A Town Deal for Birkenhead

Minutes of the Town Deal Board

19th December 2022 10am

Wirral Waters offices, Tower Quays, Birkenhead

REFERENCE	ITEM	Action
PART 1		
1	Welcome and apologies Leigh-Anne Stradeski (LS) as Chair welcomed the Board and visitors. In attendance: Leigh-Anne Stradeski - Eureka! Science & Discovery	
	Richard Mawdsley - Wirral Waters – Peel L&P Sue Higginson - Wirral Met College Liam Kelly - Make CIC Cllr Pat Cleary - Wirral Council Ste Tant – BEIS Kate Pierce - Wirral Council Mick Whitley MP Sam Keely - assistant to Mr Whitley Cathy Palmer - Wirral Council Adrian Jones - DWP	
	Apologies received from: Cllr Tony Jones - Wirral Council Sally Shah - Wirral Council Sophie Bevan - LCR CA Louise Healey - DWP Mark Lightburn – Wirral Council Paula Basnett - Wirral Chamber of Commerce Jane Morgan - Wirral Council Cllr Janette Williamson – Wirral Council	
2	Declarations of Interest Declaration of interest are recorded from: Leigh-Anne Stradeski (LS) - Eureka! project Richard Mawdsley (RM) - Sustainability Central Hub Sue Higginson (SH) - Education Engagement Network Project and Eureka! project Liam Kelly (LK) – Argyle Street Creative Hub	
	ACTION: Any further declarations of interest to be emailed to Kate Pierce (KP) ACTION: KP asked that any Register of Interest forms still outstanding should be completed and returned by email.	Board Members
3	Meeting Minutes	

The Board received and approved the minutes of its meeting on 28th September 2022.

KP updated the Board on the outcome of the actions.

Inflation costs - The Board recognised that this was an ongoing issue in the construction sector. The Board agreed to keep the issue on the agenda and flag it should it jeopardise the delivery of a project. LS noted that the issue of increasing costs has been recorded in the risk register of a number of the projects.

Egerton House and EEN projects - KP reported that progress was being made with both these projects.

Delivery of improved connectivity and sustainable transport projects were behind schedule - KP provided an update from Julie Barnes (Strategic Transport Infrastructure Manager) noting that resources would be in place in January to support consultation, and that a briefing for Ward Members would be provided then.

The Board emphasised the need for improved connectivity to be delivered to ensure a quality offer in Birkenhead and to make the best of the campus of Town Deal projects. The Board expressed concern at the time taken for the delivery of these interventions. The Board expressed concern at the approach to consultation and suggested separating out the consultation of the Wirral Waters actives travel route from the Liscard route.

The Board asked that Julie Barnes be invited to the next Town Deal Board meeting and that the minutes be circulated to Paul Satoor so that he is aware of the issue.

ACTION: KP to invite Julie Barnes to next meeting **ACTION**: KP to circulate minutes to Paul Satoor

KP KP

The need for 'placed based' intervention and support, rather than a thematic approach - KP provided an update from Sophie Bevan (SB) who suggested that this is kept on the agenda for future discussion and followed up though discussion with Homes England. Ste Tant (ST) updated the Board about DLUHCs approach to streamlining of place-based interventions to connect up funding streams. Sue Higginson (SH) confirmed the need for the skills agenda to reflect the need in local communities. ST and SH to work together on tangible outcomes that would be good examples for ST to take back to DLUHC.

ACTION: SH and ST to agree examples.

SH/ST

4 Town Deal programme update

KP confirmed that the Performance Report for the period April - September 2022 had been completed and submitted to government

	for the deadline on 16 th December. The Board received a copy of the Performance Report as part of the meeting papers. No issues or questions were raised in relation to the report.	
	KP provided a progress update on the Town Deal programme and the projects within it. All projects are on track to be delivered by the deadline of March 2026. Risks are moderate to low and projects leads have been asked to complete a risk register.	
	Cathy Palmer (CP) gave an update on the Regeneration Portfolio. A new Director of Regeneration & Place is to join the Council in January. ACTION: KP invite the new director to the next Town Deal Board meeting.	КР
	Partnership working with Homes England was progressing well and they are supportive of the Birkenhead 2040 Framework and projects within it. Homes England are supporting the delivery of Hind Street – a new residential neighbourhood in Birkenhead on a disused gas works site. Further opportunities for Homes England to be involved in regeneration projects are being identified.	
	A new consultation and engagement space called BirkenEd's Place has opened in central Birkenhead. The space has been well received and has provides an opportunity for the local community to feed back their views on regeneration plans for the area.	
5	Project updates Updates were provided by project leads who confirmed that projects are moving forward.	
	SH noted the need for the Council to have vacated the Hamilton Building in the agreed timeframe of July 2023, and that this must be the early part of the month. No further slippage in the timeframe can be tolerated.	
	ACTION : SH to continue to work with council's project lead. KP to flag the issue with the council project lead.	SH/KP
	Liam Kelly (LK) introduced a project working with Liverpool John Moores University architecture department focussing on sustainable options of phased projects. The Board discussed the parallels between the various projects and the need to include sustainable design options for phasing of projects.	
6	Communications The Board discussed the need to tell the regeneration story in a way that was relevant to the local community.	

	How to keep the public informed	
	How to get true representation of our communities	
	How to maintain trust and faith	
	How to engage more widely with other stakeholders	
	Approaches that have been found to be effective in their	
	own organisations. The Board agreed to following actions:	
	 Capture and promote stories from beneficiaries of the grant (users of the various facilities) both now and after delivery. Report tangible outputs and outcomes Undertake more tours A timeline for outputs across the regeneration programme 	All Board members/project leads
	(not just Town Deal) to be delivered in BirkenEds Place. Board members and project leads to provide information on project and delivery, both Town Deal funded and other relevant projects. (KP to advise what format the information would be needed in.)	КР
	 Board members and Project Leads to promote projects and engage with their own stakeholders. 	
	 Board members and Project Leads to use consistent hashtags on press statements, social media communications, and to share each other good news stories. #towndeal #townsfund #thefutureisbirkenhead 	
	 KP to provide summary of information for press statements, and further details of where to use the Leftbank Logo. 	КР
7	Borough of Culture	
·	This item was moved to the next agenda.	JM
6	Spotlight on the Board	
	The Board noted that its role in overseeing the delivery of the Town	
	Deal programme had already been agreed and that the frequency of	
	meeting and the governance and reporting arrangement were working well.	
	The Board reflected on:	
	What it had achieved	
	The benefits of a Board approach to regeneration	
	The diverse nature of the Board's interests and the resultant	
	diverse range of projects in the programme.	
	The value in networking	
	 What activity has taken place as a result of wider networking The synergies between the projects and how the Board approach reduced siloed working 	
	The Board considered its role in the future regeneration programme and agreed that no change was currently necessary while the Town	

	Deal programme was ongoing. But following that, it would be keen to continue its involvement and would take a steer from the Council regarding what this might be. The need for any future involvement to be focused and related to tangible outcomes such as communications, funding opportunities, consultation & engagement were noted.	
7	AOB None	
8	Date of next meeting Late February/early March Venue: Eureka! tbc ACTION: KP to arrange next meeting LS thanked RM for the use of the room and facilities at Wirral Waters, and for the tour of the Wirral Waters development site. LS thanked everyone for coming, wished the Board a Merry Christmas, and closed the meeting.	KP