

## **Item 8 Dewsbury Town Board Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

### **Governance Update**

#### **Appointment of Chair**

Since the last meeting Council officers have received three potential nominations for a chair that potentially could fit the profile for the Town Board. These were:

Roger Burnley - Dewsbury born currently working as Chief Executive of ASDA  
Bill Grimsey – Government advisor on Town Centres  
Graham Leslie – Kirklees based linked to the Galpharm company.

All suggestions have been written to by the Jacqui Gedman Kirklees Council Chief Executive. All have responded directly to her. Of the candidates that were written to Graham Leslie has expressed a firm, and enthusiastic, desire to take on the challenge. Others are unable to take up the offer due to other commitments

#### *Decision for the Board*

The Board needs to decide whether to take up this offer to chair the board. From a Town Board perspective the private sector connections and long standing association with the wide area would meet the main requirements being set by government.

The Board will need to agree to accept this offer and authorise officers from the Council to set up an arrangement for the candidate to chair the Board.

#### **Membership of The Board**

The current Board Membership stands at xx. Since the beginning of the process officers have received requests to add to Board Membership. As a board 18 Members is quite large although some initial invitees to the board are no longer participating.

Suggested additional members are:

- Dewsbury Chamber of Trade
- Dewsbury Market
- Local Retailer
- Local entrepreneur

In addition to this at the first meeting there was a request from the board that the Health sector be represented. Following meetings with the NHS locally a potential candidate has been identified.

#### *Decision for the Board*

The Board is requested to consider a number of issues:

- a. Whether they want to accept more Members

- b. Whether the Members suggested are appropriate
- c. If so, then to indicate to officers which of the suggested candidates should be approached to be part of the Board.
- d. To consider whether, in light of growing Membership, and to secure a good balance between, representation, participation and efficient decision making that the structure and future operation of the Board should be reviewed.

### **Governance Support and Terms of Reference**

#### *Support*

At the last meeting of the Board it was agreed that support for the Board beyond the work on the Town Investment Plan was required.

Since the last meeting a suitable candidate to provide support to the Board has resulted in the Council looking at potential candidates through an ongoing recruitment process within its Council's Regeneration service. This process has been completed but no candidates have been forthcoming.

To move forward from this position the Council are now in discussion with an external candidate who can support the board in the future. This resource will be funded from the Government grant issued to Council's to support the Town Deal. Once that candidate has been secured Council Officers will report back to the Board.

#### *Terms of Reference*

As reported at the last meeting these have been drafted and are being reviewed against the latest Government guidance. This process has been delayed a little as further information which was due last week needs to be considered. Subject to the outcome of the decision on the chair officers will also discuss with the incoming chair and will report back to the next meeting.