



Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No. 20

Friday, 24 February 2023, 1:00pm

Blackpool and the Fylde College, Park Road Campus and MS Teams*

Blackpool Town Deal Board

Paul Smith - Chair	(PS)	Business in the Community
John Sullivan	(JS)	The Big Picture
Mark Robinson	(MR)	Ellandi
Paul Maynard	(PM)	MP for Blackpool North
Peter Cole	(PC)	Chartered Surveyor
Steve Williams	(SW)	Force Technology
Dick Cartmell	(DC)	Together in Lancashire
Tina Redford	(TR)	Leftcoast
Scott Benton	(SB)	MP for Blackpool South
Neil Jack	(NJ)	Blackpool Council
Tracy Hopkins	(TH)	CVS
Jane Cole*	(JC)	Blackpool Transport
Bev Robinson*	(BR)	Blackpool & The Fylde College
Helen Warren*	(HW)	DWP
Kate Shane*	(KS)	Merlin Entertainment
Ben Mansford*	(BM)	Blackpool Football Club
Debbie Francis*	(DF)	Lancashire LEP

In Attendance

Nick Gerrard	(NG)	Blackpool Council
Robert Latham	(RL)	Blackpool Council
Kevin Sturley	(KSt)	Blackpool Council
Mark Gillingham	(MG)	Blackpool Council
Richard Williams	(RW)	Blackpool Council
Tracey Betts*	(TB)	Blackpool Council
Graham Cowley	(GC)	BITC

Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all (past and present) for their attendance and contributions now and over the preceding three years.</p> <p>b) He noted two members had recently tendered their resignations (Anna Blackburn and Peter Swann), and also noted the Terms of Reference for</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>the Town Deal Board which state members should be reappointed or refreshed every three years, so without encouraging anyone to leave this was now due for consideration. No additional requests to resign were raised and therefore all existing members will be reappointed for a further three years.</p> <p>c) Apologies were received from the following: Alan Cavill, Blackpool Council David Gaffney, Arts Council Steve Fogg, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Richard Fee, Nikal Trish Armstrong-Child, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Charlotte Schofield, BEIS</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) The Chair asked members of the Board to declare any interests. No new interests were declared. The following previously notified interests were recorded: Bev Robinson, Blackpool & Fylde College Principal and Chief Executive: Multiversity. Steve Williams (Force Technology): Blackpool Illuminations. Mark Robinson (Ellandi): Chair of the High Streets Task Force. Ben Mansford: Blackpool Football Club</p>	
<p>3. Meeting 19, 18th November 2022 Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of meeting No 19.</p> <p>b) Item 4c: The DHLUC return was sent to the Board for comment and subsequently submitted to DHLUC.</p> <p>c) Item 4f: The matter of reporting spend versus the September approved figures leading to greater 'red' ratings that didn't reflect reality was raised. This position is forced by DLUHC not having formally approved submitted revised profiles.</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>4. Town Deal Update</p> <p>a) Overall Programme Progress: The Board noted the overall position on the progress of the Town Deal programme as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The top rated risks for each project are reported as derived from the individual project risk registers.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The risks and project progress are reviewed in detail on the Board’s behalf by the Town Deal Investment Panel (TDIP)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">No issues have been raised by DHLUC which is a positive thing. They require multiple detailed returns that would provide the basis of any concerns they may raise and keeping them content is a priority for the Programme Management Office (PMO).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The overall amber rating for programme delivery and risk indicates everything is satisfactory</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The red spend rating is primarily due to having to measure progress versus the out-of-date September 2021 profile which is unrealistic. Table 2 in the report shows the position versus the latest re-profile figures and is a more realistic position.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The TDIP had asked what other cohort one Town Deal towns were experiencing regarding underspend. Two responses had been received from Darlington and Torquay – each has spent circa £2.6million of approximately £20 million profiled with Torquay now undergoing a ‘deep-dive’ audit by DHLUC. This demonstrates that DLUHC will review matters if they have any concerns.</p> <p>b) Project Progress:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Enterprise Zone: There have been many hurdles placed in its path by statutory bodies but the project is now set to strive forward over the next year with work scheduled to commence on the major highway scheme.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Edge: As the Board have been previously advised this has been the most challenging project owing to the impacts of inflation and high tender prices. The review of costs is nearing completion and a final decision can then be made on the way ahead.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Illuminations Rejuvenation: presentation given under Item 11.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Blackpool Central Courts relocation: Following the November announcement of HMCTS receiving £40m funding to build a new courts facility, HMCTS are now getting on with designs for the new</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>facilities and are programmed to vacate the current buildings by March 2025.</p> <p>Revoe Community Sports Village: The area north of the stadium has now been cleared and planning permission has been secured for phase one of the works including the sports pitches. The planning application for phase two (new East Stand) is to be submitted in the spring. Site assembly activity is ongoing.</p> <p>DC commented that residents close to the site were worried that, should the football club be relegated this year that progress would stop and the area would be a building site until Blackpool returned to the Championship.</p> <p>BM stated he had met with Avison Young earlier that day (the club's agents for the scheme) to tell them the owner wants activity on the sports pitches to proceed as soon as possible. As far as he is concerned it is 'full steam ahead' on phase 1 of the scheme (the sports facilities); however, there is a significant hurdle to overcome with a long established business potentially refusing to move, which would cause a redesign or a CPO process. He also reassured the group that the owner was fully committed to his investment in phase one. Things may not be progressing as fast as residents and some businesses would like but it is going to happen.</p> <p>Multiversity: Following the successful £40m Levelling-Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 bid was excellent news for the Multiversity, this being one of the largest awards in the country. This now means that the £65m overall scheme including the £9m Towns Fund site assembly monies has all the funding in place with the balance of £16m of Council funding which will be prudentially borrowed and then paid back by the College under the terms of its lease is going to the Council's Executive for sign-off next Monday (and was subsequently approved). The next stage will be finalising the agreement with the College.</p> <p>In respect of the Town Deal site assembly project the Council has written to owners / occupiers within the affected areas previously but will be in contact again soon with all residents regarding issues such as compensation, tenancy issues and to maintain understanding of the process. Several properties have been acquired by negotiation (all owner occupied) but progress is slower than hoped (each property and the owner's circumstances are unique, so all</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>acquisitions take time). If all properties cannot be acquired through negotiation the Council will need to make a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) later in the year.</p> <p>The Platform: This project only just become a Town Deal scheme as it started with Community Renewal Fund and has made great progress, with PR recently given to the one hundredth client to secure a job.</p> <p>c) The Board raised a number of questions as follows:</p> <p>BR asked, if any project becomes unviable, what happens to the funding?</p> <p>NG responded that DLUHC have made it clear that we cannot introduce a new project into the programme but we should be able to make the case to reallocate any unused funding within the approved programme subject to presenting satisfactory justification.</p> <p>SB stated the Multiversity project is great but residents are anxious about the next steps – do we know the timetable for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and what finance has been set aside for compensation?</p> <p>NG responded that the CPO timetable is not yet firm as it depends on progress to be made voluntarily but is expected to become necessary towards the end of this year. If the Council decides it needs to go ahead to maintain progress this situation would be made clear to all those who have an interest in the site including residents. They would be able to object and eventually the case for the CPO and any objections would be considered by the Secretary of State who would decide if a public inquiry was necessary. This process would likely take at least a year, possibly more.</p> <p>Compensation monies were part of the £9 million Towns Fund allocation and would be paid to eligible interests including owners and residents.</p> <p>NJ commented that very few of this type of situation actually requires a CPO. A lot of the delays are associated with ownership of properties being unclear; when this issue is resolved negotiations usually achieve a result.</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>NG stated that the Council recognises how challenging this activity is for residents and, consequently, employs an Officer (based independently from the negotiating & project teams) who will act as an honest broker in these matters to deal with residents' concerns.</p> <p>PM stated, as MP for the north end of the borough, he was aware of concerns from Wyre BC which had been persuaded to support the Multiversity LUF bid in return for better benefits than would accrue to the wider Fylde Coast – Wyre BC isn't represented in this forum so he was acting on their behalf and would like to know what additional benefits Wyre BC could expect from the Multiversity.</p> <p>BR stated Wyre BC residents would enjoy the same benefits from having the Multiversity as the rest of the Fylde Coast including potentially better access to opportunities and students for Wyre businesses because of its proximity.</p> <p>NJ stated there was a Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting next week where this matter would probably be discussed.</p> <p>MR asked if there had been any moderation in the problems presented by inflation since the last meeting.</p> <p>NG responded saying that it was interesting that as prices were likely to fall because of the resulting cancellation of lots of schemes owing to higher costs this was beginning to force contractors to be competitive again, so fixed price contracts now may not be as beneficial as they were although with the Town Deal we do not have the luxury of waiting as we have a limited time to expend the funds, so may not be able make the best of this emerging situation.</p> <p>PC asked what was still to do on the Multiversity project?</p> <p>NG responded to say acquisition being underway, building designs were next, followed by securing planning permission (noting planning permission would be required before a CPO could be made).</p> <p>PC asked if the end of 2024 was the earliest possible start date for construction.</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>NG responded to say that is correct and that would enable a first term starting for the College in September 2026.</p> <p>TR asked how the Multiversity would fit with the Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan.</p> <p>NG responded saying it would be addressed through the planning application process. He also noted that the intention was to achieve a BREEAM excellent design and a carbon neutral operation in use.</p>	
<p>5. Town Deal Investment Panel Minutes 15 February 2023</p> <p>a) SW gave an update on the TDIP’s review of progress: The TDIP first reviewed the programme then the individual projects and were happy with the new format used for the presentation of papers, particularly the new table 2 in the Town Deal Update report that gives a much more realistic view on the state of the projects that would be more in line with the quarterly updates expected.</p> <p>Having risks and comprehensive milestones and outputs information within the papers is very helpful. The TDIP is pleased the PMO is willing to react to requests and learn from the meetings.</p> <p>TDIP next scrutinised the under spend and was content that DLUHC is happy, especially being assured there are good reasons for the delays experienced.</p> <p>They believe the current PMO processes works well and that the quarterly claims schedule means the PMO can keep on top of arising issues.</p> <p>The information about other first wave Town Deals spending progress was both useful and reassuring in light of the relative position we are in.</p> <p>Inflation remains the main issue needing attention but appears to be easing.</p> <p>In conclusion the TDIP doesn’t believe there is a chance of claw back or sanctions from DLUHC at present.</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>They conclude the individual projects fall into three broad categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Illuminations and The Platform, which are on plan and enjoying success. ○ Revoe and the Enterprise Zone unavoidably behind but justifiably delayed (planning and other statutory factors). ○ Courts and Multiversity, which having been the subject of massive announcements recently are poised to move forward with promise. <p>TDIP is confident the projects are mostly moving forward and the issues are being managed well with the exception being The Edge where TDIP is reassured knowing the monies can be redistributed if the project cannot go ahead</p> <p>b) The Board noted the report and the minutes of the TDIP meeting of 15 February 2023 and thanked the TDIP for their work</p>	
<p>6. Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Programme Update</p> <p>a) The Board noted the following progress:</p> <p>All schemes are now complete.</p> <p>Nearly all of the funding was spent; two were sanctioned (in agreement with TDIP and the Council’s Section 151 Officer) because they failed to achieve all their contracted outputs.</p> <p>Although the sanctions were not severe it was important to demonstrate an even hand and the competence to manage the follow-on Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Programme.</p> <p>Despite over achieving on contracted results, The Platform under spent.</p> <p>The final report for the programme was submitted on time in January.</p> <p>We have not yet heard anything from DLUHC regarding this programme.</p> <p>c) The Board raised a number of questions/observations as follows:</p> <p>TR observed that the lessons learned from the evaluation of these projects would be useful for organisations in the future and asked how this information can be accessed</p> <p>RL responded the evaluation reports were embedded in the Town Deal Board papers and were published on the Council’s website</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>PM stated throughputs are more important than outputs and the monitoring process was reporting on activity not effectiveness; future projects might benefit from being monitored differently</p> <p>TH asked if the cost benefits per person were available and if future projects could provide more information on the benefits accrued in Blackpool, especially as some reported beneficiaries were not Blackpool residents</p> <p>RL stated due to resource limitations the PMO had to concentrate its activity on addressing DLUHC’s specific requirements.</p> <p>SW stated CRF was a successful precursor for SPF with CRF providing the vehicle to develop processes; however, further amendments and enhancements can be proposed in the Town Deal Board.</p> <p>d) The Board noted the report.</p>	
<p>7. Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)</p> <p>a) The Board noted the following progress:</p> <p>13 project applications were originally submitted and the entire programme was approved with a £5.1 million allocation.</p> <p>The original rules stated all the approved year one allocation (2022/ 2023) to the end of March had to be defrayed, but late approval has meant DLUHC approval to some of this money being moved into the 2023/ 2024 year subject to a coherent plan being provided in the forthcoming May claim was now possible.</p> <p>To try to align with the original requirement the Council tendered for two projects at risk (so delivery would ‘hit the ground running’ when approval was received). The successful applicants were The Volunteer Centre (with partners) and Business in the Community.</p> <p>A Shared Prosperity Project Board (SPPB) of all Project managers and other support services meets monthly. The intention is to take information from the SPPB to TDIP and for activity to then be reported to the Town Deal Board.</p> <p>We are slightly ahead of the game but are currently concentrating on activity and spend before financial year end.</p> <p>The national ‘Multiply’ programme is being overseen by the Adult Services team and was not brought before TDIP /Town Deal Board as</p>	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>it had its own Investment Plan and was not part of the approved Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.</p> <p>b) The Board noted the report.</p>	
<p>8. Levelling Up Fund (LUF)</p> <p>a) The Board noted:</p> <p>Three schemes were submitted into LUF Round 2, The Town Centre Access Scheme, the Post Office redevelopment and the Multiversity, which is the only successful bid.</p> <p>It was written into the LUF2 terms of reference that ministers could impose new criteria post publishing – hence the inclusion of the rule that a successful LUF1 authority could not win in LUF2 and only the highest scoring bid from any authority could win in Round 2. Hence we know the Multiversity was our highest scoring bid which meant that the other two bids could not have been successful however strong they might be.</p> <p>There will be a LUF3 but we will have to scrutinise the bid criteria closely to assess eligibility.</p> <p>SB stated it is unlikely success in LUF2 will prevent success in LUF3 as ministers do not want authorities to waste time and money.</p> <p>BR thanked NG and his team for their efforts on the LUF bid. PC endorsed BR’s thanks.</p> <p>b) The Board noted the report</p>	
<p>9. Town Deal Community Engagement update</p> <p>a) The Board received a brief update on the current position from TB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Managers have been asked for information on activity already undertaken, activity underway and activity proposed to be undertaken in the next 24 months and responses are still being assembled. • It was noted how the Infusion Research team is supporting the Platform via giving young beneficiaries personal feedback forms half 	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>way through the support process, that are then analysed, and help to identify themes and work with the beneficiaries and The Platform to inform future engagement activities</p> <p>b) The Board noted the report.</p>	
<p>10. Illuminations Rejuvenation presentation</p> <p>a) Richard Williams, manager of the Illuminations Department gave a presentation on progress with the Illuminations Rejuvenation project.</p> <p>b) The presentation covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades delivered. Infrastructure improvements. Installation of supply network in Talbot Square and Talbot Road. Extension to Illuminations season which has now been delivered for 2 years and year 3 was announced earlier this month. Illuminations Extension Promenade Footfall: 2022 was 20% ahead of 2021, 59% ahead of 2019. Car Park Patronage: 25,000 more drivers used car parks during the Illuminations extension compared to 2019. Town Deal features delivered including Odyssey, the biggest feature so far completed by the department and it has been well received - delivered in partnership with Lancaster University Golden Mile: 21 large scale street features between Central and North piers designed by Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and very popular Equipment Purchases. Visitor numbers: 20% increase on 2021. The information gathered indicates more visitors with visits spread further over the whole period of the Illuminations season rather than just the traditional nine weeks. Odyssey and the projections will be operational for the 2023 February half-term. Sustainability: 4% reductions in electricity consumption largely down to the use of LED technology. <p>Community and working with Blackpool & the Fylde College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three T-level electrical students to undertake three hundred hours work experience in the Department. ○ Level 3 engineering diploma students to undertake twenty hours work experience in the Department. 	



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An apprentice scheme is scheduled to commence in September training Maintenance and Operating Engineering Technicians for the future. <p>Future features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spitfire Island (as Gynn Square is now known) current loaned spitfire (from Hangar 42) is being recalled but three replacement spitfires (representing the three spitfires bought through collections in Blackpool during World War Two) are currently under construction and targeted for display in 2024 ○ Chila Kumari Burman large tableau design well advanced ○ Bruce Alfred large tableau designs quite well advanced ○ Potentially will look in the future to engage with more different / diverse artists ○ Lightpool: A new projection mapping experience for the tower projections to debut at the launch of Lightpool. ○ Large scale new light art commission. The final design will be selected after an open call to artist worldwide. The piece will be manufactured at Lightworks and debut in the 2023 Lightpool festival. This artwork will be designed with touring in mind to assist with income generation. <p>c) PM stated that to change some negative perceptions there was a need to major on the way the Illuminations gives rise to local opportunities.</p> <p>d) MR asked if drones had been considered. RW stated they have been investigated and he thinks they may replace fireworks (however, the weather in Blackpool will make the use of drones challenging).</p> <p>e) The Board noted the excellent presentation and progress and thanked Richard Williams.</p>	
<p>11. Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Multiversity Project Adjustment Request: In the light of the successful Multiversity LUF bid NG noted the need to submit a Project Adjustment Request (PAR) to DHLUC to approve results previously used to justify the Town Deal ‘phase 1’ scheme being moved under the LUF ‘phase 2’ scheme and also to re-profile spend. Before it goes to DLUHC it will need Town Deal Board approval. The Board agreed to delegate approval of the form to the Chair on behalf of the Board.</p>	<p>Paul Smith</p>



Notes and Actions	By Whom
<p>b) PC stated what has been achieved in the last six months is great – how can we make something of this (PR & good news stories)? NG responded saying that PR was an ongoing activity as and when something of note had been achieved. Opportunities to trumpet Blackpool’s overall progress with the Town Deal programme as a critical part of the Growth and Prosperity Programme were also pursued including attending the Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum in Leeds (4,500 people a recent Place NW event amongst several others.</p> <p>c) The Chair thanked members and closed the meeting.</p>	
<p>12. Next Meeting :</p> <p>Friday, 9 June 2023, 1pm-3pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	