

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

# Dewsbury Town Deal Board

Thursday 28th September 2023

Present: Keith Ramsay (Chair)  
Councillor Cathy Scott  
Mark Eastwood, MP  
Paul Burnett  
Fara Butt  
Charlie Dunn  
Martin Walsh  
Sue Baker  
Peter Mason  
Nancy Barrett  
Martyn Broadest  
Sophie Johnson

In attendance: Paul Burnett (Virtual)  
Jane Jackson (Virtual)  
Michelle Illingworth, Kirklees Council  
Simon Taylor, Kirklees Council  
David Shepherd, Kirklees Council  
Karen Roach, Kirklees Council  
Jaime Nalson, Kirklees Council  
Helen Jakes, Kirklees Council  
Peter Thompson, Kirklees Council  
Richard Smith, Kirklees Council

Apologies: Robert Livingston  
Palvinder Singh  
Anum Rehman

**1 Membership of Dewsbury Town Deal Board**

Apologies were received from Rob Livingston, Palvinder Singh and Anum Rehman.

The Board noted the changes to the membership of the Town Deal Board and welcomed Cllr Cathy Scott to the Board.

**2 Declaration of Interests**

Martyn Broadest declared an interest in the Daisy Hill Project.

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 by agreed as a correct record.

**4 Admission of the Public**

The Board noted the exempt information, as set out at Agenda items 13 and 14.

**5 Public Question Time 4:05 - 4:20**

No questions from the public were received.

**6 Deputations/Petitions 4:20 - 4:25**

No deputations or petitions were received

**7 Governance Support/Procedures Document 4:25 - 4:35**

Leigh Webb, Governance Manager updated the Board on support provided from the Governance Team and procedures which were followed, and that governance followed the same process as set out in the Council Procedure Rules for all council committees, to ensure transparency and openness.

Mr Webb explained the importance of completing declaration of interest forms along with ensuring that any interests were declared at each meeting. Public questions were to be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting, which allowed for a detailed response, this was also in line with the Council Procedure Rules. The Board on occasions received reports that contained sensitive and confidential information, although report authors were encouraged to submit their reports in the public domain, if a report did contain sensitive and confidential information, the report authors were encouraged to create two reports. One for the public item and one with the sensitive and confidential information which would be considered in private.

During discussion, the board expressed concern regarding the recording of responses to public questions, Mr Webb advised that advising a response had been received was in line with council's procedure rules and the Board could deviate from that rule. An answer would be a summary of the response.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That Mr Webb be thanked for the update,
- 2) That responses to public questions be noted in the minutes at future meetings.

**8 Project Update 4 :35 - 4:55**

Kirklees Council officers attended the meeting to update the Board on projects.

In relation to the Cultural events, the Board asked for clarity on the spending of the project and what the process was for allocating the money. Feedback that has been provided was that the events were good, but not well attended due to the lack of publicity, and they also lacked diversity.

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In relation to Field House, Peter Mason advised that the project had moved to the next stage with the contractor signing the documents and providing a detailed plan.

The Board discussed Daisy Hill and their understanding of the strategy. It was noted that the strategy was to create an upmarket residential neighbourhood and asked if a 100% affordable housing development was consistent with that overarching strategy. David Shepherd, Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration advised that the preference was to mix tenures in Daisy Hill.

In relation to the construction skills hub project. The Board asked a question regarding the timings of the project as there was a strong anti Chidswell group that had found otters on the land. Simon Taylor, Head of Town Centre Programmes advised that otters had not been flagged as a risk in the report and the estimated completion time of the project was December 2024. David Shepherd advised that if there were any habitat issues to be addressed on site the council would follow due process.

Simon Taylor advised that the Arcade group share offer prospectus was to be released on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The Board asked a question regarding the share offer, Peter Thompson confirmed that the project was dependent on the share offer being successful which was at least £100,000.

Michelle Illingworth advised the Board on Youth Voice Champions, Michelle had been invited by Kirklees College to their welcome fare with local college students that had signed up for their programmes, Michelle Illingworth advised that she was there to explain what the Town Board did and what youth voice champions were, and to encourage students to sign up as youth voice representative.

**RESOLVED:** That officers be thanked for the updates.

### **9 Creative Hub Update 4:55 - 5:15**

**RESOLVED:** That the Creative Hub update move into private session.

### **10 Communication and Marketing Update 5:15 - 5:20**

Helen Jakes, Senior Communications Officer advised the Board that more visual presence regarding Dewsbury blueprint would be visible in the next few weeks. A specific window vinyl was due to be placed in the Arcade where the work was due to take place, advising on the details of that work. Similar things would be placed across the town as the projects come to fruition. In terms of the blueprint brand and knowledge of Dewsbury Town Board, railing banners, visual planters and window vinyl's would be placed across the town centre. Councillor Scott had spoken with Look North and Kirklees officers had liaised with the Arcade group regarding an interview with Look North.

### **11 Date of Next Meeting**

16 November 2023

### **12 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

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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.

**13 Project Update 5:20- 5:30**

The Board considered exempt information in relation to agenda item 8.

**14 Creative Hub Update 5:30 to close**

The Board considered exempt information in relation to agenda item 9.