

## Town Deal Fund - Newark-on-Trent Town Board

Minutes from the meeting of the Board held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020 8.30 am to 11.00

Castle House, Newark and Sherwood District Council

### Attendees

Alan Mellor, Clerk, Newark Town Council  
Andrew Ruff, Senior Sponsor, Network Rail  
Ben Sumner, director of Engagement & Partnerships, University of Nottingham  
Cllr. David Lloyd, Leader, NSDC  
Cllr. Ronnie White, Chairman of Balderton Parish Council  
Cheryl Davison-Lyth, Clerk to Balderton Parish Council  
Darren Burke, Proprietor of Masdings Newark  
Darren Scott, Team Manager, National Careers Service  
Derek Highton, Service Director, Place & Communities, Notts CC  
Emma McGuigan, Urban & Civic  
Gary Headland, CEO Lincoln College Group  
Jackie Insley, Chief Officer Citizens Advice Bureau  
Jane Cooper, District Manager, DWP  
Jayne Saunders, Clerk, Farndon Parish Council  
Jean Sharpe, District Operations Leader, DWP  
Jo Bradley - Business Development Lead, YMCA  
Johanne Thomas, Urban & Civic  
John Robinson, Chief Executive, NSDC  
Karl Tupling, Homes England  
Keith Girling, Deputy Leader, NSDC  
Kerri Saxby, Chair of Newark Business Club  
Matt Colbourne, Managing Director, East Midlands Digital Media  
Matt Lamb, Director of Growth & Regeneration, NSDC  
Matthew Ellis-Mather, Co-owner, Ellis Mather Group & Magnet Expert  
Mike Wilson-MacCormack, Head of Newark Studio, Benoy  
Nicola Marshall, Business Manager, Town Centre Development, NSDC  
Nikki Burley, CEO, Newark Emmaus Trust  
Paul Gasgoine, Head of Place, Homes England  
Paul Holmes, Managing Director, Wirtgen Group  
Stuart Ellis-Mather, Co-owner, Ellis Mather Group & Magnet Expert  
Sue Gray, MP for Robert Jenrick MP  
Tony Aspbury, Chairman of Development Committee, Newark Showground  
Will Morlidge, Head of Strategy & Policy, D2N2

### Apologies

Andrew Fox, Business Unit Director, Timico  
David Jones, Timico  
Fiona Anderson, Economic Partnerships Manager, NTU  
Henry Price, Managing Director, Abbot & Co  
Ian Dagley, General Manager, Hoval  
John Atherton, Vice Chancellor, Nottingham University  
John Coles, Director, Evenbrook  
Richard Coppell, Urban & Civic  
Robert Jenrick, MP for Newark and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Steff Wright, Chief Executive, Gusto  
Steve Hampson, Director, Hampsons  
Timothy Calvert, Senior HR Business Partner, Dixons  
Tina Holmes, HR Director, NSK  
Tom Cartledge, Chief Executive, Benoy

### **Main points and Actions:**

- Evidence and data about Newark considered - additions noted
- Discussion and feedback on emerging vision and objectives

### **Items to be circulated to Board:**

- Terms of Reference and Governance
- Presentation – Challenges and Opportunities
- 'What is Newark' Document

## **1 Welcome**

Cllr David Lloyd welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and outlined the agenda:

- Presentation of data, needs analysis on Newark
- Input from the Board
- Outline of emerging vision and objectives
- Discussion and reflection and feedback from Board
- Governance

## **2 Purpose of the Board and Towns Fund Process**

- The Town Board is a requirement of the Towns Fund process and will lead on the Town Investment Plan
- The Government has prescribed the membership of the Board
- The Chair of the Board is expected to be from the private sector
- Governance arrangements will be confirmed in due course

An outline of the Town Fund was given:

- Up to £25 million Government funding
- Wider scope than town centre and retail
- Transformative projects for the wider town
- Town Investment Plan to be submitted by Summer 2020

## **3 Addressing Newark's Challenges; Exploiting Newark's Opportunities**

Presentation given by Matt Lamb, Director for Growth and Regeneration

3.1 Introducing the presentation ML made the following points:

- Focus of the Town Fund is Regeneration, Connectivity, Skills and Culture
- Capital works are at the core of the Fund
- Stage 1 of the process has been completed (December 2019)
- Stage 2 starts with the Town Board meeting and ends with the adoption of the Town Investment Plan
- The town boundary for the Town Deal has been set by Government and is based on Census 2011 data. An extension of the boundary will be proposed to include areas developed since 2011.

3.2 Slides 7 – 19 of the presentation focused on data to describe Newark in all its aspects. Much of this information is contained within the 'What is Newark' document, which will be circulated to Board members. **ACTION.**

### 3.3 Discussion and Reflection from the Board

DL asked the Board to consider the picture created by the data and insights: is this correct? It is imperative that the Town Deal and Investment Plan are based on data and empirical evidence to support Newark's unique and real challenges.

Points and comments made included:

- Further Education provider Lincoln College has been rated 'Good' by Ofsted and Silver Teaching Excellence Framework for its Higher Education provision. These need to be included in the data set.  
**ACTION**
- For Newark Town Council, the biggest issues is the Southern Link Road and the negative impact of traffic congestion in and around Newark. Data from Highways England and other agencies needs to support development of the town's road infrastructure.
- D2N2 - there are opportunities to bring other projects forward including skills and businesses.
- Winthorpe as a business base and the Newark Showground, although outside the town boundary, need to feature in the Investment Plan.
- Opportunities from the interaction between the town and its hinterland, including the Newark Showground.
- Air quality in the town centre needs to be measured and form part of the town data piece.
- It was agreed that the town boundary needs to be changed to take account of areas of development (a more representative boundary will be proposed to Government)

### 4 What we are trying to achieve – Vision, Objectives, Emerging Proposals for Discussion (Slides 21 to 36 on Power Point Presentation)

Matt Lamb explained that the District Council is currently out to tender for a contract to deliver a Newark Place Strategy and Town Centre Masterplan; the team of consultants will be in place for the next Town Board meeting.

4.1 Proposed Town Vision: "To establish and brand Newark as the most connected town in the country."

4.2 Proposed Objectives:

- Travel and transport improvements
- Revitalise the town centre
- Increase earnings
- Increased business start-ups and connectivity

4.3 Suggested Interventions

- Unlocking potential development and employment land through road infrastructure
- Town Centre potential interventions e.g. St Marks
- Higher Education and Further Education providers with a town centre presence; increasing managerial / professional roles
- Improving gateways to the town, improvements to the A46, long-term future of the livestock market
- Culture and tourism are critical to the town – Gatehouse entrance to Newark Castle with education and learning space

4.4 Discussion and Reflection from the Board on Proposed Objectives

- Service sector growth has to be the future for Newark – e.g. office and business incubator hubs.
- Potential with the riverside area and tourism economy

Feedback from discussions at tables:

**Table 1**

- Projects need to be ready
- Other funding streams
- Build on a Newark 'Brand'
- Climate agenda needs to be central to plans and objectives
- Use inspirational language
- Newark is not 'business ready'
- Leisure and service industries are the correct focus for development
- Attract specialisms in construction
- Town centre development is needed
- A University presence would be a positive
- 'Live, Work, Visit'

**Table 2**

- Focus on creating employment opportunities
- Attract businesses and retain, create new opportunities wealth
- More than infrastructure
- Air quality concerns – impact and wellbeing
- Creating aspirations for all age groups

**Table 3**

- Vision needs to highlight the unique aspects of Newark
- Make Newark 'Destination of Choice' (live, work and play)
- Intervention – the Southern Link Road is mandatory – need to make better use of employment sites
- Encourage mixed use in the town centre where living, working, learning and leisure are encouraged
- Co-working, digital hub and growth hub where innovation can flourish
- Opportunity for international aviation learning in Newark
- Southern Link Road – imperative that the project is delivered – public confidence

**Table 4**

- Importance of the town centre offer to the wider town
- Create a USP for Newark
- University presence and young people in the town – positive influences

**Table 5**

- Key focus needs to be growth through education (see experience of Lincoln)
- Attract investment into the town
- Capitalise on the digitalisation of education – on-line learning
- Technology hub for start-up businesses, co-working space
- Focus on a particular sector to bring in investment
- Address retail challenges – hold on to national anchor stores – reduce Business Rates for larger stores
- Market Square – increase take up – reduce price
- Improve connection to Showground – buses
- Cultural space limited in town

#### 4.5 Summing Up – Cllr David Lloyd

Cllr Lloyd thanked the Board for their feedback, noting:

- The importance of choosing the interventions that will create the most impact.
- Private investment will be needed to achieve the Vision's objectives.
- The language used will need to be more inspirational

### 5 Governance Arrangements, Terms of Reference and Appointment of Chair of Board

#### 5.1 Governance Arrangements, Terms of Reference

- Terms of Reference for the Board will be agreed by the end of January.
- Constitution of the Board and conduct of businesses will comply with the 'Nolan Principles' 7 Principles of Public Life (link [here](#))
- Board Meetings have a public status
- The TOR document will be sent to Board members **ACTION**

5.2 Matt Lamb mentioned the Government's #MyTown Campaign on social media (link [here](#)) and the potential for organisations with marketing / PR expertise to help promote Newark as part of this.

### 6 Next Steps

Cllr Lloyd thanked everyone for their time in attending. The process of developing a Town Investment Plan will be an iterative one and the thinking and listening will therefore continue.

Date of next meeting Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 8.30 am to 10.00 am, at Castle House, Newark.