

Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No 9

Friday, 12th March 2021, 13:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Blackpool Town Deal Board

- Paul Smith (Chair) (PS) Business in the Community
- Neil Jack (NJ) Blackpool Council
- Alan Cavill (AC) Blackpool Council
- Anna Blackburn (AB) Beaverbrooks
- Ben Mansford (BM) Blackpool Football Club
- Bev Robinson (BR) Blackpool & The Fylde College
- Dick Cartmell (DC) Together in Lancashire
- Heather Murray (HM) Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Kate Shane (KS) Merlin Entertainments
- Paul Maynard (PM) MP for Blackpool North
- Peter Cole (PC) Chartered Surveyor
- Tracy Hopkins (TH) Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre CVS
- Richard Fee (RF) Nikal
- Steve Williams (SW) Force Technology
- Tina Redford (TR) LeftCoast
- Tracy Hopkins (TH) Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre VCFS

In Attendance

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

| Notes and Actions | By Whom |
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| <p>1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction</p> <p>a) Apologies for absence were noted from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Cole (Blackpool Transport) • David Gaffney (Arts Council) • Peter Swann (Coolsilk) • Scott Benton (MP for Blackpool South) • Steve Fogg (Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) • Kevin McGee (Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) | |

| Notes and Actions | By Whom |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) The Chair welcomed Richard Fee, Investment Director and Chairman of Nikal, who would be on the Board in place of Nick Payne. c) The Chair also advised that Stephen Fogg, who had resigned as LEP Chair, would remain on the Board in his new capacity as Chair of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. d) Lancashire LEP membership would be addressed when a new Chair has been appointed later this year | |
| <p>2. Declaration of Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) None, as there was no planned discussions of the schemes during the meeting. | |
| <p>3. Minutes of Meeting No 8, 15th January 2021 and Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Board approved the minutes of meeting no. 8, 15th January 2021 <p style="padding-left: 20px;">On Matters Arising it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Town Deal Investment Panel Update – Steve Williams reported that following the agreement to the process for seeking an additional member of the TDIP at the last meeting, Wendy Swift, former CEO of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been appointed as a member of the TDIP. It was also noted that the next TDIP meeting was scheduled to take place 17th March 2021 to discuss the Youth Hub project. c) Future High Street Fund Update – Following the Government’s decision not to award Blackpool FHSF funding, the Board were notified at the last meeting that a letter would be sent to the Secretary of State to contest the decision of the assessment. As of yet Blackpool has not received any formal response. NG to resend letter to PM to aim to clarify when a response would be received. | <p>NG/PM</p> |
| <p>4. Town Deal Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Board received a report outlining progress since the last meeting including the Council’s Executive agreeing the funding allocations proposed at the last Town Deal Board meeting and their submission to Government. b) Formal confirmation from Government is awaited regarding the proposal to change the Youth Hub from a capital scheme to a revenue scheme. KO’C confirmed that this had been approved and a formal letter would follow. c) Independent consultants have been appointed to advise and make recommendations to the Town Deal Investment Panel. | |

| Notes and Actions | By Whom |
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| <p>d) In the meantime, business cases for each of the schemes are being developed and a formal response regarding the request for further capacity funding is awaited.</p> | |
| <p>5. Community Engagement Update</p> <p>a) The Board received a report on community engagement progress and the exercise underway utilising the Commonplace on-line tool seeking feedback on the 7 schemes, noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further 385 comments have been registered since writing the report • Due to algorithm changes on social media some of the free posts have not reached target audiences and the Council’s Infusion team had extended the deadline for comments to 22nd March. • Most of the comments received so far have highlighted the positive and valuable impacts the schemes will have on Blackpool in terms of job creation, new high quality facilities to attract students, improved traffic flow and the welcoming of Blackpool Football Club’s involvement in the Revue scheme. • A series of meetings with each project lead have been set up to discuss the details of how they intend to engage with stakeholders. Following this, the themes raised via the Commonplace engagement exercise will be used to further develop each business case. <p>b) TH paid tribute to SB and the Infusion team for all of their work on community engagement. Future engagement activities need to be aimed at capturing responses from members of the community that are not able to engage digitally to ensure that their viewpoints are not missed, when it is possible to do so.</p> <p>c) Agreed that Board members would forward any additional comments on the detailed engagement plans set out in the report to NG.</p> | <p>All</p> |
| <p>6. AOB</p> <p>a) The Chair provided a brief summary of the Levelling Up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund announced in the Budget on March 3rd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levelling Up Fund https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-prospectus • Community Renewal Fund https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus-2021-22 • In view of the infrastructure that Blackpool has in place through the Town Deal process (a Town Deal Board, a Town Deal Investment Plan, a Town Deal Investment Panel and an engagement programme), combined with the priority status being attributed to Blackpool as a category 1 area, that we were well placed to take advantage of these opportunities. <p>b) Levelling Up Fund</p> | |

| Notes and Actions | By Whom |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifying projects must relate to themes of either transport, regeneration, culture and heritage or a combination • Clarity is still required from Government on some of the details of the bidding process, and discussions needed to take place with the adjacent authorities in Fylde and Wyre and with both of Blackpool’s MPs before owing to their role as set out in the guidance. • It was hoped that Blackpool would qualify for two bids of up to £20million and was well-placed to submit a bid in the first round by June 18th 2021 (for projects that had to commence by March 2022) because of its Category 1 status and that it had eligible schemes already worked up as part of the unsuccessful Future High Streets Fund bid. • Subject to the further clarifications set out above an outline of the proposed first round bid will be presented to the next Board meeting. <p>Community and Renewal Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This fund, a precursor to the Shared Prosperity Fund (to be launched in 2022) is the successor to various European-funded programmes, is designed to provide revenue funding of up to £3million for delivery between “late July 2021 onwards” and 31st March 2022 for a programmes of activity related to investing in skills, local business, communities and place, and supporting people into employment. • Blackpool Council has to administer a process involving inviting bids from a wide-range of partners including voluntary and community sector organisations, local education providers including universities, and businesses, appraising and prioritising them and submitting an overall bid by 18th June 2021. • It was agreed that the Town Deal Investment Panel is utilised to support this process with an initial discussion planned to take place on 17th March, with a report to be presented to the next Town Deal Board. | <p style="text-align: center;">AC/NG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SW/NG</p> |
| <p>7. Next Steps</p> <p>a) Report to the next Board on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on business case development and engagement • Progress on the Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund bids. | |
| <p>8. Date of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 14th May 2021, 13.00 – 15.00 • Friday 9th July 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 10th September 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 • Friday 12th November 2021, 13:00 – 15:00 | |