

Minutes of the Birkenhead Town Deal Board

27th June 2023 10am

Eureka! Science + Discovery

| REFERENCE | ITEM | Action |
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| 1 | <p>Welcome and apologies Leigh-Anne Stradeski (LS) as Chair welcomed the Board and visitors.</p> <p>In attendance: Leigh-Anne Stradeski - Eureka! Science & Discovery Liam Kelly – Make CIC Georgia Millership – BEIS Rosie Jenkins - BEIS Helen West (for Louise Healey) - DWP Dean Paton – Big Heritage Carly McLure-Murray – Big Heritage Nikki Leising (for Sue Higginson) – Wirral Met College Cllr Pat Cleary - Wirral Council Cllr Tony Jones - Wirral Council Mark Gilbertson – LCR CA Paula Basnett - Wirral Chamber of Commerce Chris Lee – Microzine Creative Damian Cooke – Wirral Council Julie Barnes – Wirral Council Kate Pierce - Wirral Council</p> <p>Apologies received from: David Hughes – Wirral Council Richard Mawdsley - Wirral Waters – Peel L&P Louise Healey - DWP Sue Higginson - Wirral Met College Mark Lightburn – Wirral Council</p> <p>Kate Pierce (KP) relayed a message from Sue Higginson (Wirral Met College) to the Board.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Declarations of Interest Declaration of interest were recorded from members of the Board with Town Deal projects including Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Paula Basnett, Liam Kelly.</p> <p>ACTION: Paula Basnett to send updated declarations of interest form to be KP.</p> <p>ACTION: Any other updated declarations of interest to be sent to KP.</p> | <p>PB</p> <p>Board Members</p> |
| 3 | <p>Meeting Minutes The Board received and approved the minutes of its meeting on 10th March 2023.</p> <p>KP updated the Board on the outcome of the actions completed:</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB had completed the draft of Project Adjustment Form for Woodside Ferry Village project. • Board members were asked to use their own communication channels to share information about the events planned for Borough of Culture. • Board members to be proactive with communications and tell the regeneration/Town Deal story in a way that is relevant to the local community. | |
| 4 | <p>Town Deal programme update</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation Performance Reporting Q3&4 2022/23 KP invited comments on the recently circulated Performance Report. None were received.</p> <p>KP confirmed that the report had been submitted to DLUHC for the deadline of 9th June. A response from DLUHC was awaited.</p> <p>Update on the Town Deal projects Project RAG ratings were shared with the Board. The Board asked that projects with a RAG rating of 12 or above be asked to provide a detailed update on progress, milestones reached and anticipated timeframe for delivery, and mitigation of risks. The Board asked for further details regards Transport Shed, Sustainability Central, and the Priory.</p> <p>ACTION: KP to contact project leads and ask for the update.</p> <p>A summary of the challenges included in the Performance Report was shared with the Board. These were:</p> <p>Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex projects needed to be developed further before GFAs could be entered into • Complex GFA clauses take time to resolve • Formalising Subsidy Control position takes time (new legislation) • Project Adjustment Requests delay progress <p>Project Delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflation and cost of living increases • Delays in supply chain • Retendering of contracts • Land/property acquisition taking longer than anticipated • Delays in planning process <p>The Board discussed the issue of cost inflation and the impact on the projects, as well as other challenges, and how best it might support project moving forwards. Concerns were raised about delays to projects and the anticipated increase in costs during this time.</p> | KP |

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| | <p>Town Fund Conference</p> <p>A summary of the key takeaways from the Towns Fund Conference was shared with the Board. The Board noted that the challenges faced within its own programme of projects were shared in other towns across the UK.</p> <p>Cllr Tony Jones asked if guidance could be issued by DLUHC to help support projects with their challenges faced.</p> <p>ACTION: Rosie Jenkins to consider how this might be provided, and share learning of how other Town Deal Boards are tackling challenges.</p> | RJ |
| | <p>Regeneration Delivery Programme</p> <p>Damian Cooke gave an update on the Regeneration Portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A visit from delegates of No.10 Downing Street's Levelling Up team had been hosted. The visit had been well received by visiting delegates. The final report would be shared with the Board once released. • A pilot project to align regeneration projects funded by local growth funds was being considered and work was underway with DLUHC to shape this. • The Council had purchased the Pyramids shopping centre, increasing the control over town assets which would be positive for the town in the delivery of future regeneration plans. • Public Realm projects were moving forward • Hind Street – the next stage of the design programme had now been reached. • Miller Quay, Wirral Waters - topping out had been reached. | |
| 5 | <p>Project updates</p> <p>Startyard - Chris Lee provided an update on the project. Issues encountered related to build costs, securing contractors and getting quality tenants.</p> <p>The Board noted the benefits of smaller projects, such as Startyard, and the collective positive impact that they brought to the Town Deal programme and to Birkenhead.</p> <p>Updates were provided by project leads on Argyle Street Creative Hub, Education Engagement network, Eureka, Egerton House and Waterfront (Woodside Ferry Village and Battle of the Atlantic).</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Active Travel</p> <p>The Board received a presentation from Julie Barnes, Strategic Transportation Lead Commissioner, on plans for Active Travel.</p> <p>ACTION: JB to provide slides for circulation to board members.</p> | KP |

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| 7 | AOB None | |
| 8 | Date of next meeting September TBC Venue: Wirral Met College – TBC ACTION: KP to arrange next meeting LS thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting. | KP |