



Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No 17 Friday, 20th May 2022, 1pm No 1, Bickerstaffe Square and via Microsoft Teams

Blackpool Town Deal Board

Paul Smith- Chair (PS)	Business in the Community
Bev Robinson (BR)	Blackpool & The Fylde College (via MS Teams)
Dick Cartmell (DC)	Together in Lancashire
Jane Cole (JC)	Blackpool Transport
Neil Jack (NJ)	Blackpool Council
Paul Maynard (PM)	MP for Blackpool North
Peter Cole (PC)	Chartered Surveyor
Richard Fee (RF)	Nikal
Steve Williams (SW)	Force Technology

In Attendance

Graham Cowley (GC)	BITC (via MS Teams)
Nick Gerrard (NG)	Blackpool Council
Robert Latham (RL)	Blackpool Council
Antony Lockley (AL)	Blackpool Council
Kate Staley (KS)	Blackpool Council
Kevin Sturley (KSt)	Blackpool Council
Michael Hodgson (MH)	Blackpool Council
Charlotte Schofield (BZ)	Cities and Local Growth, BEIS/DHLUC

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bev Robinson and Graham Cowley attended the meeting virtually via MS Teams. It was also noted that Helen Warren had replaced Heather Murray from DWP.</p> <p>b) Apologies received from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Cavill, Blackpool Council • Anna Blackburn, Beaverbrooks • David Gaffney, Arts Council • Helen Warren, DWP • Kate Shane, Merlin Entertainments 	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Swann, Coolsilk • Scott Benton, MP for Blackpool South • Steve Fogg, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust • Trish Armstrong-Childs, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust • Tracy Hopkins, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre VCFS • Tina Redford, Left Coast • Debbie Francis, Lancashire LEP 	
<p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) The following declarations of interest were noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revoe Community Sports Village: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil Jack – Blackpool FC Football Trust. 2. Multiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bev Robinson, Blackpool & The Fylde College • Richard Fee, Board member of Blackpool & The Fylde College. 3. Blackpool Central Courts Relocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Fee, Nikal. 4. Illuminations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Williams (only by dint of occupying the same building as the Illuminations team) 5. All Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil Jack – Blackpool Council who are involved in all 7 projects 	
<p>3. Meeting 16, 11 February 2022 Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of meeting 16 noting that Bev Robinson’s apologies needed to be recorded.</p> <p>b) Town Deal Board Terms of Reference:</p> <p>The Board noted that the revised Town Deal Board Terms of Reference as agreed at the last meeting were circulated and that an additional amendment would need to be made in the light of the proposed role the Board will undertake in respect of Blackpool’s Shared Prosperity Fund/Multiply schemes as referenced under item 6 on the agenda.</p> <p>c) Town Deal Investment Panel Terms of Reference:</p> <p>The Board noted that the revised Town Deal Investment Panel (TDIP) Terms of Reference as agreed at the last meeting were circulated and that an additional amendment would need to be made in the light of the proposed role the TDIP will undertake in respect of Blackpool’s Shared Prosperity Fund/Multiply schemes as referenced under item 6 on the agenda.</p>	<p>Nick Gerrard</p> <p>Nick Gerrard</p>



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>4. Town Deal Update / TDIP Review of Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NG presented a report on the progress made on the 7 Town Deal projects and spend with £2.238m included in the first claim to the end of March 2022. b) Whilst this was £1.272m less than the original profile the minimum threshold of expenditure required by Government was the 5% of up-front funding that had been paid (i.e. £1.975m) and this had been achieved. c) It was noted that variations in expenditure profiles were to be expected in a programme of this size and the specific reasons for the variations were explained in the report including the delays in the final sign-off of the Multiversity business case, the need to re-tender a large contract and some unsatisfactory tender returns having been received. All of the expenditure has been re-profiled and no resource would be lost to the programme. d) On the Multiversity project it was noted that the condition for a memo of understanding between the Council and Blackpool and The Fylde College had been signed and that Multiversity was now a priority scheme for a joint bid for the Levelling-Up Fund to secure its construction. To facilitate this the proposed building was to be reduced in size and work on the required business case is underway. e) The Board noted the Programme Risk Register and that construction inflation had been added as the biggest risk to the delivery of the programme. f) SW updated the Board on the outcome of the TDIP meeting on 11 May where the progress on the Town Deal Programme was reviewed. The Panel had questioned the underspend of the up-front funding, which was due to government delays, issues with suppliers and inflation, but that the TDIP were pleased with the work being done and the overall progress made so far. TDIP specifically requested more information as to how budgets will be managed going forward taking into account the impact of inflation and the possible risks this poses to the Town Deal projects and for this to be included specifically in future reporting. g) The Board discussed the handling of inflationary pressures noting that not all schemes were finalised so amendments to costings could be incorporated to ensure the budget was met but that this was an issue that would need to be kept under close review, especially when tenders were returned. h) It was also noted that large increases in construction costs would be seen in the next year which would increase the risk of possible corporate failures in the construction industry, impacting on supply chains and causing developers to pull back on projects until prices settle down. However, it was also noted that whilst cost inflation does pose a large risk, developments still need to proceed, otherwise progress would come to a standstill. 	



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<p>i) The Board noted the good progress being made with the overall Programme and the minutes of the Town Deal Investment Panel of 11 May, 2022.</p>	
<p>5. Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Programme Update</p> <p>a) The Board noted the progress with the 4 Blackpool Community Renewal Fund schemes and the Government’s offer to extend Community Renewal Fund project activity until December 2022 as some projects had been slower to take off due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. All four of Blackpool’s CRF schemes have requested an extension until the end of September 2022 and are currently on track to deliver their projected results.</p> <p>b) The Board noted the progress being made with the overall CRF projects and that these had also been scrutinised by the Town Deal Investment Panel on 11 May on behalf of the Board.</p>	
<p>6. Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) / Multiply</p> <p>a) The Board received a short presentation on the report considered by Blackpool Council’s Executive at its meeting on 16 May where it was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the guidelines issued by Government for the Shared Prosperity Fund. • To submit the required Blackpool SPF Investment Plan by 1 August 2022 to access the pre-determined flexible allocation of £5,114,423 (capital and revenue), noting what scheme interventions it is choosing to prioritise and setting out measurable outcomes to be delivered, with the final content of the Investment Plan to be delegated to the Chief Executive after consultation after with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). • To submit the required Multiply Investment Plan (focused on adult numeracy) by 30 June 2022 to access the pre-determined Multiply funding allocation of £770,711 with the final content of this Investment Plan to be delegated to the Chief Executive after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). • To approve the proposed approach to utilise the Town Deal Board (which incorporates representation from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors), with its sub-group, the Town Deal Investment Panel, as the basis of the required “Local Partnership Group” for engaging stakeholders (with the Council as the accountable body), with membership to be kept under review as necessary. <p>b) Blackpool’s allocation of £5.8M Shared Prosperity Fund/ Multiply was noted as a great opportunity. However, the ambition and scale of SPF in comparison to the amount of funding received for a three year period is considered a</p>	



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<p>challenge and ‘expectation management’ will be vital in delivering the SPF schemes successfully.</p> <p>c) All SPF schemes will be required to adhere to set criteria and show what the expenditure will achieve over the next three years and contribute to priorities set out in Blackpool’s key strategies. A framework for the criteria and Investment Plan is to be drafted and potential schemes will be discussed by the Town Deal Investment Panel whose membership will be enhanced for this purpose. The final draft Investment Plan will then be presented to the Town Deal Board (either in a special meeting or via email in view of the timescales) prior to final sign off by Blackpool’s Executive under its delegation arrangements by the required deadline.</p> <p>d) In discussion it was noted that although SPF replaces EU funding, it is not expected simply to be used for funding roll-over EU projects but to deliver those projects (including new ones) that will have maximum impact in Blackpool.</p> <p>e) The Board noted the report and agreed the proposed arrangements for developing the SPF and Multiply Investment Plans.</p>	
<p>7. Levelling Up Fund</p> <p>a) AL explained to the Board that following the Government’s publication of the White Paper, ‘Levelling-Up the United Kingdom’ in February 2022, which identifies twelve missions to improve local living standards. Blackpool was now identified as a ‘pilot area’ for the initiative and detailed discussions are underway with Government and Homes England to help to develop pilot proposals with a major emphasis on housing quality in the inner areas of Blackpool.</p> <p>b) AL explained that whilst ‘housing’ is the larger part of the Levelling Up agenda the White Paper addresses much more and it is hoped that the impacts for Blackpool will lead to increased employment, more educational opportunities and better health outcomes.</p> <p>c) In discussing this vital agenda the Board recognised that it presented great opportunity for Blackpool to address some of its deep-seated challenges and to build on the success of the large-scale regeneration initiatives underway. It was hoped that by the autumn further announcements of progress would be made by Government.</p> <p>d) The Board noted the report and thanked Antony for his presentation.</p>	



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<p>8. Communications Plan</p> <p>a) KS delivered a presentation (attached) explaining the approach taken to communicate Town Deal project activity. This included a summary of how project news, updates and notices are being communicated and what is being achieved from this. The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings taking place between the project managers and the Comms team for essential information sharing. • The importance of Branding to ensure residents know all they need to know about the seven Town Deal projects, all of which have been placed under the 'Making Blackpool Better' banner. • The importance of communicating project milestones as some of these may temporarily have a negative impact on surrounding businesses. It is crucial to explain such impacts i.e. road closures and note the positives of the projects and what is trying to be achieved in the long run. • The Youth Hub (The Platform) is the most advanced in terms of Comms to promote the service, which has had an impact on the number of referrals the service has received. • It is important to develop a plan to communicate 'what Blackpool is now' to help change public perceptions and opinions that are based on historic views of 'what Blackpool was'. <p>b) The Board noted the report and thanked Kate for her presentation.</p>	
<p>9. Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>a) Funded through the Welcome Back Fund, CBRE were commissioned to oversee a review and update the Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan following engagement with a wide-range of stakeholders. On 16 May the Council's Executive approved the Strategy and outline Action Plan noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of this document in guiding the future direction of strategic development in the town centre, coordinating action and in supporting the development of future funding bids and business cases relating to activity within the town centre boundary. • Confirming that the Town Centre Strategy and outline Action Plan will be used as the basis of having further engagement with key partners to finalise the Action Plan including the identification of owners and timelines and to agree appropriate governance arrangements for overseeing its effective implementation. 	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreeing that the Action Plan be updated annually, and• For an associated communications plan to be prepared to make it clear that the Town Centre Strategy and outline Action Plan has been prepared to build on the successes of the Growth and Prosperity Programme currently delivering major change in the Town Centre. <p>b) The Board noted the report and that the Strategy to be circulated to the Board.</p>	Nick Gerrard
<p>10. Any Other Business</p> <p>a) It was noted that Blackpool had recently had a strong presence and received excellent feedback and contacts at the UK's Real Estate Infrastructure and Investment Forum in Leeds attended by circa 4,500 people from the property industry.</p> <p>b) It was also noted that the Council and Muse Developments had received the Letting Deal of the Year award at the prestigious NW Insider's Property Awards.</p>	
<p>11. Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>a) Friday, 2nd September 2022, 1pm-3pm (Winter Gardens Conference Centre).</p> <p>b) Friday, 18th November 2022, 1pm-3pm (Venue tbc).</p>	