

## TOWN DEAL BOARD

At a meeting of the Town Deal Board held on  
28 February 2020

<b>Present</b>
Mick Allen -Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Geoffrey Appleton - CCG
Richard Aylett – Local Business
Sophie Bevan - CA Investment Manager
Sharon Bridge – Sabroso Restaurant Owner
Julia Callaghan - St Helens College
Glenys Chalk - Headteacher Rivington Primary
Andrew Darron - Groundwork Trust
Philip Fell - Associate Pastor St Helens CLC
Ron Helsby - World of Glass
Justin Hill - YMCA – Chief Executive
John Hodgkinson – 2K Supplies
Chris Jones - Developer
Howard Lawrenson – Lawrenson Associates
Stephen Lingard – SL Consultancy
Shaun O'Brien – Coalfields Regeneration
Tracy Mawson – St Helens Chamber Deputy CE
Councillor Richard McCauley – Cabinet Member Economic Regeneration and Housing
Conor McGinn MP
Chris O'Dea – OD's
Stephen Palfrey – Palfrey Greer
John Tabern – Local businessman and Ambassador
<b>Also Present</b>
Roy Benyon, Head of Place and Delivery
Andy Roscoe, Democratic Services Officer

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Gary Maddock, Town Centre Manager

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A formal Group photograph was taken before the meeting started.

### **7 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Roy Benyon, Head of Place and Delivery welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

### **8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Baines, Steve Coffey, Alex Dawson, Lance Flor, Superintendent Tami Garvey-Jones, Emma Howarth, Fay Lamb, Chief Inspector Steve Rice, and Marie Rimmer MP CBE.

### **9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

No Declarations of Interest from those present were made.

### **10 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

John Tabern was appointed Chairman.

It was agreed to defer the appointment of Vice Chair to after the meeting and expressions of Interest for the position was requested.

### **11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

### **12 UPDATE FROM BEIS AND COMBINED AUTHORITY**

#### **(1) DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

Mick Allen provided an update upon Central Government developments.

Further guidance was awaited in respect of the provision of an extended prospectus on to detail what the investment plan would look like, what the deal could cover, and to provide some clarity upon the governance of Town Boards.

It was explained that guidance was due out before the end of March 2020. An exercise was also due to provide commercial support to Town Boards. More clarity in respect of that commercial support would be provided by the end of the following week.

Copnor McGinn MP requested the Board place on record thanks to Rt Hon. Jake Berry MP, former minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, for his work with St Helens and his supportive approach.

Concerns were expressed that there was currently no minister for the Northern Powerhouse.

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### (2) COMBINED AUTHORITY

Sophie Bevan reported that an extensive audit of skills was being undertaken focussing on the Borough. Following the audit, data would be compiled and reported back to the next Board meeting. She also reported that information would be provided upon forthcoming projects.

**ACTION: (1) The Audit of Skills data analysis/outcomes to be shared with the Board at the next meeting; and  
(2) A package of forthcoming projects to be shared with the Board at the next meeting.**

Some information was provided to the Board upon the Borough's Town Centre's transformation and regeneration strategy, including potentially imminent, significant and exciting developments in terms of partnership working and delivery.

The Board discussed how its work would integrate with Borough wide transformation programme developments.

Roy explained how there would be potential delivery partner engagement at forthcoming Board meetings, and how delivery partnership would integrate with various plans and strategies currently in place, for example the Investment Plan with the aim to attract and secure investment into the Borough.

In response to a question about the Board receiving more details, it was confirmed this could occur at the next meeting, or the subsequent meeting.

Some Board Members considered that it would be beneficial for City Region data/statistical analysis held by various organisations to be shared with the Board, for example in respect of demographics, education and skills, and socio-economic information on the Borough. This would enable the Board to undertake some data comparison work.

It was agreed that there is a lot more information the Board needed to access to determine appropriate recommendations, including existing key Borough plans and strategies.

Sophie Bevan indicated that City Region data existed that would benefit the work of the Board.

An option could be explored to use capacity funding to compile and provide analysis upon various statistics and suggested where model templates could be obtained from to assist the Board going forward.

Attention was drawn to various high impact forums from where to access key information such as the Huyton High Street Task Force website and City Region Commission.

**ACTION – Sophie Bevan (CA) agreed to pass on details from recent Future High Street Forum to Roy to forward to the rest of the Board.**

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### 13 **PROGRAMME – WORKING GROUP SESSION**

A working group session was undertaken at this point.

Board Members had been asked to undertake a vision setting pre-Board exercise, and then bring to the Board their thoughts on What the Town is for, What should attract people to visit, work and live in the Town?

The thoughts were divided into the following four areas:

- Skills and business;
- Heritage and Culture;
- Transport and Connectivity (physical and digital);
- Regeneration and Land Use.

Four Groups were then formed with representation from different sectors where possible, and to share thoughts. Each group then reported back to the rest of the Board with their findings on background, context, and evidence for suggested strategic intervention.

The next stage involved identifying gaps:

- Between this Town Vision and current situation;
- What had caused the gaps;
- What changes were required to the physical environment to achieve the vision; and
- How we could support locals to join in and contribute to the vision.

**ACTION – It was agreed at the request of Chair that leads on each group would collate written responses and send results into Roy to feedback in full at next Board meeting.**

To conclude the workshop sessions Short, Medium and Long term Board Considerations were then discussed.

### 14 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates for future meetings had been emailed to Board members as follows:

All on Friday at 2.30pm in Room 10 (Town Hall):

27 March 2020; 17 April 2020; 29 May 2020; 26 June 2020; 17 July 2020;  
11 September 2020; 9 October 2020; 13 November 2020; 8 January 2021;  
12 February 2021; 12 March 2021; 16 April 2021; 21 May 2021; 25 June 2021;  
23 July 2021; 17 September 2021; 15 October 2021; 26 November 2021;  
14 January 2022 and 18 February 2022.

### 15 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Noted in the meeting**

- **ACTION - Board members will be asked to submit a Code of Conduct form that are due to be sent out by Democratic Services.**
- **ACTION - Capacity funding – consideration for Data analysis work, bid writing and community engagement, youth and schools collaboration**