

DARWEN TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING

ACTION MINUTES

THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023

MS TEAMS MEETING

Present: Board Members	Support Officers:	Also Present:
Wayne Wild, Chair of the Board	Clare Turner	Charlotte Schofield
Cllr Phil Riley, Leader of Blackburn with Darwen BC	Andrew Barrow	
Glenda Brindle, Chair of Governors, Aldridge Academy	Natalie Banks	
Kevin Connor, Darwen Town Council	Martin Kelly	
Jake Berry, MP	Phil Llewellyn	
Miranda Barker, Chief Executive of East Lancashire Chamber and Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board Director		
John Wilkinson, Regional Director, Suez Recycling		

Agenda Item		Key Action
1	Welcome, Introduction and	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies were noted from: Cllr John Slater, John Sturgess, Gary Aspden, and Fazal Dad.
		Noted

	Apologies		
2	Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th July 2023	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	Chairman's Report	<p>The Chair provided an update on news and developments since the last meeting, highlighting the award of £3.3M from the Youth Investment Fund (YIF) for Darwen Youth Centre, which would mean the facility would double in size. This also meant that double amount of patrons could be accommodated, and in turn , this could mean increased income from £400k to £850k a year, and it was hoped a target of a £1M could be reached. This YIF Funding added to the DTD funding would mean £28.3M had been achieved for Darwen.</p> <p>The Chair also highlighted Blackburn Youth Zone funding of £3M for the Fuse Box refurbishment, which along with investment in Audley and Shadsworth marked funding of around £8M in total for the Borough from the YIF.</p> <p>Additionally, the Chair updated on progress of some of the projects, advising of the planning application for AMRC being submitted, which sat alongside Perspex/Chapels, and 1-1s held with Darwen Market Traders to understand their business needs as part of the way forward.</p> <p>The Chair also advised that a walk around would be arranged prior to the next meeting in December to visit some of the key town centre sites. A date will be forwarded.</p> <p>Finally, the Chair advised that the next meeting in December would be held at the Skatepark and lunch and a walk around the site would be arranged from 1pm, followed by the Board Meeting at 2pm.</p>	
5	Programmes and Project Update	Clare Turner & Andrew Barrow gave a presentation to the Board with an update on the Darwen Town Deal Programme, with the following key areas highlighted:	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Core – updates since last meeting, relating to car parking, market traders consultation, architect’s report for Library Theatre completion, £500k Arts Council bid for additional Library funding submitted. Over the next quarter, review and scoping exercise for temporary market building ahead of tender exercise, finalisation of procurement strategy and pricing framework, finalisation of car parking plan, work with Environment Agency on culvert, and planning application for Library Theatre to be submitted by the end of the year.. • Employment Growth – Balle St Mill on site and tenant agreed terms with final agreement with solicitors. Chapels South (ARMC) Planning Application submitted and announced. • Town Centre Living – new appraisal of Church St received and under review, viability of town centre residential schemes to be finalised. • ARMC – as well as planning application submission, development of final business model, new machinery being specified, detailed design to be developed over next quarter and Project Plan and Programme to be developed. • Strategic Manufacturing – Perspex – design development progressing, cash flow and construction pre-start programme to be submitted to Council to support draw down of funding for early works, and pre-app meeting with Planners to be scheduled. • Destination Darwen – Trails and Skyline road tested and review underway on investment proposals, consultation underway with Natural England re SSSI, progress on investment and trails to be presented to next Board meeting for approval, then work packages to be worked up, and programme developed, plus proposals for possible public art reviewed and site identified. • East Lancashire Sports Village – BMX Freestyle National Championships held at J4 skatepark, attendances back up, ongoing discussion with Sport England on future funding for dirt tracks. Second phase of Darwen CC completed on outside area, all funding drawn down, planning application for Pavilion submitted and awaiting costs on MCC training Hub. Darwen FC - ongoing feasibility work on phase 2 and feasibility work ongoing for Project Golf too. • Digital Darwen – prudent approach taken in Darwen with market testing of gigabyte rollout. Some gaps identified to understand supplier capability and where other 	CT/AB
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		<p>subsidies or the market could pick up, data analysis underway. Procurement Plan to be firmed up, identification of quick wins and exploration of quick roll out of Town Centre wifi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darwen Youth Centre - Grant awarded, planning application submitted, and Principal Contactor framework and procurement strategy approved. <p>The Board discussed the importance of proactively encouraging local sub-contractors to tender for work, and this aspect needed to clearly be communicated to main contractors.</p>	
6	Communications Update	<p>The Board received a Communications update from Natalie Banks on behalf of BwD, who advised that most of her update had been covered already via the Chairs update and the Programmes and Projects update, but reminded the Board of the 125th Birthday of Darwen Tower.</p>	
7	AOB	<p>The Chair stated the importance of Board Members role in governing the Board, and letting Officers progress agreed actions and plans.</p> <p>Glenda Brindle suggested that the ongoing High School Open Evenings would be a good opportunity to publicise the projects, and it was felt that this would be better next year when it could be planned effectively.</p> <p>John Wilkinson stated the importance of monitoring costings for projects, in light of rising costs, and the Chair advised that this was underway to make sure projects were within budget, and that there would be updates at the next meeting.</p> <p>In terms of the walk around, Jake Berry advised that a Thursday or Friday would be better for him, and Clare Turner advised that potential dates would be looked at, avoiding October half term, and communicated to the Board.</p>	All

8	Next Meeting:	Date: Thursday 7 th December 2023, at 1pm at J4 Skatepark, with meeting itself starting at 2pm.	ALL
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