

TOWN DEAL BOARD

At a meeting of the Town Deal Board held on
23 January 2020

Present
Mick Allen -Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Geoffrey Appleton - CCG
Councillor David Baines – Leader of the Council
Sophie Bevan - CA Investment Manager
Sharon Bridge – Sabroso Restaurant Owner
Julia Callaghan - St Helens College
Glenys Chalk - Headteacher Rivington Primary
Steve Coffey - Torus
Andrew Darron - Groundwork Trust
Alex Dawson - Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Philip Fell - Associate Pastor St Helens CLC
Lance Flor - Director LLPT Foods Limited (McDonalds Franchise St Helens)
Superintendent Tami Garvey Jones – Merseyside Police (St Helens)
Ron Helsby - World of Glass
Justin Hill - YMCA – Chief Executive
Emma Howarth - Mission in the Economy MITE
Chris Jones - Developer
Fay Lamb - Citadel Chief Executive
Howard Lawrenson - (Lawrenson Associates)
Stephen Lingard – SL Consultancy
Steve Littler - Senior Assistant Director - Place, Growth and Regulatory Services
Andy Lock – Coalfields Regeneration
Wayne Longshaw – Director of Integration, St Helens & Knowsley NHS Hospitals
Tracy Mawson – St Helens Chamber Deputy CE
Councillor Richard McCauley – Cabinet Member Economic Regeneration and Housing

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Conor McGinn MP
Stephen Palfrey – Palfrey Greer
Marie Rimmer CBE MP
Cameron Sheeran – Headteacher Cowley and Haydock High Schools
John Tabern – Local businessman and Ambassador
Also Present
Roy Benyon, Head of Place and Delivery
Joanne Griffiths MBE, Democratic Services Manager
Gary Maddock, Town Centre Manager

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roy Benyon, Head of Place and Delivery welcomed everyone to the first meeting and introductions were made. It was agreed that Roy would facilitate the first meeting as Chair with the ACTION to request expressions of interest for the position of Chair post the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Aylett, John Hodkinson, Chris ODea, Andy Reid and Matthew Williams Patrick Fox.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from those present were made.

4 PRESENTATION ON THE TOWN DEAL

A presentation was made which outlined the following:

The objective of the Fund was to drive:

1. the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth through:
 - Urban regeneration, planning and land use: ensuring towns were thriving places for people to live and work, including by: increasing density in town centres; strengthening local economic assets including local cultural assets; site acquisition, remediation, preparation, regeneration; and making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.
2. Skills and enterprise infrastructure: driving private sector investment and ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development.
3. Connectivity: developing local transport schemes that complement regional and national networks, as well as supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity.

TOWN DEAL BOARD

A Town Deal Board had to be established by the end of January 2020.

The Board, in its advisory role to St Helens Council, would identify and put together a clear programme of interventions.

The Board would then agree an evidence-based Town Investment Plan.

The Towns Fund would provide the core public investment in Town Deals, additional funding may come from other sources or parts of government and private sector investment.

The presentation also made reference to the ONS (Office National Statics) Map to be referenced for the Town Deal which is not the full borough of St Helens.

5 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

A draft Terms of Reference was provided which gave the background for the introduction of a Town Deal Board.

ACTION – Roy to liase with Mick Allen BEIS to confirm format of Terms of Reference is acceptable or whether a standard form is to be published from Government.

In September 2019, the UK Government identified 101 towns to participate in bidding for up to £25m, to support the delivery of innovative regeneration plans. Those towns selected generally had a proud industrial and economic heritage but had not yet benefitted from recent economic growth. The initiative added £1.325bn to a previously announced towns fund, targeted at stimulating regeneration of towns, town centres and high streets, taking the total fund allocation to £3.6bn. These additional funds are referred to as “Town Deal Funds” and are aligned to “whole town” proposals, not just town centres.

Government set an initial requirement to complete a written “readiness statement” which was completed and submitted by 19 December 2019 and to establish a Town Deal Board which should hold its first meeting no later than January 2020.

Board Members agreed that a priority would be to look at a vision which underpinned what the Board was trying to achieve and to ensure it was delivered.

It was important to look at connectivity and current assets which could be further developed. Some ‘quick wins’ to be established.

Heritage should play an important part going forward in order to attract more visitors into the town.

6 FUTURE GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

A Chair for the Board was required from the Private Sector. Roy asked that expressions of interest from anyone wanting to chair the Board to be emailed to roybenyon@sthelens.gov.uk

It was also advised that the Board should look at its future structure to ensure all current Board members can contribute. This may involve the creation of some sub groups/connections.

Sub-Groups would be created to meet informally in between Board meetings.

Action: expressions of interest for Chair of the Board to be emailed to roybenyon@sthelens.gov.uk by Friday 7 February 2020.