

ST HELENS TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING

Monday 14th December 2020 – 10:00 hrs | Microsoft Teams



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Board Members in Attendance:

Town Deal Board Chair – John Tabern, Local Businessman and Ambassador

Conor McGinn MP, St Helens North

Marie Rimmer MP, St Helens South and Whiston

Tracy Mawson – Chief Executive, St Helens Chamber

Mick Allen – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Alex Dawson – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Julia Callaghan – Marketing Director, St Helens College

Cameron Sheeran – Principal, Cowley International College

Glenys Chalk – Headteacher, Rivington Primary

Justin Hill – Chief Executive, YMCA St Helens

John Hodkinson – Director, 2K Supplies

Andy Lock – Coalfields Regeneration

Chris O’Dea – Managing Director, OD’s Designer Clothing

Stephen Palfrey – Managing Director, Palfrey Greer

Dyan Clegg – St Helens & Knowsley NHS Trust

Howard Lawrenson – Managing Director, Lawrenson Associates

Steve Coffey – Chief Executive, Torus Group

Phil Mayall – Muse Developments

Emma Howarth – Managing Director, MITE

Sharon Bridge – Managing Director, Sabroso Restaurant

Geoffrey Appleton – Lay Chair, St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group

Andrew Darron – Director, Groundwork Trust St Helens

Chris Jones – Managing Director, Abbey Group

Local Authority Representation:

Councillor David Baines – Leader of St Helens Borough Council

Councillor Richard McCauley – Cabinet Member Economic Regeneration

Kath O’Dwyer – Chief Executive, St Helens Borough Council

Lisa Harris – Executive Director Place Services, St Helens Borough Council

Mike Poulter – Interim Director of Strategic Growth, St Helens Borough Council

Cathryn White – Place Project Manager, St Helens Borough Council

CBRE Representation:

Rhian Davitt-Jones – Associate Director, Planning & Development CBRE

1. WELCOME – CHAIRMAN JOHN TABERN

St Helens Town Deal Board Chairman John Tabern welcomed all to today's meeting, expressing his thanks to all for their time.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from:

Lisa Harris – Executive Director Place, St Helens Borough Council
Stephen Lingard – Director, SL Consultancy
Fay Lamb – Chief Executive, Citadel Arts
Lance Flor – Managing Director, McDonalds St Helens
Sophie Bevan – Investment Manager, Combined Authority
Roy Benyon – Head of Place and Delivery, St Helens Borough Council
Superintendent Stephen Brizell – Merseyside Police
Philip Fell – Associate Pastor, St Helens Christian Life Centre

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from those present were made.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 27th November were agreed as a correct record.

Kath O'Dwyer, Chief Executive noted that she attended the meeting. Action – CW to amend attendance list to reflect this.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Chair handed over to Rhian Davitt-Jones to update the Board of further progress in finalising projects.

Rhian Davitt-Jones, Associate Director CBRE

Rhian recapped on the refined project shortlist shared at the November Board meeting, before delivering a presentation that broadly covered the programme position and next steps, including finalised projects and status update and also details of the check and challenge process.

Town Centre Living / Regeneration Scope reviewed to include:

- New residential/ retail repurposing including apartments & townhouses
- Other town centre uses including potential for new leisure/ retail uses on ground floor
- Opportunity to bring forward potential infill residential sites to redevelop brownfield land

Glass Futures Phase 2:

- Agreement to include Phase 2 within Towns Fund - building on catalyst of Phase 1.
- Phase 2 proposes creating a Medical Glass Research, Development and Manufacturing Centre of Excellence/ Glass Futures.

Healthy Communities:

- Ongoing discussions with Torus to define further details for the Youth Zone proposal, site considerations and analysis, costing and programme.
- Project scope being prepared for The Gamble Building / community & health-focused proposal.
- External works expected to commence in Spring 2021 – costing and programme has been prepared.

St Helens Heritage World:

- Discussions taken place with The World of Glass and other key stakeholders to refine visitor offer – heritage, arts and culture.
- Costings and programme developed.
- Discussions with way-finding company to explore initial pricing for heritage trail.

Connected Places:

- Engagement with LCR CA & Merseytravel to refine options for the bus station.
- Costings and programme developed.
- Appointment of transport consultants to scope out permeability / crossing points to Linkway.

Digital Infrastructure:

- Engagement with the market to review and scope a potential offer for the borough.
- Initial costings and programme developed.

Check and Challenge Process

Rhian clarified that all towns face a check and challenge session before a Heads of Terms is offered. The session, delivered in early December, provides an opportunity to gain valuable feedback on the Towns Fund submission process, criteria and projects featured within the TIP and their suitability.

AOB

Tracy Mawson raised the need to ensure we have included enough leverage - could there be further health and skills investments that could enhance some of the project details.

Steve Coffey noted that speed of delivery is a key component of success. Steve shared that he is also involved with the Warrington Towns Fund Board who have had their allocation approved in the first tranche, where speed of delivery was a key positive.

Andy Lock stressed again that deliverability is key, a larger bid attracts a higher level of scrutiny therefore illustrating a need to ensure projects can be delivered within timescales and criteria.

John Hodgkinson queried whether St Helens Council intended to become a shareholder of Glass Futures. His view being that if the Local Authority are committing funds to what is a private venture, there should be some benefit for the Council going forward from a shareholder perspective. St Helens Council Chief Executive Kath O'Dwyer was able to confirm, at present it is not the intention for the Council to become a shareholder.

Chairman John Tabern closed the meeting, thanking each and every Board member for their time and commitment throughout this challenging year, wishing all a very happy and safe Christmas.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Friday 8th January 2020 | Microsoft Teams 10:00 – 11:30 hrs