

Dewsbury Town Board Minutes

Meeting 14th January 2021

1. Item Attendees and Apologise

Cllr Shabir Pandor – Chair (CP)

Robert Norreys – New Chair (RN)

Attendees: Bruce Bird (BB), Nancy Barrett (NB); Mark Eastwood (ME); Martyn Broadest (MB); Charles Smith (CS); Peter Mason (PM); Richard Thorpe (RT); Marie Gilluley (MG); Corin Thoday (CT); Heather Waddington (HW); Martin Walsh (MW)

Officer Support from Kirklees Council: Simon Taylor; Angela Blake; David Shepherd; Peter Thompson; Chris Duffill; Michelle Illingworth; Valerie George (Legal Services)

Avison Young attendees: Dale Robinson (DR); Mark Harris (MH)

Formal apologies received: Paul Burnett (PB), substituted by Corin Thoday (CT); Martin Hathaway (MH) ; Iqbal Bhana (IB)

2. Declaration of Interest

RN declared an ‘other’ interest in agenda item 2 on the grounds that he has worked with Avison Young in the past, but has not been involved in the Town Investment Plan process with them.

3. Minutes from previous meeting – paper circulated

Minutes from the 17th December 2020, circulated and agreed

4. Actions from the last meeting – Simon Taylor

VG confirmed the new arrangements for the Terms of Reference for clause 11.3

5. Selection of Chair – Angela Blake update

CP introduced the new Town Board Chair Robert Norreys who will be an interim Chair until a more permanent chair can be recruited

RN invited town board members to contact him directly if they wished to have a direct conversation with him.

ST noted that the Town Board are now fully constituted and no longer a Shadow Board.

ME Raised the question about the period of RN position as chair and when would a permanent chair would be recruited?

ST noted that the Board had previously agreed to go out to recruitment for a new chair. He has been in touch with 2 recruitment agencies who will be reporting back with proposals on the recruitment process.

AB confirmed that they should hear back from the agencies by the 20th January.

MB noted that more clarity was needed around the timescales around the appointment of the new chair as he wasn't aware that RN was only an interim position

CP noted that as we go through the recruitment process RN should still be acting chair.

ME also agreed with this

BB noted that he would expect the start time for the new chair to be within 6-9 months

CP agreed with BB and noted that he will take up discussions with RN outside the meeting to discuss recruitment timescales

PM Agreed RN should remain and that a possible business leader may come forward through the recruitment

6. Dewsbury Town Investment Plan – update Mark Harris (Avison Young)

ST Confirmed he had circulated the latest draft to the board members, no comments received from board members other than NB.

NB Noted that the feel of the current TIP appears corporate and that some of the images need to reflect the Dewsbury community more.

MI noted that she will look into the design and changing of some of the images

MH Confirmed the check and challenge session Friday 15th Jan with Town Hub which is a really important meeting that will give detailed feedback on the draft TIP before submission

ST confirmed that the Town Hub had agreed to have both the Town Board chair and 2 members to attend that session. RN, BB and PM to be present.

RN noted a few more changes to the TIP including the need to ensure that the document reads strong and has a good link between part 1 and 2 including a strong policy narrative of the projects. Also he noted that where revenue has been identified and agreed for projects, the board has the reassurance from the Council that the up keep and long term maintenance will be assured.

DS – responded and noted that he can assure the board that projects will receive revenue funding for the long-term up keep and maintenance.

ST noted process for TIP sign off, CS recommended that a final copy be circulated electronically to the board before the 29th Jan submission date

RN recommended that he, BB and PM to take discussion forward at the Check and Challenge session rather than having a specific board member meeting. All agreed

NB noted anything specific after the Check and Challenge session should be circulated to the town board members

ME noted that he will be lobbying in the background to gain maximum coverage for the TIP. Any issues with Government departments please contact him

CS noted that he had made some comments and questioned if these have been included in the TIP

MH confirmed they hadn't yet but will be going forward where possible

RN/ST noted that a Plan on the Page is being considered which will outline the TIP and will be tool to help summarise the golden thread from the TIP. This will be uploaded onto the council website and will be made available for stakeholders and members to utilise and circulate.

7. General Governance – Update on Declaration of interest and other requirements – Simon Taylor

ST – noted that he has now received all of the Declaration of Interest forms from members now

8. A.O.B

RN will circulate his contact details to the board members