

Town Deal Investment Panel Meeting

Wednesday, 17th March 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

Blackpool Town Deal Investment Panel

- Steve Williams (Chair) (SW) Force Technology and Town Deal Board Member
- Ben Mansford (BM) Blackpool Football Club
- Daryl Platt (DP) Blackpool & The Fylde College
- Lynn Saggerson (LS) Blackpool Volunteer Centre
- Cllr Mark Smith (MS) Blackpool Council
- Martin Long (ML) Napthens Solicitors
- Wendy Swift (WS) Chair of Blackpool Football Community Trust

In Attendance

- Nick Gerrard (NG) Blackpool Council
- Rob Latham (RL) Blackpool Council
- Graham Russell (GR) Amion
- Melissa Thorpe (MT) Blackpool Council
- Michael Hodgson (MH) Blackpool Council
- Peter Legg (PL) Blackpool Council
- Vanda De Freitas (VDF) Blackpool Council

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>a) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new panel member, Wendy Swift, former CEO of Blackpool Hospital.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Meeting No 1, 13th January 2021 and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Panel agreed the minutes of meeting no. 1 as a correct record</p> <p>b) All Panel members have completed their Declaration of interest forms.</p> <p>c) At the last Panel meeting, ML requested clarification of the Panel's accountability and legal risk. It has since been clarified the TDIP sits under the umbrella of the Town Deal Board and Blackpool Council (the accountable body).</p>	
<p>3. Town Deal Activity Update</p> <p>a) NG updated the Panel on the Town Deal activity to date. The following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Deal Heads of Terms signed off. 	

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding allocations for each of the schemes now agreed. • Blackpool awaiting formal confirmation from Government re: proposal to change the Youth Hub from a capital-funded scheme to a revenue scheme. • Independent appraisal required of Amion’s work. • All business cases to be submitted by 17th November. • Consultants appointed to oversee masterplan and delivery plan and preparation of business case of the Multiversity. • On-line Commonplace engagement exercise extended to 22nd March 2021 to capture further comments on each of the schemes. 	
<p>4. Youth Hub Project Presentation</p> <p>a) PL and VDF gave a presentation on the Youth Hub. The following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Youth Hub will be a service for 16 – 24 year olds that require additional support to secure employment. Blackpool has the highest unemployment rates and benefits amongst 18-24 year olds in the UK. • Youth Hub is a DWP initiative and part of the Government’s wider programme of employment initiatives. • DWP and JCP have offered £100K from their Community Partnership funding. • It will provide six months of employment support to anyone referred. • JCP has proposed that some of their youth coaches work from the Hub. • It will be reflective of Blackpool’s youth and the areas they live in. • A co-ordinator will be appointed to promote the Youth Hub services. • It will deliver employability training in partnership with local employers and educational providers. • Youth Hub will be housed in Unit 3, No 1 Bickerstaffe Square. Blackpool is currently negotiating the surrender of the lease with the existing tenant. <p>b) The Economic Development team have set targets that will be included in the Youth Hub business case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct employer engagement with 300 local employers over a 3 year period. • 200 into employment. • 200 into training. • General outcome will be to offer a one-stop shop to with a focus on training, employment and moving people on. <p>c) The Panel were made aware of the tight timescales in which to complete the business cases and approval processes. It was agreed that Individual project presentations will be given to the Panel to provide them with information in advance of seeing the full business cases and on which they will be asked to provide feedback. Following this an independent appraiser will be appointed to produce a report to ensure that the business case meets all economic requirements. This will then be submitted to the TDIP for review before being presented to the Town Deal Board and Blackpool’s Executive (under the delegation arrangements) then finally to the Government for final approval.</p>	

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<p>5. Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund</p> <p>Levelling Up Fund</p> <p>a) NG gave a brief summary of this fund recently announced by the budget for which Blackpool would be able potentially to submit up to 2 bids of £20million of infrastructure projects with capital expenditure. The bidding process will involve local MP's, the Town Deal Board and sign off by the Council's Executive. Further details are still required.</p> <p>Community Renewal Fund</p> <p>b) This fund, a precursor to the Shared Prosperity Fund (to be launched in 2022) is the successor to various European-funded programmes, is designed to provide revenue funding of up to £3million for delivery between "late July 2021 onwards" and 31st March 2022 for a programmes of activity related to investing in skills, local business, communities and place, and supporting people into employment.</p> <p>c) Blackpool Council has to administer a process involving inviting bids from a wide-range of partners including voluntary and community sector organisations, local education providers including universities, and businesses, appraising and prioritising them and submitting an overall bid by 18th June 2021.</p> <p>d) It was agreed at the Town Deal Board on 12th March that the Town Deal Investment Panel is utilised to support this process</p> <p>e) It was agreed that a draft process for inviting bids was shared with the TDIP for comment with a view to bids being invited before the end of the month.</p>	<p>RL</p>
<p>6. Next Steps</p> <p>a) Agree timescales for Town Deal business cases and presentations.</p> <p>b) Agree timescales and invitation process for the Community Renewal Funding.</p>	
<p>7. AOB</p> <p>a) None.</p>	
<p>8. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>a) A programme of future meetings to be established in the light of the discussion under item 4c.</p>	<p>RL/MH</p>