

Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No 5

Friday, 10th July 2020, 13:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Blackpool Town Deal Board Members

- (PS) Paul Smith (Chair) BITC
- (AC) Alan Cavill Blackpool Council
- (AB) Anna Blackburn Beaverbrooks
- (BR) Bev Robinson Blackpool & The Fylde College
- (DG) David Gaffney Arts Council
- (DC) Dick Cartmell Together in Lancashire
- (JC) Jane Cole Blackpool Transport
- (NL) Nicki Latham Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- (NJ) Neil Jack Blackpool Council
- (SW) Steve Williams Force Technology
- (TH) Tracy Hopkins Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre VCFS

In Attendance

- (NG) Nick Gerrard Blackpool Council
- (RL) Rob Latham Blackpool Council
- (AL) Antony Lockley Blackpool Council
- (MG) Mark Gillingham Blackpool Council
- (SBu) Scott Butterfield Blackpool Council
- (MH) Michael Hodgson Blackpool Council
- (KO'C) Katherine O'Connor Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS/MHCLG
- (GR) Graham Russell Amion
- (JS) Jeff Scales Locality

Notes & Actions	By Whom
<p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which had to be held by electronic means owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>b) The Chair introduced David Gaffney from the Arts Council to his first meeting. David confirmed that he will be the representative of England</p>	

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<p>Arts Council to attend all future meetings and he would confirm if his role will also be to represent Historic England, heritage and other cultural bodies and partners at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>c) Nicki Latham from the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was also at her first meeting representing Kevin McGee.</p> <p>d) Apologies for absence were noted from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Murray – DWP • Kate Shane – Merlin Entertainments • Kevin McGee – Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust • Linton Brown – Blackpool FC • Nick Payne – Nikal • Paul Maynard – MP, Blackpool North • Peter Swann – Coolsilk • Scott Benton – MP, Blackpool South • Steve Fogg – Lancashire LEP • Tina Redford – Left Coast <p>e) The Chair noted that some of those who had sent apologies were at the announcement being made at the same time by the Vice Chair of the Conservative Party to hold their spring 2022 conference in Blackpool. This was very welcome news which it is estimated will bring £2.5M of income into the town and will hopefully lead to a return of the Conservative’s annual conference. The Chair also noted the Vice Chair’s statement that “Blackpool and the North of England are a key part of the Government’s plan to level-up England”.</p> <p>f) The Chair highlighted that whilst the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and finalise the approach to the Town Deal bid there was also a series of other resources from which the town hoped to benefit including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackpool is bidding for £25 million to regenerate the town centre from the Future High Streets Fund (another part of the Towns Fund). • In addition Blackpool has submitted details of two of its Future High Street Fund projects following the Government’s recent request for ‘shovel ready projects’ the outcome of which was awaited, and • The town will also receive £1 million accelerated funding from the Towns Fund to be spent by March 2021. <p>g) It was noted that a press statement would be released later today detailing Blackpool’s intention to bid for 11 projects and £25m of Future High Street Fund (noting that this is a competitive process and</p>	<p>DG</p>

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<p>that most places were likely to receive significantly less than the maximum), which will include details and plans for future projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houndshell Phase 2 Extension • Abingdon Street Market • Former Post Office • Digital Infrastructure • An Innovation Partnership • Fylde Coast Rail Study <p>h) The Chair informed the Board that further guidance from the Government on the Towns Fund was eventually received on 15th June. This paved the way for Blackpool's final submission and strategic Town Deal which would address not only a bid for Towns Fund monies but also 'asks' of other Government interventions to support the town's ambitions not only to address economic development but also social deprivation and other issues emerging from the community engagement exercise.</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>a) The Chair asked for all Board members to submit any declarations of interest that they have in any of the schemes outlined in the Town Investment Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BR declared an interest re the Multiversity project as Principal of Blackpool and the Fylde College. • NJ declared an interest in the Southern Quarter Project as a Trustee of Blackpool FC Football Trust 	
<p>3. Minutes of Meeting No 4, 5th June 2020 and Matters Arising</p> <p>a) The Board approved the minutes of 5th June 2020 meeting subject to the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF's attendance to be noted. • KO'C is employed by BEIS but works in the Cities and Local Growth Unit, a joint unit between the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Growth (MHCLG). <p>b) On Matters Arising it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Council membership had been resolved as above 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Deal further guidance was now published and circulated • The minutes and papers of the Town Deal Board have been published on the Council's website 	
<p>4. Terms of Reference</p> <p>a) NG noted that the further guidance now received from the Government states that they expect the Town Deal Board to align with the governance standards and policies of the lead Council. A simplified version on guidance re code of conduct and declarations of interest is being put together by Blackpool Council's governance team which Board members will be expected to follow.</p> <p>a) Governance documentation and a final version of the terms of reference to be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p>b) Board members were requested to submit a photograph and short biography, which will be placed on the Council's website.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All board members</p>
<p>5. Community Engagement</p> <p>a) JS presented a detailed report and gave a presentation via Microsoft Teams which contained results of the recent community engagement work overseen by Locality. A copy of the presentation would be sent to Board members.</p> <p>b) JS noted that the community engagement exercise worked well and the final results were as good as they could be given the tight timescale in which to complete the work and not being able to carry out much face to face engagement due to the Coronavirus. The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6603 visitors to Blackpool Commonplace and 1119 individuals responding • 23 Resident Interviews • 26 Stakeholder Interviews • 26 young people (13-24) interviewed, 10 participating in a facilitated focus group, and submissions received from 3 organisations, which had undertaken engagement with young people • 15 older people (65-95) interviewed • 11 residents interviewed who were, or had recently, experienced significant disadvantage (including addiction, homelessness, offending, severe economic disadvantage) 	<p style="text-align: center;">NG</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 447 identifying an interest in participating in future engagement • Overall, 69% of responses were positive with less than 10% negative. • From the exercise arose an expectation that the website would be used for other developments in order to gauge public opinion. • The Commonplace website is still live and closes mid-July. <p>c) The top ten ideas and proposals related to housing (bringing empty homes into use, improving the quality of private renting and housing for families and vulnerable people), improving the town centre environment and retail; creating new, high quality jobs; mental health services; skills/employment support for adults and supporting young people into work/education.</p> <p>d) The priorities for investment were summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Market • Strengthen and broaden the tourist offer • Town Centre regeneration • Attract new businesses including technology • Youth services • Transport • Mental Health • Addressing homelessness <p>With the following underlying principles to guide decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining investment priorities and avoid diluting the investment • across too many projects • Joining up the themes • Sustainability testing • Lever further investment <p>e) The Chair noted that some of the priorities from the community engagement, whilst clearly priorities for the town, went beyond the immediate scope and focus of the Towns Fund (e.g. re deprivation and mental health) which is focused on economic regeneration projects.</p> <p>f) Members of the Board congratulated JS on completing an excellent piece of work and noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the linked themes re health, housing and youth should be aligned with the town’s regeneration projects. • The beach being a key asset to be exploited • The opportunity for some quick wins related to transport 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A check and challenge session was to be held with the Towns Hub next week to help to complete the assessment and discuss the implications for the bid. <p>b) The final draft of the Town Investment Plan needs to be considered as a comprehensive submission for a wider programme of interventions and should reflect the community engagement information captured by the Locality team. However, when deciding where the Towns Fund will be spent it will be important to make sure that the Investment Plan meets all the eligibility criteria. An assessment of the investment plan will be based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of what will be achieved against an identified need. • Strategy and rationale of the town's economic vision. • Partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders. <p>c) The Chair noted that the Board's role was as an advisory group to the Council and sought NJ's view on the scale of the bid. NJ noted that further information is required to ensure that the projects and schemes being considered are viable and eligible (e.g. excluding those which were revenue funded or could be funded from other potential sources such as Homes England) and that the risks that come with applying for the £50 million are identified. Blackpool was ambitious and the Town Prospectus encapsulated those ambitions and the scale of investment needed that had been identified meant that Blackpool should bid for as much as it needs.</p> <p>d) The Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To submit the Town Investment Plan (TIP) and Town Deal bid in the first wave by 31st July which would mean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft TIP to be circulated to the Board on Wed. 22nd July ○ Comments to be received – by Monday 27th July ○ Town Investment Plan to be submitted by 31st July 2020 • To note the progress made and the indicative programme of high priority projects for inclusion in the bid • To agree to bid for up to £50 million. 	<p>NG & GR</p> <p>All board members</p> <p>NG</p>
<p>7. Next Steps</p> <p>a) Draft Stakeholder engagement plan circulated for comment on 17th July</p> <p>b) Draft Town Investment Plan circulated for comment on 22nd July</p>	

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c) Final Town Deal submission made on 31 st July	
<p>8. Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>Noted that these would continue to be set up as Microsoft Teams meetings until further notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday, 18th September 13:00 – 15:00• Friday, 16th October 13:00 – 15:00• Friday, 13th November 13:00 – 1500• Friday, 11th December 13:00 – 15:00	