

Dewsbury Town Board Minutes
Meeting 16th September 2020

1. Attendees and Apologies

Cllr Shabir Pandor - Chair

Attendees: Nancy Barratt (NB); Martyn Broadest (MB); Paul Burnett (PB); John Taylor (JT); Heather Waddington (HW); Charles Smith (CS); Bruce Bird (BB); Barney Mynott (BM) in part; Peter Mason (PM); Richard Thorpe (RT); Martin Hathaway (MH); Iqbal Bhana (IB)

Officer Support from Kirklees Council: Simon Taylor; Angela Blake; Stuart Howie – Avison Young;

Formal apologies received: Mark Eastwood (subbed by John Taylor); Marie Gilluley (MG) Carles Palermo (CP) Elle Dodd (ED)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from 15th July 2020 agreed.

3. Forward Programme of Work – Presented by Simon Taylor (Presentation Circulated)

BB – Highlighted the need for this to be a priority piece of work for the Board.

IB – Need to ensure a very high standard of draft plan is ready by end of December and not forget the Christmas period which can delay.

MB – queried the various tranches for submitting the TIP – RT was able to highlight that the majority of submissions would come in tranches 2 and 3. Dewsbury was a tranche 3 Plan in common with others in the region.

IB – Need to see what others have been doing and RT agreed to share information.

Outcome: Information noted by Board

4. Baseline Report and Evidence – Stuart Howie (Presentation Circulated)

SH promised to share full report shortly after the meeting

Key questions raised IB regarding wards used/diversity mapping and businesses reviewed

Outcome: Information noted by Board. Full report to be circulated as soon as possible.

5. Vision – Stuart Howie – Presentation Circulated

NB – Agree broadly with vision – 75%. Issue of diversity needs to come through more. With priorities of Culture and Creativity as strong strands that enable a year round offer to be made in Dewsbury.

BB – Needs more community input and engagement needs to be highlighted in vision. Needs reassurance that groups/Members who missed the drop in session can be accommodated.

HW – More distinct to Dewsbury – needs to draw out how this is not just ‘anytown’

IB – BAME make up and voice needs reflecting through proactive community engagement.

PM - 10 year vision good - making links to connectivity important for regeneration.

MH – Involved in process. 80% there – Engagement needs to pick up target groups so input can shape Vision

JT – Important to engage young. Needs to be more visual in presentation not just a block of words – comms input required to achieve this.

Outcome: Vision generally supported as a first draft but a mop up session is to be organised to allow identified groups opportunity to input – this is an action for SH.

6. Projects – Stuart Howie (Presentation Circulated)

MB – Need to consider future evaluation as well as how our projects complement one another to deliver the outcomes.

IB/BB – Parking will be a key issue as will safety of towns.

NB – Engagement should inform the process.

Outcome – Information noted by Board

7. Engagement – Simon Taylor – Paper Circulated

MB – Agreed external support required may cost more but need to ensure local connections are made to maximise responses and input.

NB – Has good network of connections that can be used and channels of established engagement – Young and Diverse need to be connected. Would not advocate all digital platforms

JT – Referenced Council’s own Place Standard Tool process but that Co-Vid presented challenges

BB – Need to use exercise to develop board’s capability and capacity for future.

Outcome: Agreed to explore external sources and utilise capacity funding to fund this element of work. The Council will need to use its procurement procedures to access consultants.

8. Governance Update

Part 1 – Chair Person

MH – Excellent outcome in Graham Leslie

JT – Excellent – helpful suggestion from local MP

Cllr SP – Business background very important

NB – Fully endorsed

Outcome: Board agreed on the selection of Graham Leslie to be new chair of board. Officers to make contact as soon as possible.

Part 2 – Board Membership

Cllr SP – Highlighted points made by Marie Guilley in an email exchange on this matter. Key points about understanding skill sets and effective board rather than more members.

JT – Board possibly too large and new chair should have a say in Membership now that this is decided.

NB – Skills audit would be best idea and need to leave to new chair.

BB – Dewsbury Chamber of Trade needs to be represented

HW – Heath is still a gap.

Cllr SP – Agree that this would be best left to new chair.

MH – Chair needs early briefing.

Outcome: Board agreed that there was no appetite for expanding Board membership particularly given that a new chair will be in place soon. Biographies are now essential all agreed to circulate.

Parts 3 and 4 of this item were not debated – there were no decisions required of the board on these.

9. AOB

BB - Website needs to be updated