

# Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No 6

## Friday, 16th October 2020, 13:00

### Via Microsoft Teams

#### Blackpool Town Deal Board

- Paul Smith (Chair) (PS) Business in The Community (BiTC)
- Alan Cavill (AC) Blackpool Council (Item 1 only)
- Peter Cole (PC) Future High Street Fund Board
- Anna Blackburn (AB) Beaverbrooks
- Bev Robinson (BR) Blackpool & The Fylde College
- David Gaffney (DG) Arts Council
- Dick Cartmell (DC) Together in Lancashire
- Jane Cole (JC) Blackpool Transport
- Kate Shane (KS) Merlin Entertainments
- Nick Payne (NP) Nikal
- Nicki Latham (NL) Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Paul Maynard (PM) MP for Blackpool North and Cleveleys
- Steve Williams (SW) Force Technology
- Tracy Hopkins (TH) Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre VCFS

#### In Attendance

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

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) AC provided the Board with an update regarding the soon to be introduced Tier 3 restrictions and the potential impact this would have on Blackpool.</p>	

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<p>b) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which had to be held by electronic means owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>c) Peter Cole, Chair of the Blackpool Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) Shadow Board was also welcomed to the meeting. The Chair noted that the FHSF bid had been submitted in parallel and that it was thought best to bring both the Towns Fund and FHSF activities together through a merged Board, as guidance from MHCLG contemplates close synergies between the two funds and in Blackpool’s case both bids formed part of a cohesive overall strategy for the Town.</p> <p>d) Apologies for absence were noted from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Murray – DWP</li> <li>• Kevin McGee – Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Linton Brown – Blackpool FC</li> <li>• Neil Jack – Blackpool Council</li> <li>• Peter Swann – Coolsilk</li> <li>• Scott Benton – MP, Blackpool South</li> <li>• Steve Fogg – Lancashire LEP</li> <li>• Tina Redford – Left Coast</li> </ul>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) None declared at this meeting as no schemes were being discussed.</p> <p>b) It was noted that establishing a register of interests would be considered under item 5 on the agenda.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of Meeting No 5, 10th July 2020 and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of 10th July 2020 meeting.</p> <p>b) On Matters Arising it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DG confirmed that he will only be representing the Arts Council and not Historic England, English Heritage or any other cultural bodies but will feed back any necessary information to their representatives. DG informed the Board that the Arts Council received a late notice asking for their comments on all of the Towns Fund bids that had been submitted as this forms part of the bid approval process.</li> <li>• The Chair asked for all Board members that had not yet submitted their photograph and biography for the website to do so.</li> <li>• The Community Asset mapping exercise had now been completed and would be covered in item 7 on the agenda</li> </ul>	

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<p>4. Towns Fund Submission</p> <p>a) Blackpool’s Towns Fund submission for £49.3 m for 9 schemes had been submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020.</p> <p>b) The Chair noted that it is expected that the towns in the first wave of funding will hopefully receive their proposed Heads of Terms shortly.</p> <p>c) The Chair updated the Board on the recent MHCLG ‘Challenge’ session, which was attended by NJ, NG and PS as a requirement of the bidding process for Blackpool’s Towns Fund bid of up to £50 million. The session focused upon the anticipated impacts the programme would have not only on Blackpool but also the national and regional implications as a result Blackpool being awarded a Town Deal.</p> <p>d) NG noted that all of their answers to the MHCLG’s questions during the challenge session were received well and it was a good discussion. When questioned none of the proposed projects were conceded as unnecessary from Blackpool’s bid due to the strategic interrelationship of the projects proposed in the both the Town Deal and the Future High Street Fund bids.</p> <p>e) KO’C provided the Board with an update on the Heads of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heads of Terms letters have been drafted and they are currently going through the political process.</li> <li>• In due course the Board will receive a request to review the draft Heads of Terms.</li> <li>• Following an agreement and sign off of the Heads of Terms by the Board and the Council, the Government will then make its announcements.</li> <li>• Strict confidentiality will need to be adhered to re the draft Heads of Terms until such time as the Government announcement was made.</li> <li>• The Town Deal would be signed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and not other Government Departments.</li> </ul> <p>f) The Chair noted that as well as a bid for Towns Fund resources Blackpool’s bid is focused upon a broader strategic Town Deal, which is beyond economic regeneration, and that also covers Blackpool’s greater needs re housing and deprivation etc. Whilst the Future High Streets Fund and Towns Fund focus upon economic regeneration, rather than social issues and housing, Blackpool is trying to find various ways in</p>	

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<p>which to continue discussions with the Government regarding a wider holistic relationship with Government.</p> <p>g) PM noted that Blackpool’s case for a broader Town Deal will need to be restated around better use of public spending, post-Covid, and economic recovery.</p> <p>a) NG provided the Board with an update on the Future High Streets Fund submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bid for £25 million was submitted in mid-July.</li> <li>• The bid is in a competitive process.</li> <li>• Since submitting the bid, the Government has asked for an updated submission.</li> <li>• The bid requested has now been reduced to £15.7m because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £8.6m has been awarded for two FHSF projects under the Getting Building Fund – Houndshell Phase 2 extension and Abingdon Street Market.</li> <li>○ MHCLG required Monitoring and Evaluation to be removed from all bids</li> <li>○ The Rail/Tram Loop study is deemed to be ineligible (£800k) nb as a result of this agreement has now been reached between the 3 local authorities (Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre) for a joint letter to be sent to the Minister of Transport, Grant Shapps. The letter will highlight the importance of this key piece of infrastructure and will ask what help is available to make it happen. The LEP and Lancashire County Council will be asked to support the letter. PC noted that the Rail/Tram Loop work was a good initiative that would make a big difference to Blackpool. NG to forward a copy of the letter to PM and SB when finalised.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">NG</p>
<p>5. Terms of Reference &amp; Governance Framework</p> <p>a) Blackpool Council’s Governance Team have drafted a simplified governance framework that is suitable for the purposes of the Town Deal Board which is expected to align its practices with those of the lead Council.</p> <p>b) NG noted that a formal register of interests is required to ensure transparency as some of the companies/ organisations represented by Board members may be beneficiaries of funding if Blackpool’s plans are accepted.</p> <p>c) The Board agreed to:</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the Terms of Reference and Governance Framework</li> <li>• Complete their individual register of interests</li> <li>• Provide a photo and short biography where they have not already done so</li> <li>• Note that all the above will be put on the Council’s website</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
<p>6. Towns Fund Business Case Appraisal and Assurance</p> <p>a) Further to the Heads of Terms discussed under agenda Item 4, GR presented an update on the Town Investment Plan Business Case Appraisal and Assurance processes which had been developed in the light of the Government’s guidance. The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackpool Council’s Growth and Prosperity team will manage the assurance process and senior officers will be allocated to lead each project in consultation with various stakeholders and in conjunction with the Board’s Community Engagement Team.</li> <li>• Specialist external and technical support will be procured to ensure that the business cases are developed to the required standard.</li> <li>• A Business Case appraisal procedure will be put into place and a Town Deal Investment Panel created, which will include skilled representatives from the private, public and voluntary sectors.</li> <li>• Blackpool Council will remain as the accountable body and be responsible for delivery of the projects.</li> <li>• A robust project management and delivery support system will be required to ensure efficiency.</li> </ul> <p>a) The proposed Blackpool Town Deal Investment Panel will follow a similar model used by the LEP Board and any recommendations on business cases made by the Panel will need to be signed off by the Town Deal Board and the Council’s Executive.</p> <p>b) NG noted that given the potentially imminent issuing of the Blackpool Heads of Terms either an additional Town Deal Board meeting or agreement by correspondence will be required once Blackpool has received the Government’s proposed Heads of Terms.</p> <p>c) The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note that once the Heads of Terms have been issued by the Government that these would need to be dealt with either by correspondence or by an additional Town Deal Board meeting</li> <li>• To note the current status of the Town Investment Plan and the procedures being developed to progress the business cases.</li> <li>• To approve the local appraisal process as set out in the report</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive nominations for a suitably experienced private sector representative of the Board to Chair the Investment Panel.</li> <li>• Approve the recommendation to merge the management of the Future High Street Fund schemes and Towns Fund Deal schemes approved by the Government.</li> </ul>	
<p>7. Community Engagement Update</p> <p>a) NG provided the Board with an overview of the purpose of the community engagement update report which took the stakeholder community engagement plan submitted as part of the Blackpool bid and explained how it was proposed to take forward the tailored engagement approach for each of the 9 proposed projects.</p> <p>b) TH commented that engagement with the voluntary sector needs to be built into Blackpool’s engagement approach to ensure that disadvantaged communities are heard and represented and it was noted that the purpose of the community mapping exercise was to support mechanisms using the VCFS Leaders group with a wider approach to ensure that points are made and fed back to the project leads.</p> <p>c) The issue of engagement with young people was raised and it was noted that discussions had already taken place with Blackpool Council’s Head Start, a project that aims to improve the mental health resilience of 16 year olds across Blackpool, with a view to involving younger people and capturing their views. It was also agreed to consider engaging with one of the Digital Media students at Blackpool and Fylde College, which may provide further ideas on how to reach out to different people.</p> <p>d) Other points raised included a request for street space to be included in future consultation activities re concerns of adjustments and space that is being taken away; for people to be engaged with the progress on the delivery of schemes when they get to site; and for there to be clear and simple communications about progress and positive messages about the transformation of the town.</p> <p>e) The Board noted the report and Board members were asked to feedback any further thoughts on key stakeholder and mechanisms table re engagement approaches.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>SB</p>
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>a) The Board thanked the team for all of their hard work.</p>	

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<p>b) A consultancy team have now been appointed to oversee the Multiversity feasibility study to be jointly funded by Blackpool Council and Blackpool &amp; The Fylde College.</p> <p>c) The Chair thanked everyone for joining the call.</p>	
<p>9. Next Steps</p> <p>a) Draft heads of terms to be circulated to Board members once received noting that at that stage they must be treated in confidence as required by the Government.</p>	<p>NG</p>
<p>10. Dates of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 13:00 – 15:00</li> <li>• Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 13:00 – 15:00</li> </ul> <p>a) It was noted that the frequency of future meetings would be reduced once the Heads of Terms had been signed off</p>	