

Dewsbury Town Deal Board (DTDB)

Chair's Update Report

June 2022

This update is from April onwards following the cancellation at short notice of our planned May meeting. Today's meeting starts at 4.30 as requested by several Board members over the past few months and my thanks to Kirklees Council for hosting us today in Dewsbury Town Hall. I hope that the new timeslot proves helpful to Board members and officers but also popular!

Key recent activities

I have met with a number of employers in order to engage with them regarding the work of this Board, the Dewsbury Town Deal itself and to get a feel for them on how best we can further communicate our work

Following the awarding of the Comms work, I have met with our preferred provider Loaded PR to progress discussions and arrangements around the contracting of them to undertake this work. **A survey was circulated to Board members in late May- can I ask that all Board members return their answers to Gemma please?**

They will host one of the sessions on today's agenda- welcome to Gemma and Martin.

Board colleagues and officers undertook a project oversight walk around Dewsbury on April 28th which was helpful to gain a clearer perspective on the Markets, the Arcade and Daisy Hill in particular.

Charles Smith from Historic England invited me to meet with colleagues from Historic England and others on May 10th when the team visited Dewsbury. I found it very informative and helpful to meet this panel. Members have been invited to meet with Historic England on July 21st.

Met with Kath Wynne-Hague from Kirklees Council.

Board Members and Governance

Board members have been asked recently to review their Register of Interests and a number have been submitted. Can I politely remind all members to please submit their declarations to the Governance Team so that the whole Board Register is up to date? We are part of a random sample of Town Deal Boards who are being audited on governance matters over the next couple of months by the Department which we welcome. I plan to present some thoughts on future governance at our August

meeting which will aim to ensure that we regularise some procedures and processes in our Terms of Reference.

Engagement

The date for the Dewsbury Business/Stakeholder Event was the early evening of Wednesday June 22nd and will be hosted in Dewsbury Town Hall. Nearly 200 stakeholders/businesses/partner organisations were invited but sadly with only a handful of acceptances, the event was cancelled. Board members took the opportunity to discuss how we can improve engagement and our colleagues at Loaded will work with us on this vital issue. I was pleased that evening that amongst the outcomes of our discussions, Board members present agreed:

- Continued full endorsement to the Dewsbury Town Deal and the Town Investment Plan
- Recognised the importance of engagement going forward
- The need to engage with the other underpinning elements of regeneration apart from the capital developments
- Develop our communications strategy
- Highlighted the opportunity to ensure connectivity amongst all the 9 projects with features and benefits highlighted

Other meetings

Kirklees Governance Team for a regular agenda setting meetings once a month.

Kirklees Council officers

Board members

Communication

Members of the public have been invited to join today's meeting and time is allocated at the start for their questions.

Other issues

Sue Baker has asked that the Board discuss parking charges in Dewsbury Town Centre - I have therefore asked Sue to prepare a written report for discussion at tonight's meeting.

I have met with two people who I think may be worthy of joining the Board at a future opportunity, bringing an employer and community perspective respectively.