

Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No 8

Friday, 15th January 2021, 13:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Blackpool Town Deal Board Chair:

- Paul Smith (PS) BiTC Pride of Place

Blackpool Town Deal Board

- Alan Cavill (AC) Blackpool Council
- Anna Blackburn (AB) Beaverbrooks
- Ben Mansford (BM) Blackpool Football Club
- Bev Robinson (BR) Blackpool & The Fylde College
- Dick Cartmell (DC) Together in Lancashire
- Heather Murray (HM) Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Jane Cole (JC) Blackpool Transport
- Kate Shane (KS) Merlin Entertainments
- Neil Jack (NJ) Blackpool Council
- Peter Cole (PC) Future High Street Fund Board
- Peter Swann (PS) Coolsilk
- Scott Benton (SB) MP for Blackpool South
- Steve Williams (SW) Force Technology
- Tina Redford (TR) LeftCoast
- Tracy Hopkins (TH) Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre VCFS

In Attendance

- Andy Charles (ACh) Business in The Community (BiTC)
- Graham Russell (GR) Amion
- Katherine O'Connor (KO'C) Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS/ MHCLG
- Lisa Quinn (LQ) Towns Hub
- Mark Gillingham (MG) Blackpool Council
- Michael Hodgson (MH) Blackpool Council
- Nick Gerrard (NG) Blackpool Council
- Robert Latham (RL) Blackpool Council
- Scott Butterfield (SB) Blackpool Council

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) Apologies for absence were noted from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Gaffney (Arts Council) • Nick Payne – Nikal • Kevin Mc Gee – Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linton Brown – Blackpool FC • Paul Maynard – MP Blackpool North • Steve Fogg – Lancashire LEP <p>b) The Chair welcomed and introduced Ben Mansford, Chief Executive Officer of Blackpool Football Club. The Board agreed Ben Mansford’s membership of the Board in place of Linton Brown.</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) Declaration of Interests were noted from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiversity Project – Bev Robinson (Principal, Blackpool and the Fylde College), Alan Cavill (Chair, B&FC), Steve Williams and Jane Cole (Board Members, B&FC) • Revoe/ Southern Quarter – Ben Mansford (CEO BFC) and Neil Jack (Trustee, BFC Community Trust) • It was also noted that Neil Jack and Alan Cavill as representatives of the Accountable Body had interests relating to all projects as the Council was involved in them all. 	
<p>3. Minutes of Meeting No 7, 13th November 2020</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of meeting no. 7, 13th November 2020.</p> <p>b) On Matters Arising it was noted that:</p> <p><u>Fylde Coast Rail Loop</u> – the letter referenced in an earlier meeting had not been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport because of recent progress whereby approval had been given to two funding applications from the “Restoring Your Railway Fund”. Most recently for the South Fylde Line Rail link in addition to the previously approved Fleetwood to Poulton-le-Fylde link. The next stage is for a comprehensive and deliverable strategic outline business case that is supported by stakeholders and meets ‘cost-benefit’ ratio requirements will be developed which will take 6-9 months to complete and there was optimism that work could potentially start in the next 2-3 years if all goes well.</p>	
<p>4. Town Deal Allocations</p> <p>a) The Chair introduced the paper. Following the Board’s agreement and signing of the Heads of Terms on 17th November 2020, there are now 10 months in which to complete and present business cases to the Town Deal Investment Panel and submit to the Government. A copy of the HoT’s</p>	

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<p>signed by the Secretary of State is expected to be received shortly (NB subsequently received the day after the meeting).</p> <p>b) The Chair reminded the Board that decisions needed to be made for the approved projects regarding the £7.7M shortfall in funding from the original amount that Blackpool had bid for. The Board were presented with two options; to top-slice 15.5% from each project or review each project and identify where the balance of the funding could be found. Since the last meeting an in-depth review had been undertaken of each project and the following proposals put forward to give each project the optimum chances of success with more detail set out in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edge and Illuminations projects to retain their original funding allocation of £4.5M each.. • Blackpool Central Courts relocation - £8M • Multiversity - £9M • Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone - £7.5M. • Youth Hub - 500k (revenue) • Revoe/ Southern Quarter -£5.5M <p>c) The Board discussed how funding allocations had been decided and an assessment of which projects would make the biggest impact on Blackpool’s communities and the longevity of each project in transforming inequalities before agreeing to the proposed allocations.</p> <p>d) It was noted that allocations are ‘provisional’ at this stage and a rigorous business case process will be applied to each project. Part of the process will be to establish what the project will deliver (e.g. employment and training opportunities), how engagement was undertaken during the development of each business case and details of match funding.</p> <p>e) The Board approved the proposed allocations of Town Deal funding and the further information requested by MHCLG for submission by their deadline of January 17th 2021 as set out in Table 2 and Appendix A, subject to sign off by the Council’s Chief Executive under the delegation arrangements agreed by the Council’s Executive in November 2020.</p> <p>f) NB As there was some commercially confidential information in the Annex that was still subject to business case appraisal it was noted that the Annex would not be published at this stage</p>	<p>NJ/ NG</p>

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<p>6. Community Engagement Update</p> <p>a) The Board considered the update report on community engagement and in particular noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the momentum needs to be maintained to ensure that the engagement is continued; • the Common Place website will be picked up to capture responses and reactions to the proposed 7 projects; <p>a. the previously agreed draft engagement plan would now be developed further;</p> <p>b. the importance of community ownership of the projects in order to measure outcomes and investment in Blackpool and that more engagement should be sought from voluntary community groups to match the amount of input from the private sector.</p> <p>b) Questions used to capture responses during community engagement will need to be written in a way that allows for appropriate responses and ensures that people fully understand what they are being asked: SBu to liaise with DC and TH re applying a direct approach and use of inclusive language during community engagement exercises.</p> <p>c) The Board noted the progress and plans for further community engagement and that progress on this would continue to be monitored by the Board through regular reports from the Engagement Team</p>	<p>DC/ TH/ SBu</p> <p>TH/ SBu</p>
<p>7. AOB</p> <p>a) The Chair noted the Board’s disappointment at the Government’s decision not to award the Future High Street Funding to Blackpool following the announcement on Boxing Day.</p> <p>b) PM and SB have approached ministers for a response re Blackpool’s unsuccessful FHSF bid and will feed back information to the board as soon as this is received.</p> <p>c) NG reported on the feedback meeting held with MHCLG officials. Whilst the business case met the gateway criteria, the assessment concluded that it unfortunately did not meet the stringent technical test for overall value for money required by the Treasury which is outlined in the “economic case” element of the bid document. The irony here is that it would have met this test had it not been for the removal of the two successful Getting Building Fund schemes.</p>	<p>PM/ SB</p>

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<p>d) A letter is to be sent from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State to contest the decision and the harshness of the assessment and to explore ways forward including the opportunities to be presented by the new £4bn Levelling Up Fund the Government has announced on which further detail is expected later this year. SB proposed that that he and PM also sign the letter.</p> <p>e) The Government states it is firmly committed to levelling up all parts of the UK and supporting a strong recovery from the effects of Covid-19 and Blackpool expects to be in a very strong position to take full part in this. In the meantime the Council is now looking to other funding sources to bring forward as many of the FHSF schemes as possible and the in particular, the Post Office scheme and the Innovation Partnership designed to introduce innovation and technology in Blackpool’s town centre.</p> <p>f) SB provided a brief overview of the Government’s £4BN ‘Levelling Up Fund’, the detail of which will be announced later this year. The Treasury is looking to obtain support from local MP’s re proposed schemes in their area that are backed by the local council and community. Studies show that Blackpool is the most deprived area in the UK and most in need of ‘levelling up’, putting Blackpool in a very strong position of being able to put forward credible cases for funding. Cases could include proposals for infrastructure, housing and town centre improvements.</p> <p>g) HM also gave a brief overview of the ‘Shared Prosperity Fund’, which will replace the ‘European Social Fund’, which would provide further opportunities.</p>	<p>PM/ SB</p>
<p>8. Date of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 12th March 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 14th May 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 9th July 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 10th September 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 12th November 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 	