

DEWSBURY TOWN BOARD DEAL

Thursday 2 September 2021

Present:

Keith Ramsay (Chair)
Councillor Shabir Pandor
Mark Eastwood MP
Anthony Moore – Substitute for Paul Burnett
Peter Mason
Martyn Broadest
Bruce Bird
Palvinder Singh
Martin Walsh
Nancy Barrett

Observers:

Joanne Bartholomew – Kirklees Council
Simon Taylor – Kirklees Council
Peter R Thompson – Kirklees Council
David Shepherd – Kirklees Council
Laetitia Lucy - Arup

Apologies:

Heather Waddington
Peter Mason
Martin Hathaway

1 **Membership of Dewsbury Town Deal Board**

Apologies for absence were received from Heather Waddington and Peter Mason.

2 **Declarations of Interests**

No interests were declared. The register of Board Members is reviewed annually by Kirklees Council.

3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 5 August 2021 were agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment of item 7 – Market Development, which should include that the Board was asked to consider how the scheme would be developed in a way to include carbon neutral and sustainable as much as possible.

4 **Chairs Update**

The Chair advised that the project confirmation had been signed off on behalf of the board alongside the section 151 officer from Kirklees Council. It was noted that the Board would have sight of the business cases for them to consider prior to approval from Cabinet which is referred to in agenda item 6.

The Chair had met with potential leaders of working groups and would feed back further at the October meeting.

A meeting arranged with Kelly Holdaway had been rearranged and the Chair would update at the October meeting.

An update on behalf of Peter Mason was given on the Arcade open day. It was noted that progress had been made in tidying up the Arcade and the event day that took place on 14th August allowed people to see the progress from the entrance, as well as come forward to express an interest in leasing one of the shops.

The Board acknowledged that the Arcade was key to changing expectations of residents and users in Dewsbury and how that will look and feel to them. It was also noted that the council was in negotiations around a legal agreement and would follow the Cabinet process.

5 Project Update

Project Monitoring

The Board received a paper which provided a draft format for discussion for the monitoring of projects.

The format was standard for Kirklees and provided details of the projects progress highlighting any risks, issues, activities completed in the last six months and activities due in the next six months. The Board was advised that there were proformas which included further detail and would be available to view.

The Board was informed that MHCLG monitoring and evaluation was key to the towns fund and the wider objectives of MHCLG. There were a number of indicators that MHCLG require Kirklees to respond on and to avoid duplication of work officers would be directed to the essential indicators.

It was noted that there was a monitor report on creative culture programme which was a series of events led by council officers and further project from union art. One concern was how this was reported on for accountability and progress. It was requested that early decisions were made on how to separate the reporting and expectations, as well as how the business case development and how secure support for that and the two separate programmes was.

Town Park

A presentation was given on the Town Park which included the background, progress to date and next steps.

The aims and objectives of the project was:

- To make the town more attractive
- Create a more liveable town centre
- Address the shortfall in open space withing central Dewsbury
- Improve perceptions of the town

- Provide an additional reason to visit the town centre
- Create an additional USP for Dewsbury Town Centre
- Improve pedestrian/cycle connectivity between south of the ring road and the traditional retail core
- Contribute to improving health, air quality, sustainability and addressing climate change

Stage I & 2 of feasibility had taken place with designs completed and public consultation had taken place in May/June 2021. A substantial response to the consultation was received from a cross section of the public and concerns were raised around future access around car parks, bus access, safety, places to sit and greener and trees. Questions were asked around security. It was noted that good lighting at night, security cameras and an increased police presence would make people feel safer.

The next steps:

- Submit a report to Cabinet in autumn 2021
- Detailed Design
- Town Deal Funding approval 2022
- Public Consultation on design 2022
- Planning application/approvals 2022
- Statutory Procedures 2023
- Constructions to start on site Early 2024
- Open 2025

A discussion took place around rehousing customer services and lack of public toilets. It was noted that customer services would be rehoused in the town centre and public toilets was part of the development plan. A request was put forward for consideration into detail design for arts/cultural events and sporting events.

Issues were raised around the Town Park and road closures particularly in relation to the closure of Long Causeway. It was noted that part of the feasibility work for Town Park had been undertaken to look at the access options to mitigate issues of the road closure. The solutions were to open a one-way road (Crackenedge Lane to Corporation Street) to make it a two-way road and in addition to create a new link from the ring road (Inbound only) which would allow bus access through the town centre.

It was suggested that the Board should attend and speak in favour of all planning applications for key projects that go forward to planning committee and that written support should also be submitted.

RESOLVED –

- That officers liaise with MHCLG regarding the indicators on monitoring and evaluation
- Note the concerns with regards to the reporting on accountability and progress for the creative culture programme and the union arts project
- That the Project Monitoring template be agreed

- That the Board represents planning applications for key projects at committee
- That an update on the Town Plan be added to the agenda for 4th November 2021

6 Project Business Cases

The Board received a paper which outlined how business cases would be presented to the Board and the role of the Board and Kirklees Council.

Avison Young had been appointed and had started working on the business cases. The business cases would be prepared throughout the year and there were 9 in total. Business cases had to be agreed by Government and the Council within a 12-month period. For Dewsbury this meant completing all 9 business cases by June 2022.

Government guidance stated that it was the duty of the council to manage the projects and submit business cases and assurance process. Given the number, diversity and timeframes set, the Council would agree through Cabinet a bespoke process.

Key points about Project Business Cases:

- Business cases are one step in the project development process
- They are expected to follow the Government's five case model, meaning developing, Strategic, Economic, Commercial, Financial and the Management cases
- They will be submitted throughout the year and will unlock project funding
- The level of detail in business cases would vary depending on project complexity – the Council will use the proportionality guidelines issued by MHCLG
- There will be a general format for submission

It was noted that the Board was a stakeholder. The draft business cases would be circulated to the Board for comment and the decisions would be made by Kirklees Council.

The Board discussed the process for business cases and noted that it was a bespoke process with an indicative timetable. A question around TBC date on sustainable transport modes was asked, it was advised that the dates were indicative when Avison Young could complete the works and that the Sustainable Transport Modes was being appraised through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority major transport project assurance process. A significant amount of funding was coming from transforming cities fund and officers were working with colleagues within the transportation team.

The Chair highlighted carbon neutral and sustainability and requested this was considered in all projects. It was advised that the council has a commitment to net zero by 2028 so would be considered in the development process and maintenance.

RESOLVED –

- That the indicative dates be added to Teams
- That the process for considering business cases be agreed
- That carbon neutral and sustainable be considered in all projects

7 Communication and Marketing Strategy

The chair advised that this item would be added to the agenda for 7th October as the paper had not been distributed to Board Members.

RESOLVED –

- That the paper for Communication and Marketing Strategy be added to the agenda for 7th October 2021

8 Board Member Issues

The Chair provided an update on Board Members and referred to the meeting dated 5th August. The Board had asked to be kept up to date on the make-up of the Board and to include diversity, inclusivity and gender balance. The chair was meeting later in the month with 3 candidates, two who were business owners and one from Education and Community that would help address the gender balance of the Board. The Chair had also met with one of Dewsbury's largest employees and hoped to have 3 CV's of potential new Board Members. The Chair advised that he hoped to have the names of 2/3 new Board Members to bring to the October meeting.

RESOLVED –

- Board Membership to be added to the agenda for 7th October 2021.

9 AOB

The Chair requested an action tracker be set up to include all decisions made, actions agreed and any outstanding items.

The Chair requested that the Bus station item to be added to the agenda for 7th October 2021 and for a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to be invited to the meeting.

The Board acknowledged that the DFDP were there to support both the Board and officers who they were in regular contact with.

RESOLVED –

- An action tracker to include all decisions made, actions agreed and outstanding items be created.
- That the Bus Station item be added to the agenda for 7th October 2021 and a member from WYCA be invited to the meeting.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 5:30pm.

DRAFT