

BRIGHOUSE TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 19th April 2023

Meeting Room 1, Brighouse Library, HD6 2AF

Present:

Cllr Howard Blagbrough (Chair)
David Whitehead (Co-Chair)
Cllr Sophie Whittaker
Malcolm Silkstone
Richard Mitchell
Jason Carlton
Lesley Adams
Colin Gordon

In attendance

Kate McNicholas
Duncan Cooper
Stephen Naylor
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Board members and officers.

2 Apologies

Noted from Craig Whittaker MP, Councillor Courtney, and Carl Wrigley

3 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest reported.

4 Minutes for Approval

Agreed that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the meeting.

a. Matters arising

It was noted that there is £65,000 remaining in the Ambition for Towns budget for Brighouse.

5 Brighouse Town Deal update

The Board noted that the projects were now at RIBA 3, which includes detailed design and costings. During this stage, the project team will draw up plans for stakeholder engagement, including for the market and public realm works.

The Board noted that a roof could not be included within the current budget but asked that consideration be given to future proofing the building so that should funding become available, the roof could be fitted.

The Board asked about current cost estimates considering inflation. Duncan Cooper advised that the project team is drawing up an updated cost plan as the market is currently projected to be slightly above budget.

The Board asked about the impact of the proposals on car parking. The Board expressed concern that the proposals to reduce car parking spaces are challenging and could impact on the town centre's ability to attract shoppers and visitors. The Board also raised the prospect of losing disabled car parking slots, although it was noted that the plans do include disabled car parking and ensure there are spots for disabled users at key town centre points such as the public toilets.

The Board asked for an update on plans for Bethel Street Car Park. The Board suggested using the parklets area for future parking and using planting and benches to make the canal side more attractive.

The Board discussed the need to balance the desire to create a green, cleaner town, with the needs of business and transport users. They expressed their concern of the potential negative impact on business of a 30-minute maximum stay and asked that the project team restore the 60-minute, 20 pence stay. The Board also discussed the need to ensure cyclists have good access to the canal towpath but are not allowed to use pedestrian zones.

ACTION: Duncan Cooper to consult with CAFM to understand plans for Bethel Street.

ACTION: The minutes note the Board's concern about car parking and plans to restrict carpark waiting times to 30 minutes. Kate McNicholas to seek engagement of Council parking team.

ACTION: Duncan to check with architect regarding a permanent roof.

ACTION: Kate McNicholas to identify status of work outside of A641.

6 Governance

The Board discussed the potential for Panels to oversee key areas of project delivery. The Chair noted the importance of maximising the impact of Town Deal funds and other Board members stressed the need to look beyond Town Deal funding, to ensure the Town could benefit from other opportunities.

Panels had been set up previously, to support programme delivery in areas such as communications. Board members agreed that Panels could be established, for example for sustainability, the markets, and communications. The Chair asked the Programme Team to contact Board members to seek interest in joining a Panel.

The Board discussed using the Panels to drive project and funding ideas to complement the Town Deal capital investment into Brighthouse. Suggested using a future Board meeting to discuss potential projects, opportunities, and ensure the Board could pick up funding alerts quickly.

Options for greener procurement were discussed. The Board benefits from members with expertise in procurement and environmental management and Board members are keen to collaborate with Council officers to offer their support.

The Board discussed how to incorporate social value into contracts, such as encouraging apprenticeships.

ACTION: Rob Shipway to contact Board members to gauge interest in joining the Panels.

7 Communications update

Stephen Naylor outlined proposals for upcoming public engagement events in the town. Key event will be the open market on 20th May, and Methodist Church on 24th. Results to be fed back to the Board.

The Council's major projects team is working with Waverley to develop questions to ascertain the views and perceptions of stakeholders.

The Board stressed the need for clarity of message and the use of effective images.

The Board asked that information on non-Town Deal projects be considered.

8 Any other business

The Board considered future Board meetings, with potential agenda items to include support for private enterprise and extending an invitation to the College to present an update on progress to the next meeting of the Board. Also noted the potential to invite the BID team to the next Board.

9 Date of next meeting

20th June 2023