

Dewsbury Town Board Minutes

Meeting 19th November 2020

1. Item Attendees and Apologies

Cllr Shabir Pandor – Chair

Attendees: Bruce Bird (BB), Nancy Barrett (NB); Martyn Broadest (MB); Paul Burnett (PB); John Taylor (JT); Heather Waddington (HW); Charles Smith (CS); Barney Mynott (BM); Peter Mason (PM); Richard Thorpe (RT); Martin Hathaway (MH); Marie Gilluley (MG); Iqbal Bhana (IB); Margaret Kalaugher (MK); Stuart Howie (SH)

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

Guest speakers from Social Communications Ltd: Matt Joy (MJ); Matt Baker (MB)

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

Formal apologies received: Mark Eastwood (subbed by John Taylor); Paul Ellis (PE); Carles Palermo (CP); Elle Dodd (no longer attending, Margaret Kalaugher replacing); Simon Cash (SC)

2. Declaration of Interest

NB declared her interest through TEAMS chat that Creative Scene is the proposer of Union Street Arts & Culture Centre. NB Happy to share draft vision and aims with the board.

MB declared an interest via email to ST on the 19th November in relation to the TIP project related to supporting housing delivery in the Daisy Hill area.

3. Minutes from previous meeting – paper circulated

Minutes from 22nd October 2020, **circulated and agreed**. NB noted misspelling of her surname. MI will amend.

4. Terms of Reference Simon Taylor/ Valerie George– to include the following points for discussion – paper circulated

- a) Nolan Principles and the Code of Conduct
- b) Declaration of Interest Form
- c) Substitutes

ST – noted the Board are currently operating in a shadow capacity, there is a real need to get TOR issues back to ST by 30th November. Comments received by some board members (BB), however TOR has not been adjusted yet to reflect comments.

ST – noted the final TOR will be presented at the next board meeting on the 17th December for final sign off and the Board will be fully constituted.

ST – noted as part of the TOR the board needs fill in and sign the Council Declarations of Interest from and agree to Codes of conduct as well as sign and submit substitute formed by Friday 4th December.

BB- noted 9.1 Quorum and Decision Making - TOR limits the communication method by email, other forms of communication within the board needs to be considered.

ST – noted VG from Kirklees Council Legal Services present to answer any questions

Board had mixed thoughts around substitutes, with views being aired by:

MH around the need for substitutes and them not being up to speed with board discussions.

MB noted that it would be fine, but for most people it would be irrelevant as they wouldn't have anyone available to attend.

IB raised issues around not being able to nominate anyone, but the board needs to recruit someone from the Asian business sector.

MG – suggested a binary approach – simple yes/no

VG – noted that other Town Boards have asked for substitutes, the advantage of having a substitute has filled in a Register of Interest form is that they can represent the organisation if Board Members themselves cannot attend a particular meeting.

CS – agrees with substitution

ST/VG to take away board comments on substitution and review

In terms of board meetings being made public, consensus of the board is that they have no objections to this.

JT – noted board should have private meeting prior to going into a public meeting

IB – noted meetings should be transparent and allow for community engagement with the Asian business community as there is little traction with them at the moment.

5. Chairperson – Angela Blake

Board have tried to find a suitable replacement without success. Recommendation to the board is to go out to advert externally to appoint a professional.

Board were advised that to get the right person with the right skills set and credentials a fee of £500 a day would be considered. Looking at a day a month to cover meetings and briefings.

DS – noted that set targets would be required for the chair and that with board agreement they will be able to move forward at pace in finding a chair.

6. Board membership - Review on Non-Attendees

Some board members have not attended since the first meeting.

ST – to write to them to see if they still want to be included in the board. Board in agreement.

MB – noted the Board needs to be transparent about attendance and non-attendees over the last 6 months needs to be aired.

BB – raised question over Chamber of Trade representation within the Town Board

ST/BB to have a discussion outside Board meeting

7. Update on project appraisal –presentation Mark Harris (Avison Young) - presentation circulated

Key questions raised:

Query from MG around the TIP project templates and will the board have an opportunity to see them?

MB wanted to know what the process was to assess value for money on the projects.

BB raised a question around the Skills Village project and which location this would be delivered from. Also raised a question over Union Arts and Cultural Centre and the Towns Fund Accelerated funds.

Query from PB around the Dewsbury Revival Scheme and what this involves

IB commented on Skills Village and noted that consideration should be directed at the construction industry around bed manufacturing as there is a skills shortage. Many bed manufacturers have gone out for recruitment but failed due to low skilled applicants.

CD – to pick this up with IB outside the meeting

8. Engagement – Early feedback – Matt Baker - Paper circulated by Social Communications

Press release being issued w/c 23rd November to do a last push before end of consultation 30th November.

MB – call out to Board Members again to share and retweet consultation link

BB- requested that the link be included in the press release as previous Dewsbury Reporter article didn't have it on there

9. A.O.B

Chair – noted that there is a need to ensure a consistent feed of good news stories is being circulated through the media channels. More press needed in regards to the accelerated Town Fund projects.

10. Date of next meeting

17th December 2020 – 17:15pm – 19:00pm

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