

Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting No. 3

Friday, 1st May 2020

SKYPE Meeting

BLACKPOOL TOWN DEAL BOARD

- Paul Smith (Chair) – BITC
- Neil Jack – Blackpool Council
- Alan Cavill - Blackpool Council
- Anna Blackburn - Beaverbrooks
- Scott Benton MP, Blackpool South
- Bev Robinson - Blackpool and The Fylde College
- Jane Cole – Blackpool Transport
- Heather Murray – DWP
- Kate Shane - Merlin Entertainments
- Dick Cartmell – Together in Lancashire
- Peter Swann – Coolsilk
- Nick Payne - Nikal
- Tracy Hopkins - Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre VCFS
- Steve Williams – Force Technology

IN ATTENDANCE

- Nick Gerrard - Blackpool Council
- Katherine O'Connor – BEIS
- Philip Welsh – Blackpool Council
- Robert Latham - Blackpool Council
- Graham Russell - Amion
- Michael Hodgson - Blackpool Council

Notes & Actions	By Whom
<p>1. <u>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND UPDATES</u></p> <p>a) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, which had to be held by electronic means owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>b) Apologies for absence were noted from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Maynard – MP, Blackpool North • Richard Greathead – Nutrition Group • Tina Redford – Left Coast • Linton Brown – Blackpool FC • Kevin McGee - Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust <p>c) The Chair stated that Covid-19 would obviously impact upon the progression of the Town Deal and that in his recent conversations with the government he had stated that Blackpool still wanted to be in the first wave of funding.</p>	

Notes & Actions	By Whom
<p>d) NJ gave a brief overview of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Blackpool and how the eventual reopening of businesses in Blackpool will need to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The expectation of social distancing and cleaning processes that will need to take place prior to the end of the lockdown. ○ The amount of time before large group gatherings are permitted. ○ The wider impact upon Blackpool’s community and in particular the elderly and people that have pre-existing health conditions. <p>All possible resources are being used to support the most vulnerable of Blackpool residents including the redeployment of Council staff to coronavirus hubs and volunteers helping to deliver medication, food and school meal packs. It is estimated that the Council will have lost £22 million due to the pandemic. However, the use of existing technology, apps and innovative thinking have enabled the Council to continue to deliver essential services.</p> <p>e) The Chair asked SB if there had been any indication from central government as to when the lockdown may end and how this will happen. SB confirmed that no information had been received, however it was probable that a phased approach will be taken to reopening businesses and that tourism businesses will reopen towards the end. SB stated that a bespoke approach will need to be considered for each business in line with social distancing advice as a one-size fits all approach would not be suitable.</p> <p>f) Latest advice is that Government guidance for the Towns Fund will be issued post lockdown and that a Government tendered contract was won by Arup Consultancy in January to support towns’ to shape their investment plans’. An inception meeting is planned and two on-line portals have been created.</p> <p>g) Both Blackpool and Preston are expected to be in the first tranche of the Town Deal funding as both have well developed plans. 16 Towns in total have been put forward for the first tranche, 6 of which are in the North-West.</p> <p>h) KS gave an update on Merlin Entertainment’s current situation in regards to the lockdown. Merlin are lobbying the government to allow for the reopening of their attractions and venues.</p>	
<p><u>2. MINUTES OF MEETING NO 1 - 28th FEBRUARY 2020</u></p> <p>a) The revised version of the minutes of meeting no 1 on 28th February 2020 were approved.</p> <p>b) ACTION: That the minutes would be published on the Council website</p>	<p>NG</p>
<p><u>3. MINUTES OF MEETING NO 2 – 27TH MARCH 2020</u></p> <p>a) The minutes of meeting no 2 on 27th March 2020 were approved</p>	

Notes & Actions	By Whom
<p>b) ACTION : All actions had been completed save that agreement of the final draft of the 'Terms of Reference' remains outstanding and will only be completed after further guidance has been received from the government.</p>	<p>NG</p>
<p>4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>a. The Community Engagement brief was issued for tender to 9 companies with a submission deadline of Monday, 4th May 2020.</p> <p>b. A decision of awarding the tender will be made following a process of scoring and evaluation by an evaluation panel (and if necessary, interview) with a recommendation to be made to the Chair for signing off on the Board's behalf in view of the need to appoint the consultants before the next Board meeting.</p> <p>c. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation will take place electronically throughout the lockdown period. • engagement will be a challenge as responses and answers from members of the public will be affected by their experience of the Covid-19 pandemic. • an approach to questions should be used to prevent responses and answers being dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic • a connection with previous 'Citizen's Inquiries' engagement work would be used to gain public perspective by asking the same group of people what their aspirations and vision is for Blackpool. • It was noted that a communications plan would be launched jointly between the Council and the chosen consultants once they were commissioned owing to the vital importance of clear communications throughout this process <p>d. It was agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the good progress made in the report; ii. that the evaluation panel would report to the Chair the outcome of their assessment; iii. that the appointment would be endorsed by the Chair on behalf of the Board: iv. that details of the appointment would be made available to the Board 	<p>TR/RL/ScB</p> <p>PS</p> <p>NG</p>
<p>5. TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN: PROPOSED WORK PLAN</p> <p>a) The Board considered an update report on the draft Town Investment Plan and proposed work plan and the process proposed for its completion.</p> <p>b) It was noted that in relation to the Appendices these all required more work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix A identifies existing important schemes by theme that are in place and needs to include all strategic local projects. 	

Notes & Actions	By Whom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix B identifies new strategic schemes by theme which require funding and which need to be included in the Town Investment Plan. ○ Appendix C – will include detail about those schemes that are to be put forward for own Deal funding the priorities of which will be assessed against the guidance, when issued and the Government’s Green Book appraisal guidance. <p>c) It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That the approach to the preparation of the Town Investment Plan and proposed workplan ● That the Chair and Graham Russell would meet with all Board members electronically in groupings to discuss the contents of the Town Investment Plan before the next Board meeting. 	<p>PS/NG</p>
<p>6. NEXT STEPS</p> <p>a) The Chair confirmed that next stages for the Board were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Setting up individual/ small group meetings with the Board; ○ Develop and input information into the draft Town Investment Plan; <p>Address issues arising out of Government guidance when issued</p>	
<p>7. DATES OF NEXT SKYPE MEETINGS</p> <p>a) Friday, 5th June, 13:00 – 15:00 It was noted that the timing of the following meetings might change depending on when Government guidance was issued and a date for submission confirmed</p> <p>b) Friday 26th June, 13:00 – 15:00</p> <p>c) Friday 24th July, 13:00 – 15:00</p>	