their upcoming national Manchester Town Deal conference on the 20 June.</p> <p>d) No further issues were raised by the Board and they noted the report.</p> <p>e) The Board approved the DLUHC report due to go out today, which had been signed off by the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Board Chair.</p>	
<p>6. Town Deal Investment Panel Minutes 24 May, 2023</p> <p>a) SW gave an update on the TDIP's review of progress. The TDIP Panel had:        Been pleased with the depth and format of information provided by the project monitoring office team and were in agreement with the RAG ratings that had been applied. And whilst they noted spend was behind, they could see real momentum building.        Welcomed the addition of Mark McGhee, who as Head of Finance at Blackpool Football Club, would provide an additional skillset to the TDIP.        Noted legal agreements to be making good progress.        Noted the benchmarking exercise undertaken with Darlington and Torquay had given the TDIP confidence as it indicated Blackpool is in a similar position regarding spend to other local authorities.        Were pleased with the positive reaction during the DLUHC visit        Were content that programme spend will ramp up because project managers are frequently challenged about issues affecting spend and the realism of spend in the Town Deal Project Board meetings and by the Programme Management Office        Noted the Enterprise Zone re-profiling and congratulated the Council on the progress made given the project's previous position.        Noted Multiversity CPO issues have been discussed and the sensitivity of the scheme approach is appreciated        Noted particular positivity around the challenging Edge scheme with reduced costs and the new tenders plus the group was looking forward to planning being secured        Was interested to understand the decant requirements for HMCTS within the Courts scheme but is happy the risk has good mitigations        Were content with the Revoe Community Sports Village and the project approach to the associated risks</p>	



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<p>a) The Board noted the report and the Chair thanked SW and the TDIP members for their support and the heavy lifting they had undertaken on the Board's behalf.</p>	
<p>7. Community Renewal Fund Programme Update</p> <p>a) The Board noted the CRF programme was now complete and:  The underspend and sanctions reported previously and there are no further updates to make, and;  The challenging pilot programme time constraints and congratulated those involved in the successful delivery of the CRF programme.</p>	
<p>8. Shared Prosperity Fund</p> <p>a) The Board noted the following progress:  Thirteen project applications were originally submitted and the entire programme was approved with a £5.1m allocation.  Notwithstanding prompt progress on tendering projects, where required, there has been underspend in financial year 2022 to 2023, which will be carried over into financial year 2023 to 2024.  There is currently no allowance to carry funding over from this financial year to the next one so projects will have to stay within allocation.  The establishment of a Shared Prosperity Project Board including all the Project Managers including one TDIP member (following a tender process) but the Board is chaired by the Council and any potential conflicts of interest are noted this is also mitigated through the TDIP reporting arrangements.  People and Skills projects can now start in 2023 – 2024 rather than year three (2024 – 2025) as originally stated but only if underspends “in year” could cover them. No 2024 – 2025 monies can be brought forward.  The Platform cannot start early as it is operating under the Towns Fund until 2024 – 2025.  Community Navigator Tender will be advertised on the Chest procurement platform from 13 June.  The Lets Get Digital project was originally proposed as a College led CRF project but was unsuccessful. After receiving approval under SPF, and to avoid breaking the applicable procurement rules, it was proposed the Council Adult Learning Team would take over as project lead to ensure no duplication of existing activities and to provide a strong coordinated approach. This would also allow use of an existing supplier panel to</p>	



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<p>contract work out and avoid full tenders. SW noted in the TDIP had raised some disappointment that the project could not be delivered by Blackpool and the Fylde College as originally proposed, but they understood the key benefits of the new proposed delivery and the procurement rules in place. The Board agreed the proposed approach with the Council's Adult Learning team to lead the scheme.</p> <p>b) SW noted the TDIP was pleased to see the Business Support Capacity project was now progressing with tenders after the setbacks caused by serious illness in the team. He also noted TDIP had approved the proposed transfer of funds:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">£50k from the Business Support Capacity scheme to the Edge SPF procurement project and this was now subject to TDB approval.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">£132,375 from the Eco coaching project to the Eco-Hubs scheme.</p> <p>c) The Board approved the transfers of funding.</p>	
<p><b>9. Levelling Up Fund &amp; Capital Regeneration Project</b></p> <p>a) The Board noted the progress reported in the Town Deal Update report on the Multiversity (£40m) Levelling Up Fund scheme</p> <p>b) The Board also noted the £8m funding granted to the Hotel Indigo Former Post Office redevelopment which, whilst submitted as a Levelling-Up Fund scheme, was referenced as a Capital Regeneration Project. A Memo of Understanding was awaited from the DLUHC.</p>	
<p><b>10. Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan</b></p> <p>a) Mark Gillingham, Project and Programme Development Manager, gave a presentation on the Town Centre Interventions Project funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>b) The Board noted:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Town Centre Intervention is the largest of the SPF projects with £1.5m allocated. The spend of this project is outlined into four key areas Way-Finding, Greening, Public Realm and illumination.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A Town Centre Action Group has been set up with the Town Centre Business Improvement District to establish 'task and finish' sub-groups including other stakeholders, with specific foci on spaces or areas of</p>	



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<p>expertise, as well as utilised to oversee management of the Town Centre Action Plan.</p>	
<p><b>11. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>a) On behalf of the Board, Alan Cavill thanked Paul Smith and made a presentation for his fantastic contribution to the Town Deal Board and to his wider actions such as the Town Prospectus which had been the first step towards a Town Deal offer for Blackpool. Paul confirmed how much he had enjoyed working with the BITC Pride of Place initiative and the Town Deal Board.</p> <p>b) Alan also gave formal thanks to Bev Robinson and her contributions, who would be leaving the Board in August.</p>	
<p><b>12. Next Meeting</b></p> <p>a) Friday, 8 September, 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	

