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Darwen Town Deal Board

Thursday, 16th March, 2023
2.00 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies

To welcome those present to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2022.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2022.

ACTION MINUTES December 2022

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3. Chair man's Report

To receive a verbal update on the Darwen Town Deal Programme.

4. Programme and Projects Update

To receive a presentation on the programme and projects update.

5. Communications

To receive a verbal update on the programme and projects update

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of the Next Meeting.

Date Published: Date 15th March 2023
Denise Park, Chief Executive

ACTION MINUTES

THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2022 (MS TEAMS)

PRESENT: Board Members:

Wayne Wild, Chair of the Board,

Cllr Phil Riley, Leader of 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, Aldridge Academy,

Fazal Dad, Chief and Executive, Blackburn College,

John Wilkinson, Regional Director of Suez Recycling,

Support Officers:

Martin Kelly, Director of Growth and Development BwDBC, Clare Turner, Andrew Barrow, Paul Conlon, & Natalie Banks,

Also Present:

Graeme Collinge,
Charlotte Schofield

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	ITEM		Key Action
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies were noted from Gary Aspden, Cllr John Slater and John Sturgess	Noted
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th July 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

Agenda Item 2

4	Chairman's Report.	<p>The Board were presented with a Project Review Summary on Darwen Town Deal and a Project Prioritisation on Town Deal Board.</p> <p>The Board were informed that 9 Business Cases had been approved together with 2 late cases. The Tower and the Skate Park had been completed and the FC Darwen project had commissioned architects.</p> <p>The Chair drew attention to the progress of the Darwen Youth Zone which had been launched with 14 Key patrons. The funding targets had been achieved and this would not have been achieved without the Town Deal Board.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the work of the Board in improving the appearance of the town centre and the recent issues concerning the former bank premises in the Town Centre that had been redeveloped as a bargain shop. The Board were informed of the actions that had been taken. Signs had been removed and the ramp was on the highway and would need permission. The Council were working with owner of the shop to improve the outcome. Concerns were also expressed over the heritage of the inside of the building.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
5	Programme and Projects Update.	<p>The Board were updated on progress on the development and delivery of the projects of the Town Deal. Each of the projects had individual target delivery dates and were due to start next year.</p> <p>In response to a question regarding the conversations with existing stall holders the Board were informed that they had been informed that discussions would take place as soon as we could and firm details were available and a partner on board. A communications strategy will be developed</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>With regard to the Town Centre Living project the Board noted that the design was an important of the project as was selecting materials. Communications would need to be in place in relation to the car park which this was well used at present. The Board were reminded that the height and scale of the apartments was important given the historic setting of the buildings.</p> <p>The AMRC developments were progressing and the Business Case had been approved in November.</p> <p>With regard to the Destination Darwen proposals, work is likely to start promoting in the Spring once designs are further advanced.</p> <p>Work on Project Golf has commenced and clarity about the site was being sought, progress would be made from there to explore viability and sustainability.</p> <p>The chair suggested that a dashboard showing actual progress against the programmes set out in the Business Cases with colour coded detail to assist members when the delivery of the main work programme starts.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed.</p>
6.	Assurance Process and Sign-offs Update	<p>The Board were informed of the assurance and sign-off process with government and that the guidance was being worked through to ensure safeguards were in place. Further appropriate processes would be introduced when necessary.</p> <p>The Board agreed that the Chair and the Councils Director of Finance be given approval to sign off on the bids when necessary.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p>
6	Communications.	<p>The board were updated on progress to date and the work that had been done particularly regarding the SkatePpark. The Tower Restoration remain very positive.</p> <p>The Christmas light switch on had attracted over 5,000 people and had been part of the Spend Christmas in Darwen campaign. Attention was</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		drawn to the website and content would be reviewed to ensure that the projects were promoted. A communications and project plan were to be drawn up.	
7	Any Other Business.	The Board were informed that work was being carried out relating to the high street. Footfall counters had been installed to give a baseline and as projects developed this would give a comparison.	Noted