

ACTION MINUTES

MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021 (MS TEAMS)

PRESENT: Board Members:

Wayne Wild - Chair of the Board,
Phil Riley - Executive Member for Growth and Development,
Cllr John East - Leader of Darwen Town Council,
Miranda Barker - Chief Executive of East Lancashire Chamber and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board Director,
Glenda Brindle - Chair of Governors, Darwen Academy,
John Sturgess - Chair of Darwen Town Centre Partnership,
Dr Fazal Dad - Chief Executive and Principal of Blackburn College,
Gary Aspden - Global Brand and Design Consultant, Adidas,
John Wilkinson - Regional Director of Suez Recycling,
Steve Waggott - Chief Executive, Blackburn Rovers Football Club

Support Officers:

Martin Kelly - Strategic Director for Place, Firoza Hafeji - Governance Officer & Clare Turner - Town Centres Manager

Also Present:

Graeme Collinge & Paul Evans

	ITEM		Key Action
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies were noted from Jake Berry and Cllr John Slater	Noted
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th September 2021	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 Deal Town Investment Plan – Update and Next Steps	<p>The Chair reminded the Board that the deadline for submission of the TIP to the Local Government was 5th October 2021 and the team were working hard to finalise all reports.</p> <p>Graeme Collinge reminded the Board that the Town Investment Plan asked for £29.85m, though the maximum Town Deal offer was £25m, and that no town received more than £25m in similar situations to Darwen.</p> <p>Graeme shared a presentation highlighting the progress made over the past 2 weeks. It was noted that discussions had continued to take place with project sponsors.</p> <p>The presentation outlined that the Council match £12.25m and £1.5m was reallocated from Employment Sites and Perspex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.4m - Town Living • £0.5m – AMRC • £0.5m – Sports Village • £0.1m – Wall finish <p>A meeting was held with Perspex International Ltd confirming international parent company gross £50m investment in Darwen.</p> <p>Preparations were on the way for architectural briefs for the Town Centre Core project, Public Realm and Destination Darwen projects and considering issues such as UK Subsidy Control – all project development work was leading into business cases.</p>	Noted

The Board noted that the largest Town Deal reductions were £2m for Sports Village (Cricket Academy proposal withdrawn, given outstanding match funding and operational delivery issues), £1.5m Employment sites (gap reviewed) and £0.8m for Gateways as the property improvement fund was removed.

The BwD Highways team had reviewed Public Realm and Destination Darwen costs and some cost increases were likely which would need management.

The Board were provided with a summary of the current proposed Town Deal re-allocation. The table showed which projects had a reduction in order to achieve the £5m saving.

Potential reductions with regard to:

- Employment Growth sites - £1.5m
- Town Centre Living – £0.27m
- East Lancs Sport Village - £2m
- Ultrafast Broadband – £0.2m
- Gateways - £0.9m

Graeme reminded the Board that project business cases need to be completed as soon as possible for consideration by the Board, and assured by Blackburn with Darwen Council, as the accountable body, with any relevant co-funding approvals secured. The deadline for the final submission of project summary documents to Government is 5th August 2022.

Discussions took place around branding, promoting and signage of projects carried out by Darwen Town Deal Board which would be further discussed at future meetings.

5	Items for Next Meeting	None.	Noted
6	Any Other Business	None.	Noted
7	Date of Next Meeting	TBC	Noted