



Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No 10

Friday, 14th May, 13:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Blackpool Town Deal Board Chair:

Paul Smith (PS) BiTC Pride of Place

Blackpool Town Deal Board

Anna Blackburn (AB)	Beaverbrooks
Dick Cartmell (DC)	Together in Lancashire
Heather Murray (HM)	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Kate Shane (KS)	Merlin Entertainments
Neil Jack (NJ)	Blackpool Council
Paul Maynard (PM)	MP for Blackpool North
Richard Fee (RF)	Nikal
Scott Benton (SB)	MP for Blackpool South
Steve Williams (SW)	Force Technology
Tracy Hopkins (TH)	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre VCFS

In Attendance

Nick Gerrard (NG)	Blackpool Council
Robert Latham (RL)	Blackpool Council
Mark Gillingham (MG)	Blackpool Council
Michael Hodgson (MH)	Blackpool Council
Pauline Wigglesworth (PW)	Blackpool Council
Peter Legg (PL)	Blackpool Council
Vanda De Freitas (VDF)	Blackpool Council
David Slater (DS)	Blackpool Council
Andy Charles (ACh)	Business in The Community (BiTC)
Rosie Jenkins (RJ)	Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS/ MHCLG

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) Apologies for absence were noted from the following:</p> <p> Alan Cavill (Blackpool Council)</p> <p> Ben Mansford (Blackpool Football Club)</p> <p> Bev Robinson (Blackpool & The Fylde College)</p> <p> David Gaffney (Arts England)</p> <p> Jane Cole (Blackpool Transport)</p>	



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<p>Kevin McGee (Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust) Peter Cole (Future High Street Fund) Peter Swann (Coolsilk) Steve Fogg (Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) Tina Redford (Leftcoast)</p> <p>b) Rosie Jenkins was attending the Board meeting following Katherine O'Connor's departure from Cities and Local Growth Unit until Katherine's replacement was recruited. The Board noted the great support that Katherine had been to Blackpool.</p> <p>c) Pauline Wigglesworth is now leading on the Community Engagement activity following Scott Butterfield's move to other responsibilities.</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) None, as there was no planned discussions of the schemes during the meeting.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of Meeting No 9, 12th March 2021 and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of meeting no. 9, 12th March 2021.</p>	
<p>4. Town Deal Update</p> <p>a) The Board received a report outlining progress since the last meeting. Two timetable amendments were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHCLG will approve Town Deal schemes in two tranches rather than on an individual basis following sign off by the Board. This means that the September and November meetings are the meetings scheduled for final sign off of the 7 schemes. • Final sign off approval to the Youth Hub scheme will now be delayed until September owing to the opportunity that has arisen via the Community Renewal Fund application (see item 5c). 	
<p>5. Town Deal Investment Panel</p> <p>a) TDIP Minutes 17th March 2021 The Board noted the minutes of the TDIP, 17th March 2021.</p> <p>b) TDIP Revised Terms of Reference</p>	



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<p>I. The revised TDIP Terms of Reference were presented to the Board to include their role in relation to supporting the assessment of complementary funding bids (eg Community Renewal Fund) where requested to do so by the Town Deal Board as agreed at the last meeting, and the membership changes previously agreed by the Board.</p> <p>II. PM raised a concern re the TDIP revised Terms of Reference and the relationship between the Town Deal Board and the TDIP Panel’s processes which he felt left the Town Deal Board members as passive observers of decisions that had already been made. The Chair explained that this was not the case and that the TDIP’s role had been agreed by the Board and was to prepare, appraise and make recommendations for each of the business cases, which are then subject to Town Deal Board approval. Presentations for each of the schemes will be given before the business cases are presented to the Board to ensure Board members are kept up to speed with developments.</p> <p>c) Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) Assessment</p> <p>I. SW, as Chair of the TDIP, gave an update on the TDIP Panel meeting of 7th May 2021 as part of the second stage assessment of the Community Renewal Fund applications received by Blackpool Council.</p> <p>II. A total of 27 applications were received by the deadline to deliver UKCRF activity in Blackpool. The 27 projects were seeking £7,434,520 of UKCRF support, almost 2.5 times the maximum Blackpool allocation, thus indicating the success of the awareness raising exercise.</p> <p>III. Ekosgen undertook a stage one, independent appraisal of these bids, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction of the fund’s gateway criteria • Strategic fit • Applicant capability and experience • Risk • Value for money • Deliverability <p>IV. Ekosgen provided an in depth report to the TDIP which outlined a short description of each scheme, the appraisal process</p>	



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<p>undertaken and the scoring methodology, including a score for each project with recommendations of the highest scoring schemes that could be considered for inclusion in the final amalgamated bid. Two of the bids were deemed ineligible owing to their capital requirements.</p> <p>V. A long meeting of the TDIP was held on 7th May where members of the TDIP, Town Deal Board and Council officers representing key disciplines attended to review the report and test and discuss the recommendations. All attendees were asked to complete a Declaration of Interest form before the meeting as appropriate and to inform during the meeting of any additional declarations that may become apparent during discussions – in these cases the individuals took no part in the decision making related to those schemes.</p> <p>VI. The meeting involved extensive deliberation and some frustration at the compressed timetable that had to be met to prepare and submit a bid by the Government’s timescales. This meant, for example, that the appraisals had to abide by “what was submitted” rather than an opportunity, perhaps, to ask some projects to resubmit with changes to strengthen their bid as there was insufficient time to undertake this in an open, fair and transparent way. The guidance issued by Government also discouraged an iterative process.</p> <p>VII. The oversubscription also meant that many projects would be disappointed and several excellent projects, though not supportable for UKCRF, would be eligible for the much larger Shared Prosperity Fund to be announced later this year, and the lessons learnt from this exercise would be applied to that depending on what administrative process the Government establishes for the determination of submissions.</p> <p>VIII. 12 projects were thus agreed should be included across the 4 themes, subject to due diligence as several issues were raised by the Panel to be addressed on some projects. These amount to a total of £2,684,643 plus £53,693 which is a 2% figure applied to support the lead applicant in monitoring and evaluation activity, creating a total bid of £2,738,335.</p> <p>IX. PM acknowledged the TDIP’s work and the short timeframe in which they had to reach a united decision but also noted that some of the projects seemed like ‘helicopter projects’ being</p>	



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<p>delivered by organisations external to Blackpool that would not necessarily make as much impact as locally delivered projects and were not necessarily consistent with the Town Prospectus. This was noted together with the constraints of the compressed timescale and bidding criteria, along with several other lessons learnt.</p> <p>X. The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) noted the assessment process undertaken by independent appraisers, b) endorsed the recommendations arising out of the Town Deal Investment Panel’s assessment of schemes proposed to be incorporated into the Community Renewal Fund bid as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Blackpool Pathways to Employment, Blackpool Citizens Advice Bureau I. Piloting Place-Based Innovation Catalysts: Supporting innovation leadership, clean growth and secure digitalisation, Lancaster University II. Ready for Work, INSPIRA III. Create to Innovate, UCLan IV. The Role of Digital Museums & Archives in Culture-led Regeneration: A Feasibility Study, UCLan V. Feasibility Study for re-development of Blackpool Central Library and adjoining Grundy Art Gallery as a new Cultural Hub, Blackpool Council VI. Our Claremont, Magic Club VII. Let’s Get Digital!, Blackpool and the Fylde College VIII. Right to Succeed, Pathways for All project (PFA), Right to Succeed CIO IX. Skills for Work 2021/22 Post Covid 19, North West Skills Academy Limited X. Waterloo Masterplan, Blackpool Council XI. Blackpool Youth Hub, Blackpool Council 	
<p>6. Youth Hub Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Peter Legg and Vanda de Freitas gave an introductory presentation on the Youth Hub project prior to the presentation of a full business case which will go through the TDIP before it comes back to the Board for approval on 12th November. 	



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<p>b) Its aim is to help unemployed Blackpool based residents aged between 16 and 24 years to develop their skills and find employment and is proposed to be located in One Bickerstaffe Square.</p> <p>c) Further details are in the attached slides.</p> <p> 2021.05.14 Youth Hub Presentation.pdf</p> <p>d) It was noted that the project is also looking for support from the Community Renewal Fund.</p> <p>e) Working with partners is a key theme of the proposal including with DWP and it was agreed that Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde VCSF and Positive Steps into Work team would work collaboratively to ensure the Youth Hub project has input from young people and the voluntary sector. VDF & PL will repeat the presentation to the VCSF leadership group.</p> <p>f) The Board noted the report and thanked Peter and Vanda for their presentation.</p>	
<p>7. The Edge</p> <p>a) Peter Legg and David Slater gave an introductory presentation on The Edge project prior to the presentation of a full business case which will go through the TDIP before it comes back to the Board for approval on 12th November</p> <p>b) Its aim is to repurpose Stanley Buildings and to provide incubation space to help companies to grow.</p> <p>c) Further details are in the attached slides</p> <p> 2021.05.14 The Edge Presentation.pdf</p> <p>d) During the presentation, it was suggested that leaders of the Edge project should consider some larger enterprise spaces aside from the smaller planned ones or hold back some of Blackpool’s existing larger spaces for small successful businesses to move into once they had grown in size.</p> <p>e) The Blackpool Unlimited team will continue to promote and encourage businesses to lease spaces across the whole of Blackpool and not just within the Edge. The Unlimited team will lead a business campaign and engage</p>	



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<p>with local businesses to identify the types of support and facilities businesses require.</p> <p>f) The Board noted the report and thanked Peter and David for their presentation.</p>	
<p>8. Community Engagement Update</p> <p>a) PW introduced herself to Board members and gave an update on engagement activity and extensive Commonplace report.</p> <p>b) Due to Covid restrictions engagement has relied heavily on digital interaction, which has excluded some people. A three-tier engagement programme for each of the Town Deal projects is being drafted and a targeted approach to include people with protected characteristics will be made to ensure all views of the community are captured.</p> <p>c) The Board agreed to review and comment on the Commonplace report as appropriate, and the stakeholder engagement undertaken and that planned to July 2021, and make suggestions on additional activity required at either a programme or project level.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>9. Levelling Up Fund</p> <p>a) An update on the Levelling Up Fund process was given. Blackpool has more potential schemes (and far more ambition!) than the funds available but the restrictive eligibility criteria reduce what is possible. Genecon are working alongside the Council to ensure that the strongest possible bid is made addressing the 3 investment themes set out in the Levelling Up Fund of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Regeneration and Town Centre investment • Culture investment <p>b) Constructive discussions have been held with both Blackpool MPs and the neighbouring authorities to establish their views. Projects that are already relatively worked up and can start by March 2022 are a key requirement for the first round alongside the need to keep below the £20m/3 project limit. For a first round bid to meet these criteria will require a primary focus on the Blackpool South constituency although acknowledging that the town centre lies in both Parliamentary constituencies.</p> <p>c) The 3 projects being worked up for the Blackpool first round bid are:</p>	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The refurbishment and conversion of the Post Office for a boutique hotel (ex FHSF) • The Town Centre Access scheme (ex-Local Pinch Point scheme) and Adelaide Street Transport Hub (ex-FHSF) and their interconnection, and additional public realm improvements on Coronation Street, and • Winter Gardens elevational enhancements and internal re-fit for commercial uses on Coronation Street (opposite the Houndshill extension scheme). <p>d) Full details and costings are still being worked on which may require some adjustments to the final details of the schemes.</p> <p>e) Details of the bid will now be finalised to meet the June 18th deadline and include further MP consultation and ultimate sign off by the Council's Executive under delegation. An update on progress will also be given to the Town Deal Board.</p> <p>f) The Board noted the report.</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p> <p>a) Blackpool Central Public Consultation RF provided an update on Blackpool Central and the pre-planning consultation launched with a webinar on 12th May. Nearly ten thousand people have received a copy of the consultation programme. A multi-channel engagement approach has been used to capture people's views, including a live Q&A website. Up to 90% of the responses received so far have agreed with the proposals for Blackpool Central and have highlighted the positive impact the development will have in creating new jobs and increasing tourism.</p>	
<p>11. Date of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 9th July 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 10th September 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 12th November 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 	