



# Blackpool Town Deal Board meeting 14

Friday, 5 November 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

## Blackpool Town Deal Board

Paul Smith (Chair) (PS)	Business in the Community
Anna Blackburn (AB)	Beaverbrooks
Ben Mansford	Blackpool Football Club
Dick Cartmell (DC)	Together in Lancashire
Jane Cole (JC)	Blackpool Transport
Kate Shane (KS)	Merlin Entertainments
Neil Jack (NJ)	Blackpool Council
Richard Fee (RF)	Nikal
Scott Benton (SB)	MP for Blackpool South
Steve Williams (SW)	Force Technology
Tracy Hopkins (TH)	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre VCFS

## Also in attendance

Nick Gerrard (NG)	Blackpool Council
Robert Latham (RL)	Blackpool Council
David Slater (DS)	Blackpool Council
Kevin Sturley (KS)	Blackpool Council
Mark Gillingham (MG)	Blackpool Council
Michael Hodgson (MH)	Blackpool Council
Graham Cowley (GC)	BITC
Graham Russell (GR)	Amion
Rosie Jenkins (RJ)	Cities and Local Growth, BEIS/DHLUC

Notes and actions	By whom
<p>1. Welcome, apologies and introduction</p> <p>a) Apologies for absence received from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alan Cavill (Blackpool Council)</li> <li>• Bev Robinson (Blackpool &amp; The Fylde College)</li> <li>• David Gaffney (England Arts Council)</li> <li>• Heather Murray (DWP)</li> <li>• Paul Maynard (MP for Blackpool North)</li> <li>• Peter Cole (Chartered Surveyor)</li> </ul>	



Notes and actions	By whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Swann (Coolsilk)</li> <li>• Tina Redford (Left Coast)</li> <li>• Steve Fogg (Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Trust)</li> <li>• Trish Armstrong-Child (Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)</li> </ul>	
<p>2. Declaration of interests</p> <p>a) The following declarations of interest were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neil Jack (In respect of Blackpool Council-led projects)</li> <li>• Richard Fee: Blackpool Central relocation of Blackpool Courts.</li> </ul>	
<p>3. Minutes of meeting 13, 8 October 2021 and matters arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of meeting 13, 8 October 2021.</p> <p>b) NG updated the Board on the outcome of Blackpool’s Levelling-Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund bids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levelling Up Fund: Blackpool’s Round 1 bid was unsuccessful. Whilst this was very disappointing, feedback was now awaited from Government before bidding in Round 2 where Blackpool would still be eligible to bid for both Blackpool constituencies (for up to 2 x £20m).</li> <li>• Community Renewal: Four projects, worth £763,370, of the 12 included in Blackpool’s CRF bid had been successful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth Hub (Blackpool Council)</li> <li>○ Ready for Work (Inspira)</li> <li>○ Digital Museums (UCLAN)</li> <li>○ Innovation Catalysts (Lancaster University)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>c) It was noted that unsuccessful bids were only likely to receive high level feedback.</p> <p>d) All applicants had been informed, and those that were unsuccessful were reminded of the opportunity that would exist in the forthcoming Shared Prosperity Fund for which a 2022/2023 budget had been announced last week but the application process for which was yet to be published.</p> <p>e) SB informed the Board of his and Paul Maynard’s meeting with Neil O’Brien, the new Levelling-Up Minister and noted his disappointment at</p>	



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<p>Blackpool’s unsuccessful Levelling up fund bid. Whilst Blackpool was categorised in tier 1 (authorities in most need), bids were also scored against other components. The reasons for the lack of success and the way forward would be informed by the feedback that was to be received.</p> <p>f) SB also informed the Board of his future meeting with PM and the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, in which Blackpool’s priority status for Levelling Up would be emphasised and the broader need and opportunities to level-up Blackpool (beyond simply the Levelling Up Fund) would be emphasised including, for example, the housing benefit issue which disproportionately disadvantaged Blackpool.</p>	
<p>4. Town Deal Investment Panel (TDIP) minutes</p> <p>a) SW gave a recap of the TDIP’s last two meetings and the outcomes of the discussions held between Panel members and the external appraisers.</p> <p>b) The Board noted the minutes of the following TDIP meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting 9, 13 October 2021</li> <li>• Meeting 10, 27 October 2021</li> </ul>	
<p>5. The Edge business case</p> <p>a) SW gave a presentation in which he summarised the Edge business case and explained the appraisal process undertaken by the Town Deal Investment Panel. The Board received a recommendation paper in addition to the Business Case appraisal summary, the independent appraiser’s full appraisal and the full business case.</p> <p>b) DS provided a breakdown of the Enterprise Centre office space prices currently charged by the Get Started team and noted that a range of choices will be available to businesses looking to rent space within The Edge.</p> <p>c) The need for further office space in the Town Centre was questioned given that people are more home-based and noted other similar projects were struggling to let out their office space.</p>	



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<p>d) The Board were informed that as a result of the pandemic there is more demand for the type of service the Edge will offer as businesses are shedding larger offices and opting for a smaller serviced space split with home working. Reference was also made to the assessment report completed by Capita, which had verified the need for serviced office space.</p> <p>e) It was noted that there will need to be an ‘easy in’ and ‘easy out’ rent structure to avoid any empty costs i.e. business rates as lead in time will be the biggest risk. The main focus will need to be on getting businesses in.</p> <p>f) The Board were satisfied that the business case process was thorough, fit for purpose and robust and approved The Edge business case for sign off by Blackpool Council and submission to DLUHC.</p>	
<p>6. Blackpool central courts relocation business case</p> <p>a) SW gave a presentation in which he summarised the Blackpool Central Courts Relocation business case and explained the appraisal process undertaken by the Town Deal Investment Panel. The Board received a recommendation paper in addition to the Business Case appraisal summary, the independent appraiser’s full appraisal and the full business case. See below.</p> <p>b) The Board were satisfied that the business case process was thorough, fit for purpose and robust and approved the Blackpool Central Courts Relocation business case for sign off by Blackpool Council and submission to DLUHC</p> <p>c) RF then gave an update on the latest progress with the overall Blackpool Central development including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car Park funding deal nearly complete with a start on site scheduled in early 2022 for completion in 2023.</li> <li>• Designs for family entertainment centre to then follow.</li> <li>• Utility diversions starting on-site in January 2022.</li> <li>• Heritage Quarter funding being addressed.</li> </ul> <p>d) RF praised the collaborative work in progressing Blackpool Central/ Relocation of the Courts and thanked everyone involved.</p>	
<p>7. Next steps</p>	



Notes and actions	By whom
<p>a) NG gave a breakdown of the key dates and next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All summary business cases to be submitted by the 17 November.</li><li>• Youth Hub, Illuminations and Enterprise Zone summary business cases already submitted</li><li>• If approved funding would be available in December 2021.</li><li>• Funding for the remaining 4 business cases if approved would be available by March 2022, though an earlier indication of acceptability would be provided, possibly in January</li><li>• The Board would be kept apprised of progress.</li></ul>	<p><b>NG</b></p>
<p>8. Any other business</p> <p>a) In response to a question regarding the Government’s Levelling Up agenda, SB explained the purpose of Levelling-Up was to invest in public services in order to reduce the gaps in public health, attainment and other measures of deprivation and noted that Blackpool’s need for investment is greater than most other towns, a case that he and Paul Maynard were pursuing in Whitehall.</p>	
<p>9. Date of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friday, 12 November, 1:00pm</li></ul>	