



Todmorden Town Deal Board

19th May 2022 via Zoom

Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

- Pam Warhurst (Chair)
- Tony Lawson (Vice Chair)
- Cllr S Dacre
- Cllr M Carrigan
- Frankie Mullen
- Stephen Curry
- Gareth Marshall
- James Duffy
- Amna Nisah
- Andrew Kim
- Craig Whittaker MP
- Amanda Bloxsome

CMBC Officers:

- Kate McNicholas (SRO and Assistant Director EHI)
- Mark Dowson (Programme Manager)
- Nathan Canavan (Assistant Project Manager) (Minutes)
- Catherine Bann (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator)
- Sarah Richardson (Assistant Director)

In Attendance:

- Cllr J Scullion, CMBC Member (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member)
- Cllr J Lynn, CMBC Member (Cabinet Member)
- Cllr S Courtney, CMBC Member (Cabinet Member)
- Jess Thompson (Turner & Townsend)
- Bill Waller (Turner & Townsend)
- Peter Foy (Turner & Townsend)
- Shannon Prendergast (BE)

Apologies:

Shelagh O'Neill, Tim Benjamin, Cllr Denis Skelton and Andrew Rollins.

Welcome:

PW welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests:

No declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 19th April 2022:

Minutes agreed as an accurate record, subject to a minor amendment regarding a reference which should have read 8 towns in West Yorkshire rather than 8 towns in Calderdale.

Calderdale - Public Services & Communities- Councillor Jenny Lynn:

Cllr JL introduced her Cabinet role of Portfolio Holder for Public Services and Communities, responsible for parks and sport facilities (including Todmorden Leisure Centre) and also waste and recycling. Her portfolio includes the neighbourhood team working in and around Todmorden, engaging with local people, outlining local issues, and supporting local activity.

Cllr JL pledged to support the ambitions of the Town Deal. She recognised the issue raised at the open day around facilities for football for young people, confirming this was recognised in the Calderdale Playing Pitch Strategy undertaken a couple of years ago, and stating that officers would assist in identifying an appropriate site.

She recognised the importance of the bowling green and the challenges in paying for the service that supports the bowling club. She agreed a flexible approach is needed with the depot, that is sighted on operational issues.

Cllr JL confirmed her commitment to community integration and cohesion, and that the current cost of living crisis makes work to deliver the anti-poverty action plan with its three work streams (Debt, Food, Fuel) even more important. She expressed a desire to engage with local partners to gain a better understanding of localised impacts.

Action: AB / SR to meet

A progress update on 3G/4G pitches was requested, in the context of 80% of conversations at the open day relating to football provision. Riverside was also identified in the playing pitch strategy, although subsequently found not to be feasible. It was confirmed that positive conversations are taking place with the Football Foundation regarding funding for provision in Todmorden. The preferred place from the Council's perspective is Centre Vale, although the High School is another option. The importance of ensuring the progress of the full business cases within limited timescales was flagged, which may necessitate some phasing of delivery.

Action: KM to confirm to TL who can support the convening of a broader conversation around football in Todmorden.

Chairs Report - Pam Warhurst:

PW advised Frankie Mullen has sadly resigned from the Board. This creates a gap in the comms group and conversations are being had to identify a way forward. The Board wished to thank Frankie for all her help with the comms subgroup and the pleasure it has been working with her.

Action: PW to pass on thanks to FM

PW thanked all individuals who helped with the open day and welcomed the positive impact it had had with the community. Football and parking were the two clear headline issues. SC gave further feedback from the open day, welcoming the fact that while there were not significant numbers in attendance, those that came spent plenty of time there. He recognised balance between letting people know what is happening and that people will understandably want more detail.

With regard to concerns around parking, a meeting is scheduled for 1st June 2022 organised by Tod Connect for local business community, to have sponsors present current thinking around the public realm proposals as well as the enterprise centre. Concern was expressed that businesses are not feeling involved in the development of the projects, and without as yet having the level of detail that will follow there is speculation running rife. It was also recognised that there is a further petition stating that there has been no consultation on any of the town deal. There is a clear need to help people understand the options for the public realm and parking, and that no final decision has been made as yet. PW is discussing with John Walker how best to engage with the market traders. FM is producing a response to the Halifax Courier. Further consultation will follow and it will be important to express clearly the economic benefits of the projects for the town and the market.

Comms Sub-Group Update:

SC advised there will be a photo opportunity to show the junior football club is coming back to Riverside in September, also the scouts are coming back to site alongside a sheep show at Riverside to help the agricultural society. He also added his thanks to the Board's for the support FM has given.

Highlight Report – Mark Dowson:

MD confirmed Turner & Townsend are making good progress regarding identifying and delivering against the support required by project sponsors.

DLUHC discussions have been progressing regarding project adjustments, and MD thanked RT for his help. TLC is now more comfortable with the match funding element following DLUHC discussions. Other projects need to progress with the project adjustments, the advice is to do the project adjustments in one go rather than piecemeal. The enterprise centre adjustments to add residential to commercial haven't yet been put forward as other elements are in flux. Riverside no longer has a match funding requirement which greatly reduces delivery risk.

CMBC have now received formal evaluation and monitoring forms from government, to report up to 31st March 2022. The new towns Programme Manager (Rob Shipway) will start 1st July 2022.

The council's estates team and public services have agreed to match fund the remaining Accelerator funding to refurbish the park shelters.

PW advised our risks and opportunities register needs to note the opportunity created by the level of upskilling required of community sponsors which although hugely time consuming will strengthen the community base of the town.

Action: MD to update the risk and opportunities register.

PW expressed concern that she does not feel sighted on the financial picture, and has previously asked for an appropriately regular financial report. Cllr JS confirmed the importance of this financial reporting.

Action: KM to ensure a financial report is brought to the next meeting and then regularly. KM to also provide an update on the Shared Prosperity fund.

Project Dashboards – Jess Thompson, Turner & Townsend:

Introduction - Peter Foy (Accountable Director) and Bill Waller (Senior Project Manager)

Public Places - RAG rating at red, no formal instruction on parking. Confirmed appointment of a landscape architect, Xanthe Quayle, currently working on Brighthouse Town Deal and who has a focus on sustainability. PW meeting with Xanthe and BW next week.

BW advised he had a good meeting yesterday with Xanthe and other stakeholders. They were approached by market traders with a negative view of the scope of the project and who don't want change within the public realm.

GM asked when it would be a good time to have the sustainability panel's input? BW advised a few weeks when they will be looking to get stakeholders involved, this could include the enterprise centre.

Town Hall - RAG rating of green, JC working with CAFM team on this.

Centre Vale Park and Fielden Hall - RAG rating of Amber, T&T went to Centre Vale to discuss the projects within this, we need to keep the outputs in mind and if necessary consider how we retain space for future elements. Colin Hill is looking to bring someone on board to help with grant funding.

MD has meeting on Monday with CH and other stakeholders and will then be able to give an update.

Hippodrome Theatre - RAG rating amber, this has changed due to the timeframe, JT going to meet the project sponsor and the Storah architects next week to progress.

Enterprise Centre - RAG rating red, currently hinges on the plans to understand how large the project is and to understand the costs. Bauman Lyons are on board along with Creative Space Management. Discussion is progressing with planning, along with checking deeds and licences.

A discussion was had regarding the extent of the site. It was outlined the Community Land Trust are considering separate residential provision, with resources from Homes England.

Active Todmorden - RAG rating red, could potentially be at amber, been working with a company PJA (highways and transport advisory firm) - with Adrian Lord who is a local active travel expert. PW advised Board wished to be sighted on options for Active Todmorden as well as other non-Town Deal Calderdale projects i.e. pedestrianisation of Water Street.

Action: bring an update on infrastructure developments in Todmorden to either the Town Board or another appropriate local forum and ensure the Board is sighted on proposals.

Todmorden Learning College - RAG Rating green, liaising with Julie Thorpe and receives monthly reports, progressing with their business cases. No designs as yet, but Leeds Environmental Design Associates (LEDA) now appointed.

Riverside - RAG rating amber, contacting a design firm to discuss the different uses of the site, needs to track the outputs against the revised elements and the outputs, also zero match funding required.

All Ability Cycle Centre - RAG rating red, ongoing concern from Riverside and UCVR regarding the financials, JC has been trying to confirm with them if Empowered People still wish to be the project sponsor and if the financials could be spread to comply with the outputs with regards to green spaces.

Action: resolve decision from Empowered People

Murmuration Workshops - RAG rating red. Working on how the Murmuration business case can be viable with the space and availability of funding. Also looking at what can be removed and include within the space allocated in the enterprise centre. The fallback is to proceed with full business case with no building identified, which is an approach supported by the Council's chief finance officer but has its own risks re support for business case.

Panels update :

GM updated on the work of the sustainability panel who are currently reviewing and inputting into all 10 projects.

Members of the panel attended the Tod Together meeting, where there were negative opinions on the towns deal projects expressed. He suggested a need for a clear piece of stakeholder engagement and a stakeholder map. Meeting on 24th June with the high school would be a good opportunity to present material developed for the open day. More visibility is required in the market and around the town. AN noted that a lot of people don't see the Town Deal Board as being on their side.

The panel has considered the Scala proposal to provide local delivery for the final mile around Todmorden. PW confirmed that while the board would welcome further discussion when Scala have funding in place, they are not in a position to support further at this time.

TL updated on the Youth Panel. As above, a key theme is football. AN and TL to take forward discussions around youth space and youth provision in the context of the ten projects.

In AB's absence, PW updated on the work of the inclusion panel. She had asked the panel to review the Culturedale cultural brand to be launched in May, and expressed concern about its balance and narrative.

Action: Culturedale presentation to either board or inclusion panel.

Any Other Business:

No AOB.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 16th June 2022 5pm-7pm TBC

Action summary

Action: AB / SR to meet

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