

DARWEN TOWN DEAL BOARD

ACTION MINUTES

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING USING MS TEAMS

PRESENT: Board Members:

Wayne Wild, Group Commercial Director of WEC Group Ltd (Chair of Darwen Deal Board); Rt. Hon. Jake Berry MP; Phil Riley, Executive Member for Growth and Development BwDBC; Cllr John East, Leader of Darwen Town Council; Miranda Barker, Chief Executive of East Lancashire Chamber and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board Director; John Wilkinson, Regional Director of Suez Recycling and Recovery UK; Janet Pearce, Chair of Keep Darwen Tidy; Glenda Brindle, Chair of Governors Aldridge Academy; Dr Fazal Dad, Chief Executive and Principal of Blackburn College, and Gary Aspden, Global Brand and Design Consultant, Adidas.

Support Officers

Martin Kelly, Director of Growth and Development, BwDBC; Clare Turner, Town Centre and Markets Manager, BwD BC; Natalie Banks, Digital Communications Team Leader, BwD BC; Phil Llewellyn, Governance and Democratic Manager, BwD BC; Suzanne Jones, Assistant Director, Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS/DHCLG.

	ITEM		Key Action
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies had been received from Cllr John Slater, Leader of the Conservative Group, BwD BC; John Sturgess, Chair of Darwen Town Centre Partnership and Steve Waggot, Chief Executive; Blackburn Rovers FC.</p> <p>Martin Kelly introduced Phil Llewellyn who would supporting the Board going forwards in terms of agendas and minutes and related</p>	Noted

		governance matters. Martin noted that for future meetings, agendas would be published and available on the Council's website and in the short term, meetings would be held using MS Teams Live, until meetings in person could recommence, and a protocol for public speaking would be submitted to the next meeting.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th February, Key Actions and Matters Arising	<p>The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record, with the amendment of Glenda Brindle's title, Chair of Governors, rather than Chair of Darwen Aldridge Academy.</p> <p>The Boundaries for the Deal area had been confirmed by the Government, with the majority of the parliamentary constituency included, up to the M65 boundary with Blackburn (not including Fernhurst area and Rossendale).</p> <p>Media and Communications Plan and related matters to be discussed at future meetings.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
3.	Update on Town Fund Prospectus	<p>Suzanne Jones delivered a presentation which summarised the Town Fund Prospectus.</p> <p>There were three cohorts in July, October and January, with the opportunity to apply for more than £25 million. Bids would need to factor in the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy and evidence if the Town Deal was part of their recovery plans. Bids for more than £25M would be subject to additional scrutiny, with two opportunities to submit Town Investment Plans.</p> <p>Support was available via the Towns Hub, which included a number of partners, with Arup & Co available to assist to provide specialist support.</p>	Noted

		<p>Members of the Board debated the best timeline to submit a bid, and it was felt that the bid should be submitted in the October to January window. There was also discussion on the impact of the Covid-19 on local businesses, with the view that the bid should not be Covid-19 based, as other support was available, and it would also be too late to help by the time funding was received.</p> <p>The general view of the Board was that progress was required as soon as possible, and that the detail of the Town Investment Plan (TIP) would be developed in due course.</p>	
4	Chairman's Update	<p>The Chair introduced his report, stating the need for progress as soon as possible.</p> <p>Given the delay generated by Covid-19 on progressing the TIP, and the urgent need to develop greater momentum, the Chair had taken the initiative, with support from Jake Berry MP and Cllr Phil Riley, to identify additional consultancy support to enable the Board to make swifter progress.</p> <p>Subject to Board confirmation, and the finalisation of formal contracting arrangements by Blackburn with Darwen Council, the accountable body, the Chair recommended to the Board the appointment of Genecon, a specialist economic consultancy with a strong track record in preparing business-cases like TIPs for Government.</p> <p>The Chair also proposed that the Board engage Feria-Urbanists / Urban ETC, a specialist urban design practice, to provide additional support to the Board in developing the vision for the TIP. This input was estimated at a maximum cost of £10,000.</p> <p>The development and delivery of a strong TIP was expected to cost up to £160,000, an upper range cost figure which included scope to</p>	

		<p>secure additional professional service inputs should these be required. The Board had been allocated £161,000 by Government to undertake this task.</p> <p>The Chair advised that he would like to introduce the Genecon and Feria / Urban ETC teams to the Board at the next meeting on 10 July, with a view to starting our work on scoping and agreeing the work programme, consistent with new Government guidance.</p> <p>The Board discussed the proposal and all were in agreement that this was the best solution to kick start progress.</p> <p>Suzanne Jones confirmed that support was also available from Arup & Co and her Department, once projects had been identified, and also confirmed that in terms of revenue support, there was up to 10% leeway within Capital Infrastructure projects.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>That the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the content of this report; 2. Given the need for urgency, endorse the appointment of Genecon and Urban ETC to support the development of the Darwen Town Investment Plan, subject to Blackburn with Darwen Council, the Board's accountable body, finalising contract arrangements; and 3. Request a further Board update on finalised on costs and contracting arrangements. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
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5	Items for Next Board Meeting	Presentations by Genecon and Feria / URBAN ETC and Public Speaking Protocol.	Noted
6	Any Other Business	None.	
7	Date of Next Meeting	Friday 10 th July at 2pm and then every two weeks at 2pm on a Friday or as arranged following consultation with the Chair.	Noted