

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

Dewsbury Town Deal Board

Thursday 25th January 2024

Present: Keith Ramsay (Chair)
Mark Eastwood, MP
Fara Butt
Charlie Dunn
Sue Baker
Nancy Barrett
Sophie Johnson
Anum Rehman

In attendance: Paul Burnett (Virtual)
Martyn Broadest (Virtual)
Peter Mason (Virtual)
Joanne Bartholomew, Kirklees Council
Simon Taylor, Kirklees Council
Michelle Illingworth, Kirklees Council
David Wildman, Kirklees Council
Jaime Nalson, Kirklees Council
Karen Roach, Kirklees Council
Jane Jackson, Historic England

Apologies: Councillor Cathy Scott
Robert Livingston
Palvinder Singh
Martin Walsh

1 Membership of Dewsbury Town Deal Board

Apologies were received from Councillor Cathy Scott, Robert Livingston, Palvinder Singh and Martin Walsh.

2 Declaration of Interests

Keith Ramsay, Martyn Broadest, Mark Eastwood, Sophie Johnson, Fara Butt and Peter Mason declared an interest in the Arcade project.

The Chair of the Board agreed that a reminder be sent to all Board Members to update their declaration of interests prior to the meeting in March 2024.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

In response to a question concerning minutes/records of the exempt/private part of Board meetings, it was noted that Dewsbury Town Deal Board was required to follow Council procedure rules. Following adoption of the Long-Term Plans terms of reference, the Board will be able to understand how notes of the private section can be recorded.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting be noted.

4 Admission of the Public

The Board noted the exempt information, as set out at Agenda item 11.

5 Public Question Time

Question from Gill Young

“Given the potential for new investment, the strategic local planning considerations and the concerns of local residents in an area with a high level of deprivation, would the Town Board consider taking on the responsibility and commitment to lead a Neighbourhood Plan for the town of Dewsbury in order to ensure that overall strategies and criteria for any future investment and development are clearly identified, agreed, understood and applied”.

The Chair of the Board responded to the question and advised that the Town Board dealt with a limited geographical area which was unlikely to change. Dewsbury Town was not a parish or town council area, and the Board would need to become a qualifying body in the form of a Neighbourhood Forum to meet legal requirements. It was noted that currently the local planning authority was working on an update of the local plan, and Dewsbury Town Board would consider at their next meeting how they would engage in that process, along with inviting the planning policy team to attend a future meeting to discuss the local plan update.

6 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or Petitions were received.

7 Project Updates

The Board received an update on the Market and Town Park project, Simon Taylor, Head of Town Centre programmes advised that agreement had taken place with Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) regarding the revised business case on the Market and Town Park and were supporting the changes. It was agreed that the Board would transfer money from the Cultural Hub project to the Arcade project, a revised business case had been submitted to DLUHC and was awaiting a final decision, although they were satisfied it was robust, a date of 2nd February was given for a final sign off. Once the decision has been made, Heritage lottery fund would then need to grant permission to start, which would not happen until they were satisfied that all other funding was in place. It was noted that the Council was running the contract process in parallel, with a conclusion in place with legal. Work would then start once the contract had been awarded.

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Peter Mason, Board Member advised the Board that Field House had started a strip out, with the main contract starting 18th March 2024.

Jaime Nalson, Acting Head of Culture and Tourism updated the Board on progress within the Market project, around trading engagement sessions, programme design and plans in relation to the decamp market. Two trader engagement sessions had taken place where traders had been invited to look at the vision, talk through the application process to be part of the future market and provide feedback on the design of the decamp market. Further plans to consult with traders was planned around layout and spaces. It was noted that the leases with the traders had expired in December 2023, but most traders had renewed their lease for the next two years. The applications for leases of the new market were now open to all traders to apply for a period of three weeks and would close on 4th February 2024. The application review process would commence week commencing 19th February 2024.

Mr Nalson advised that the market programme was at phase two design stage where a pre planning application was to be submitted in early March 2024, the full planning application was then to be submitted between March and May 2024. Feedback from traders had been received, with further work taking place to review the public toilets, multi-purpose space for cultural requirements, cleaning stores, pot wash area and refuge yard. A number of meetings had taken place regarding the lighting requirements in the food and beverage and event space, and the decamp market trader engagement had commenced, which allowed designs to be finalised. The key focus of the engagement was around the design, and what was wanted within the market, a real focus was on quality, ensuring the provision and offer from traders.

During discussion the Board questioned the dates around the Market project, a breakdown of dates was requested. Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director advised that dates could be provided should the planning and tender stage go to plan and would be provided at the meeting in March 2024. It was noted that the timescales proposed to spend the £11m may not be met and there were concerns that the project was not deliverable. Ms Bartholomew advised that DLUHC was aware that the money would not be spent within the timescale set for spending, but they had indicated to the Board that there would be a conversation once it was clear on the spending profile. It was noted that officers were not worried that they wouldn't be able to have a good conversation with DLUHC on profiling.

The Board raised concerns with regards to a planning application not required for the public realm, Mr Taylor advised that planning consent may not be required as it fell under the realm of permitted development. A lawful development certificate would likely be submitted to confirm that opinion.

With regards to the building revival project, the Board asked a question around the number of live projects, and the number of new housing units to be provided. Mr Taylor advised that some of the projects had been completed and plans had not been agreed on the number of units.

Board members expressed concern on the delivery of the construction skills hub around the planning application, it was noted that the project looked to be at risk.

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Ms Bartholomew advised that there was no other option for the project and that the project was contingent on the planning application. Mr Taylor advised that the college and council were looking at a plan B, which would be brought to a Board meeting if feasible. The Chair of the Board agreed to consider the item at the March 2024 meeting.

The Board asked for an update on the creative culture programme to understand how the project was meeting tough original outputs around nighttime economy, footfall, and the timeline, as it seemed that the focus of the project had changed from the original timeline. A report had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting which provided clarity on what had been delivered, how many people engaged, footfall capacity and indication on projects that had happened between January 2023 and December 2023. The report also provided a continuation of events up to July 2024. A suggestion was made that some money from the long-term plan could be used to boost further cultural type activities to increase footfall over the summer months.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That dates around the Market project be provided at the March 2024 meeting,
- (ii) That a report on the construction skills hub be considered at the March 2024 meeting.

8 Long Term Plan for Towns - HM Government

The Board received a presentation from David Wildman, Strategic Partnership Lead on the Long-Term Plan for Towns that explained that Dewsbury had been identified to receive £20million over the next 10 years and summarised the key points from the guidance and Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) feedback, along with the overview of the 3 investment themes and timescales.

During discussion, the Board raised questions regarding the deadline of 1st April 24, and what plans were in place for community engagement. It was noted that the re-established Board had to be in place by 1st April 24 and that engagement was not required to have taken place by 1st April 2024. There would be a requirement for the Board to meet prior to the March meeting to discuss engaging a team of people to undertake the community consultation.

Mr Wildman advised the three themes of the Long-Term Plan were Safety and Security, High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration and Transport and Connectivity. Investment was expected across all themes, with safety and security being the greatest priority depending on the local priorities. A list of 'on menu' and 'off menu' interventions were provided stating that 'off menu' interventions could be included if supported by a business case. The Board noted that the list of 'on menu' interventions tended to sway towards revenue items. With the Local Authority having to make very difficult decisions on non-statutory requirements, a question was asked how that would fit with the menu of items. Ms Bartholomew advised that the funding was not to swap out the Councils revenue, an understanding of the Councils revenue spend across Dewsbury was required, and how that could be maximised alongside the Long-Term Plan investment. The Board noted that anti-social behaviour was an issue and asked if enforcement in trading standards could

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be considered. Ms Bartholomew advised that enforcement could be considered and suggested that colleagues in licensing and enforcement give an overview to the Board at a future meeting to help understand what is taking place and when the investment themes have been decided how that will fit in.

Mr Wildman explained the timescales of the Board membership which needed to include a senior member of the police, along with areas of focus/key areas and the date the plan had to be submitted to Government. The Board asked if Dewsbury Town Deal Board was to morph into the Long-Term Plan, if the timescales would be met, and what the priority area for Dewsbury was, it was agreed that the priority geographical area for investment of the Town Board would be circulated to Board Members. It was noted that the Board had to ensure that the dates were met, some workshops would take place in between the formal Board Meetings.

A discussion took place regarding the consultation with the community, it was noted that the consultation should be led on themes, where members of the public could comment on the themes and put forward what was most important to them. The Board also noted that the director of external affairs at Kirklees College had been invited to speak to the Board in the March meeting about a campaign that Kirklees college wanted to undertake on how to get more young people involved in Dewsbury.

Mr Wildman explained that the government encouraged use of existing Town Deal Boards to avoid duplication and help accelerate development of the Long-Term plan, to add skills and ensure the right people were on the Board to fully reflect the priorities of the town. The Board asked a question regarding decision making of the Long-Term Plan Board, Ms Bartholomew advised that the guidance provided stated that Kirklees Council should empower the Board to become a decision-making body and would be reflected in Terms of Reference. The Chair advised that Terms of Reference would be in place before the board became a fully instituted body.

Mr Wildman explained that www.mentimeter.com would be used to help gather views from attendees, it was noted that this was for Board Members only and not officers, questions to help gather input was on:

- Board Membership
- Vision
- Priorities
- Support needed
- Engagement
- Co-design

During conversation, the Board explained that Bolton had already been through a similar experience and suggested that the Board visited Bolton.

The Chair of the Board explained that workshops would take place prior to the March 24 Board meeting.

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RESOLVED:

- (i) That Mr Wildman be thanked for his presentation,
- (ii) That the priority geographical area for investment for the Town Deal Board be circulated to Board Members.
- (iii) That Licensing and enforcement colleagues provide an update at a future meeting on anti-social behaviour within Dewsbury and how the Long-Term plan themes fit in to work taking place.

9 **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 28th March 2024

Location: Dewsbury Town Hall

10 **Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

11 **Project Updates**

The Board considered exempt information in relation to agenda item 7.