

Halifax Town Board Meeting Minutes

Time: 6pm- 8pm

Location: Teams Meeting

Attendees

Councillor Sarah Courtney
Councillor Tim Swift
Councillor Joe Thompson
Councillor Roger Taylor
Councillor Megan Swift
Chris Dalby
Joseph Tetley
Lee Kenny
Gary Rae

In attendance:

Shelagh O'Neill
Kayleigh Boyle
Janet Whitlow
Chloe McNeill
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies from, Tracey Harvey, Jess Thompson, Kate McNicholas, Councillor J Scullion.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

3. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record

4. Presentation by Lloyds

The Board received a presentation from Joe Tetley, Lloyds Banking Group. The presentation focused on the bank's plans for significant investment in new office facilities which would secure the bank's presence in Halifax.

Work on the development will take 18 months, replacing 1960's infrastructure with modern, sustainable office provision.

Details of the planned works can be found at <https://portal.calderdale.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RRXJMFDFWFYF00>

The Board noted opportunities to link the works, and subsequent office provision, with apprenticeship opportunities.

Decommissioned furniture and equipment will be recycled for use by local charities and schools where possible.

5. BID Update

Satisfactory progress was reported by the BID team, highlighting business engagement activity in the town centre. The team has reviewed internal operations to manage costs and support new team members.

Shelagh O'Neil noted how business support in the region is evolving and committed to supporting the BID team to continue to engage commercial businesses.

The Board noted that whilst the town centre is vibrant, there is a clear need for business support post covid, high energy costs, and to overcome the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis.

6. Future High Street Fund (FHSF) Public Realm

Janet Whitlow, CMBC, presented an update on works which were now at RIBA 2 concept and design stage. Work is now progressing to RIBA 3, detailed design, and costs.

During RIBA 3 the Programme will introduce story boards explaining the works and will include consultancy support to develop a heritage trail. Other works include new stall designs.

Asked about consultation, Janet confirmed there will be a full programme of stakeholder engagement, including Council Members, retailers, taxis, and the community.

Board was informed that the FHSF is looking at potential works by the Old Cock Inn.

Gary Rae asked to be involved in conversations on how a vibrant space is developed for St George's Square.

7. Piece Hall Update

The Board was informed that programmes were being developed including Octoberfest, and finalising plans for Christmas 2023. Marketing will commence September.

Projected to be the Piece Hall's biggest programme this year, 10% up from last year (based on sales).

8. Year of culture

The Board noted that work was progressing on the development of an events and culture programme for 2024. The team were working with local organisations to raise awareness and build links.

Gary Rae welcomed the initiative and asked for close liaison with the work of the Piece Hall, which would be happy to help.

Events might include sports, activities, exhibitions, dance, and art.

The Board pointed to other potential Halifax links and venues which would benefit from engagement, such as Eureka.

9. Any Other Business

The Board was informed that the event to raise awareness of the impact of the menopause was well received, with over 300 tickets issued.

The Board asked that a report be brought to the next meeting providing an update on visioning work.