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Darwen Town Deal Board

Thursday, 14th July, 2022

2.00 pm

Teams Meeting

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd June 2022**
23rd June 2022 Darwen TD Minutes - FINAL **3 - 6**
3. **Chairman's Report - Business Case Update and Outstanding Approvals**
 1. **Completed Business Cases**
 - Town Centre Core
 - Employment Growth Sites
 - Town Centre Living
 - Strategic Manufacturing
 - Destination Darwen
 - Gateways
 - Sports Village
 2. **Outstanding Business Cases (AMRC & Ultrafast Broadband)**

Darwen Town Deal Board - Chairman's Update - 14 07 22 **7**
4. **Comms Update**
5. **Date of Next Meeting - TBC**

Date Published: 13th July 2022

ACTION MINUTES

THURSDAY 23RD JUNE 2022 (MS TEAMS)

PRESENT: Board Members:

Wayne Wild, Chair of the Board,
Phil Riley, Leader Blackburn with Darwen BC
Cllr Kevin Connor, Leader of Darwen Town Council,
Miranda Barker, Chief Executive of East Lancashire Chamber and
Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board Director,
Glenda Brindle, Chair of Governors, DACA,
The Rt Hon. Jake Berry, M.P.
John Wilkinson, Regional Director of Suez Recycling,
Steve Waggott, Chief Executive Blackburn Rovers FC.
Fazal Dad, Chief Executive and Principal, Blackburn College.

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Support Officers:

Martin Kelly, Strategic Director of Growth and Development BwDBC, Clare Turner, Economic Initiatives and Programmes, Paul Conlon, Democratic Services & Natalie Banks, Communications Manager.

Also Present:

Graeme Collinge, John Livesey, Paul Fairhurst and Paul Evans.

	ITEM		Key Action
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting,. Apologies were noted from Gary Aspden and Cllr John Slater.	Noted

Agenda Item 2

		The Board Placed on record their thanks for the work undertaken by Cllr John East, who is replaced by Cllr Kevin Connor, the new Leader of Darwen Town Council. The Chair welcomed Cllr Connor to the meeting.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th March 2022	The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.	Approved
3	Declarations of Interest	There were no Declarations of Interest Received.	Noted
4	Darwen Town Deal Work Programme/ Business Case Update.	<p>The Board were presented with an update on the ongoing business case preparation for the projects in the programme. The aim was to get all business cases completed by Friday 8th July 2022. These would then be appraised and finalised by 20th July. Capita had been appointed to undertake this independent assurance. These would then require Board sign off first and then accountable body sign off for submission by Friday 5th August to the DLUHC. The Submission would include the business cases, project summaries and an updated M&E Plan. Members were informed that delegated authority may need to be considered to approve the completed submissions to the DLUHC at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Board were then informed of progress of the individual Business Cases for each of the projects and how these were developing. Although some were more developed than others at this stage, all were on target to be completed by 5th July, subject to information by subject leads. Project appraisals were under way for P1 – Town Centre Core and P9- Gateway.</p> <p>The Board discussed a number of issues relating to the bid and were informed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The skate park was to be opened on 24th June and provided a first class facility. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All businesses in the Market were valued and we are looking to accommodate them in the new development however there was likely to be some disruption while the works were underway. The intention would be to minimise this as much as possible but the details of this were still to be worked out as of the details design and delivery of the project. Blackburn College are proposing to continue to provide Adult Education from new facilities. As part of the Sports Village project, the provision of a Golf Driving range with facilities is being investigated after a potential site has been identified as close to Junction 4 and the Sports Village. <p>The Board noted Progress on the work programme and business case together with the deadlines that were required to meet the submission requirements.</p>	Noted
5.	Branding and Communications	Natalie presented an update to the Board on the progress on work to develop branding for the Darwen Town Deal. The Board were reminded of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations that had taken place with the main focus being the re-opening and lighting up of Darwen Tower. The board were informed of the positive response that the celebration had produced and response on social media. The work on the branding was progressing and would become more visible around the town and build identity with branding appearing on bus stops and at Belgrave Heights.	Progress noted.
6	Any Other Business	The Board were updated on the successful launch of the Darwen Youth Zone, which had taken place recently, and achieved the business patrons funding target in record time. Ongoing support would be welcomed from Board members and to spread the word to potentially interested parties. .	Noted

		The Chair drew attention to the projects and work that was going on and invited members to look at how they could get more actively involved in the projects and let him know.	
7	Date of future meetings.	The Board noted that the next meeting of the Board had been scheduled to take place on 14 th July at 2.00pm.	Noted

Chairman's Report

Business Case Update and Outstanding Approvals

Darwen Town Deal Board

14th July 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress on the nine Business Cases which form the Darwen Town Deal submission due to Government by August 5th.

Seven of the nine Business Cases are completed and their Executive Summaries are circulated with this agenda for the Board's review and comments. The two outstanding Business Cases for AMRC and Ultrafast Broadband projects are waiting on further information and University Board approval in the case of the AMRC. It is expected these will be finalised in the next 2 weeks.

As Chair of the Board, I have been following closely and been actively engaged with Genecon, our retained consultants and the Council's lead officers in developing the Business Cases and am pleased with progress of what I believe are a strong and exciting portfolio of projects which will truly transform Darwen and help us to deliver our Investment Plan

It is now timely that we, as the Board, endorse and support the submission of the Town Deal Business Cases. I would now ask you to review the information circulated and bring any comments to the meeting of the 14th July. I would also ask that you delegate authority to myself as Chair, alongside Martin Kelly, Strategic Director of Growth and Development and the Council's Director of Finance (S151 Officer) for the approval of the AMRC and Ultrafast Broadband Business Cases, given urgency and pressing deadlines.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

1. Note and comment on the seven Business Case Summaries provided;
2. Approve the circulated Business Cases and delegate authority to the Chair, in conjunction with BwDBC's Strategic Director of Growth and Development and Council's Finance Director (S151 Officer), to submit all the finalised Business Cases to Government by agreed deadlines.