

ACTION MINUTES

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING USING MS TEAMS

PRESENT: Board Members:

Wayne Wild, (Chair of Darwen Deal Board); Cllr John East, Leader of Darwen Town Council; Miranda Barker, Chief Executive of East Lancashire Chamber and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board Director; Jake Berry MP, Phil Riley, Executive Member for Growth and Development, Glenda Brindle, Chair of Governors Aldridge Academy; John Wilkinson, Regional Director of Suez Recycling, John Sturgess, Chair of Darwen Town Centre Partnership and Dr Fazal Dad, Chief Executive and Principal of Blackburn College, Gary Aspden, Global Brand and Design Consultant, Adidas.

Support Officers

Martin Kelly, Director of Growth and Development BwDBC, Clare Turner, Town Centres Manager, Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead, Natalie Banks, Digital Communications Team Leader, BwD BC; Katherine O'Connor, Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS/DHCLG, and Lisa Quinn, Nicols UK.

Also Present

Graeme Collinge, Philip Thornton, Richard Eastham, and Dr John Livesey.

	ITEM		Key Action
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies had been received from Councillor John Slater, Paul Evans and Steve Waggot.	Noted

		Dr John Livesey was welcomed to the meeting and outlined his recent work with the Task and Finish Groups and Consultants over the past couple of weeks.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th September 2020, Key Actions and Matters Arising	The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.	Approved
3.	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were received.	Noted
4.	Town Investment Plan – Work Programme Update	<p>Graeme Collinge presented a work programme update, highlighting key timescales and messages from a recent Check and Challenge of a Town Deal application elsewhere.</p> <p>Graeme highlighted the Strengths – Urban, that Darwen offered, Community Issues, Weaknesses –Urban, Weaknesses generally, Challenges and Opportunities. The Chair and Jake Berry MP commented on some aspects of wording that needed to be changed in the text, and Graeme advised that he would circulate the slides so that Board Members could suggest appropriate wording.</p> <p>Graeme also outlined the 5 Steps to the agreement of the TIP, up to Step 5 – Final Investment Plan, stressing the importance of agreeing a shortlist of projects in the next two weeks.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the update be noted.</p>	Noted

5	Sub-Group Updates	<p>Updates were received as follows:</p> <p>Local Transport and Connectivity – Miranda Barker reported the Group had met once more and had prioritised 3 projects from the longlist of 7:</p> <p>Project 1 – Darwen as a Tourist Destination – Improved Public</p>	Noted
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Rights of Way.

Project 2 – Darwen Town Centre Public Realm and Highways.

Project 3 – Install 6G wireless provision across the Town area.

The Chair and Jake Berry MP requested further information and contact details in respect of the 6G proposal.

Skills and Enterprise – Fazal Dad outlined the proposed projects his Group had identified:

Project 1 – AMRC Satellite Centre (Additive Supply Chain Accelerator).

Project 2 – Darwen Business Growth and Enterprise Hub.

Project 3 – Darwen Digital and Adult Education Centre.

The Chair commented that there may be some crossovers which would show the importance of them, and of the need to link back into the Golden Thread.

Culture, Art, Sport and Heritage – Glenda Brindle outlined the challenges and opportunities discussed and the long list of projects currently being considered by the Group, which sat under four main themes:

Cultural Quarter

Sports Village

History and Heritage

Other Projects.

Urban Regeneration and Town Centre – John Sturgess outlined the challenges and opportunities considered by his Group and of the current longlist of projects:

		<p>Project 1 – Renovation and Modernisation of Darwen Town Hall.</p> <p>Project 2 – Demolition and Redevelopment of the Market Hall Annex and Car Park.</p> <p>Project 3 – Town Centre Housing Renewal.</p> <p>Project 4 – Gateway Improvements.</p> <p>Project 5 – Enterprise Site Development.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Leads for their updates and stated that the various plans needed consolidating and matching and then submitted to the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the updates be noted.</p>	
6.	Communications Update	<p>Natalie Banks confirmed that the website was now live and comments on the Contact Us page had been 95% positive. The news of the £750k funding had also been promoted. The focus would now be on Engagement, and Richard outlined work to date and the meeting discussed engagement with young people, with John East suggesting interaction with 'Meeting Places'.</p> <p>The Chair had recently been filmed for a positive piece about Darwen Tower, which would be broadcast on the Sunday Politics Show, and the meeting discussed the potential for lighting up the Tower. John East reported that the Rotary Club had raised the fantastic amount of £80k towards restoration of the Tower, and the Town Council would also provide some financial support. Natalie agreed to draft a letter of thanks for Wayne to sign on behalf of the Board, and Jake Berry would also write a thank you letter.</p> <p>Richard and Philip delivered a presentation which highlighted topography and travel corridors, connectivity, the emerging spatial strategy, the urban design framework, potential infill-gap sites, gap site potential, and some ideas for the Market, Market Annexe and Arches, and a case study to show a potential urban fabric repair on a</p>	Noted

		<p>named street, with a mix of workshops and living spaces.</p> <p>John East highlighted the potential connectivity around the River Darwen and its links with the River Blakewater.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That the update be noted.</p>	
7	Items for Next Meeting	RESOLVED – The main item of business would be the combined list of potential projects.	Agreed
8	Any Other Business	<p>Gary Aspden referred to his recent e-mail to the Board on the potential of prioritising local businesses in the procurement process – Clare Turner and Lisa Quinn referred to the Preston procurement model for such an approach.</p> <p>Gary also highlighted the importance of a covered space in the plans as currently people congregated between the Market and Asda because of the cover available. Philip advised that this had been considered and built into proposals relating to School Street and Market Square area improvements.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
9	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 22 nd October 2020 at 2pm.	Noted