

Town Deal Fund - Newark-on-Trent Town Board
Minutes from the meeting of the Board held on Friday 17th July at 8.30am
Meeting held virtually hosted by Benoy Ltd

Attendees

Alan Mellor, Clerk, Newark Town Council
Ben Fairgrieve, Mode Transport
Cllr. David Lloyd, Leader, NSDC – CHAIRMAN
Cllr Mick Baker, Chairman, Farndon Parish Council
Cllr Keith Girling
Clive Fletcher, Historic England
Craig Berens, YMCA
Danny Collins, Savills
Darren Scott, Team Manager, National Careers Service
Dave Tantum, Towns Fund Consultant
David Frisby, Mode Transport
David Wright, Area Lead, D2N2
Frank Horsley, D2N2
Gary Headland, CEO Lincoln College Group
Jo Bradley-Fortune, YMCA
Johanne Thomas, Urban and Civic
John Coles, Evenbrook
Kerry Jackson
Kerri McGarrigle, Chair of Newark Business Club
Lesley Owen-Jones, National Heritage Lottery Fund (Arms Length Body representative from DCMS)
Linnay Beaumont, Canal and River Trust
Louise King
Lyndsay Hutchinson, Benoy Ltd
Matt Lamb, Director of Growth & Regeneration, NSDC
Matt Colbourne, Radio Newark
Mike Wilson-MacCormack, Director, Senior Designer, Benoy Ltd
Neil Cuttell, Business Manager Economic Growth, NSDC
Nicola McCoy-Brown, Group Manager Growth and Development, NCC
Nicola Marshall, Town Centres Manager, NSDC
Richard Bell
Sandhya Ward, Homes England
Sanjiv Kohli, Deputy Chief Executive, NSDC
Sarah Forgione, NSDC
Simon Witts, Founder and CEO, Aviation 360
Steff Wright, Gusto
Tom Marsden, Lincoln College Group
Tony Aspbury, Chairman of Development Committee, Newark Showground
Victoria Watkins, Communications and Marketing Officer, NSDC
Yamen Badr, Senior Designer, Benoy Ltd

Apologies

Tom Cartledge, Chief Executive, Benoy – CHAIRMAN

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (Chairman Cllr David Lloyd)

- Cllr David Lloyd welcomed Board Members, colleagues and representatives from the Government Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy to the meeting.

- Joint Chairman Tom Cartledge had not been able to join the meeting today.
- It was noted that a number of Board Members have declared interest in projects and activities being discussed at this and previous meetings (indicated in the notes below).
- This was the fifth Board meeting. Earlier meetings had focused on governance (setting Terms of Reference; role and purpose; gathering data and information; identifying themes; setting up three sub-groups to take forward the work.
- There had been an excellent response to the public consultation carried out as part of the commissioned town strategy and vision development. Response to the on-line survey had been high and a persuasive letter writing competition for school-age children had brought forward exciting ideas.

2 Declarations of Interest

Were noted from:

Steff Wright – Gusto
 Gary Headland – Lincoln College Group
 Alan Mellor – Newark Town Council
 Craig Berens - YMCA
 Tony Aspbury – Newark Showground

3 Updates on Guidance, Submission date(s), Fund Advance (Chairman Cllr David Lloyd)

- Government guidance on the Town Fund and welcome pack had been received a few weeks ago. There had been a call for early submissions and Newark Town Board will be in this first tranche by 31st July. The first Town Investment Plan (TIP) submission will be a ‘draft’ in the sense that the document will continue to evolve as discussions take place with Government.
- A government fund advance of £750k has been allocated to Newark; this can be used to bring forward projects whilst the TIP and the detailed business cases are being developed.
- The Chairman advised the Board that Sanjiv Kohli, the District Council’s Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer had joined the Town Board as the representative of the accountable body (NSDC) for the Towns Fund from the 14th August.
- The Chairman invited Mike MacCormack of Benoy Ltd, to give the presentation on the vision, strategy and proposed Town Investment Plan. The proposals are ambitious by nature but are practical and deliverable; from a long list of projects a shorter ‘ask’ had been distilled into the proposed TIP. The projects outside of the TIP would make up the wider town strategy and the vision for Newark over the next 20 to 25 years.

4 Town Strategy, Investment Plan, Projects and Programmes, Town Fund ‘Asks’

Mike Wilson-McCormack presented to the Town Board.

The Town Strategy is built around four main themes, comprising around thirty projects:

- Business and Education
- Connectivity

- Town Centre, Culture and Heritage
- Residential

The 'long list' of projects had been distilled to a short-list of nine projects making up the 'ask' in the TIP. The Government requirement to consider the maturity (readiness), environmental and social impact and private investment commitment of each project had been used to draw up the final nine projects, namely:

- Lincoln College – Construction College on existing site
- International Air and Space Training Institute (IASTI)
- Smart Innovation, Supply Chain and Logistics Zone (SISCLog)
- YMCA Community and Activity Village
- Cycle Town
- Newark Castle Gatehouse
- Newark Heart – culture, events, branding
- Police Station
- Former M and S (32 Stodman Street) Redevelopment

The total ask for the projects from the Towns Fund is £24.9 million

Overall cost of the projects is £60 million

Match funding / investment contribution is £33.9 million

Most of the projects are for capital costs; Newark Heart and the Innovation Hub are a combination of revenue and capital.

5 Feedback from the Board

The Chairman thanked MWMc for the presentation and invited comments and questions from the Board.

Steff Wright – Gusto

- SW stated that his business is an interested party in the projects.
- Praised the presentation and the ambition of the excellent projects.
- Suggested that the projects reference UN sustainability codes

IASTI – training of pilots and staff, are the figures for employment growth realistic in the context of the aviation industry downturn post-covid? Will the general trend to more on-line meetings and conferences see a reduction in demand for flights and therefore a need for training of personnel?

Simon Witts of Aviation responded to this question:

- The perception of a drop in demand for aviation personnel is understandable in the current situation, however, the aviation industry has a serious skills crisis, with high numbers of employees approaching retirement age, and the current dip in demand will increase again. The proposed numbers have been checked with government agencies and are in response to regional growth in both military and civil aviation at a national and international level. The IASTI proposals are aligned with national and international air and space strategy.
- The UK has an international reputation in aviation training and education and the IASTI will capitalise on this. The project is not only a civil aviation project but will provide pilots and ground staff for RAF.
- The IASTI steering Group is powerful and influential, with industry-relevant representation, namely: Lincoln College Group; RAF; a US-based aircraft manufacturer; civil and military airlines. The IASTI

project would be a nationally significant project in Newark, providing jobs, training and opportunities for local people.

- Yamen Badr added that the IASTI was focused on both the Space and Aviation sectors and was aligned with the UK's National Space Strategy

Gary Headland – Lincoln College Group

- GH stated that the College is an interested party in two of the projects.
- The presentation is to be commended with a really great range of strategic projects; thank you to all concerned.
- The projects are strategic and encourage people to come to Newark – to visit, live and learn.

Alan Mellor – Newark Town Council

- AM stated that the Town Council has an interest in the town centre projects.
- The projects are aspirational and Newark Town Council is supportive of the Newark Heart project.
- Asked how Methodist Gateway Music Project fits in with the TIP. Could it detract from and compete with existing town centre venues and provision and provision such as the Palace Theatre.

The Chairman thanked AM for the comments and support and confirmed that all projects will go through a process for selection.

Tony Aspbury – Newark Showground

- TA stated that the Showground is an interested party in the projects.
- He commended the presentation and work.
- There is strength but also a potential weakness in the interrelationships and inter-dependencies; a delivery trajectory will be needed with robust analysis and consequential thresholds to ensure the projects can be delivered.
- Important to note that the Towns Fund is the start of journey and levering in public and private finance to deliver is critical to success.

The Chairman thanked TA for the feedback and confirmed that critical path analysis, and risks in the interdependencies will be rigorously carried through.

Nicola McCoy Brown – Nottinghamshire County Council

NMB echoed the comments on the positive presentation and raised four points for more information:

- Taking action on nature and wildlife habitat loss
- Taking account of the LEP's ambition for net zero carbon
- Incorporating better environmental use of roof spaces
- Including Smart Mobility interventions such as e-scooters

The Chairman thanked NMB for these comments and replied:

Responding to nature loss is part of NSDC's wider strategy and actions with regard to the climate emergency. The green agenda is written into all aspects of the Town Strategy. The District Council is working with The Carbon Trust to set a baseline for the District, undertaking more tree and hedge planting and improving bio-diversity. Roof spaces PV panels are part of this work and the Council is anticipating government funding to support all of this.

On the question of Smart Mobility, NSDC is in conversation with NCC about 5G coverage and increasing charging for electric vehicles in residential streets as well as car parks.

Clive Fletcher – Historic England

- The development of Stodman Street site offers huge opportunity to enhance the town centre.

- In delivering eco design there are good examples in Nottingham where smaller, local firms have been used in development sites. A selection of development partners will be fundamental to success in these areas.

Cllr Mick Baker – Farndon Parish Council

- In terms of the proposed Corn Exchange project, would the current licence application for entertainment affect the plans for redevelopment?
- The Chairman advised that he was aware of the licence application. There would be a need to assess the building and the conservation deficit and the significant cultural and heritage requirements of the building.

Craig Berens – YMCA

- Stated that the YMCA are an interested party in the YMCA project.
- CB praised the great work and commend the exciting proposal and in particular the aspirations for Newark and its children and young people: the Town Strategy demonstrates that their community is a place they can stay and thrive.
- Environmental education and health is important and it is good to see it included.

The Chairman thanked the Board for their positive comments. And asked if anyone disagreed with the propositions being submitted to Government.

AGREED: The Board accepted the proposed Town Investment Plan to be put forward to Government by 31st July.

6 Next Steps for Submission

Matt Lamb, Director of Growth at NSDC outlined the next steps:

- Check and Challenge sessions with representatives from Government and Arup consultants (appointed by the Government) were on-going. These will be concluded and a draft TIP will be circulated (likely to be middle of week commencing 20th July).
- Newark one of twelve Town Boards in the first tranche of TIP submissions by 31st July.
- Following this there will be a process of negotiation with a two month period of negotiation to agree Heads of Terms, and up to twelve months to develop detailed business cases for projects.

ML proposed the above timetable and actions the Board and this was **AGREED**.

7 Governance

The Chairman advised that Board Members would be contacted next week and asked to complete a Declaration of Interest form and sign the Board's Code of Conduct. In line with the Government's governance and transparency requirements for Town Boards, the Declarations of Interest will be published on the NSDC's website link for the Town Board.

8 Press and communications

- The Chairman advised that a structured communication process will now begin. This will set scene of the Towns and outlining the projects with sensitivity. Board Members were asked to let Matt Lamb, NSDC, know if they do not want their business logo using on any publicity.
- Steff Wright offered to host an on-line launch event via the Newark Business Club; this was supported by Gary Headland. Tony Aspbury emphasised the need to reach young people and Newark residents.
- The Chairman thanked you Members for these offers which would be taken forward. The communication of the Town Strategy will reach out to different audiences in a range of ways to

different stakeholders. The submission of the TIP will incorporate young people's perspective, via vox pops and other media.

9 Introduction to Sanjiv Kohli – Deputy Chief Executive at NSDC

Further to the Chairman's opening comment about NSDCs responsibility as the accountable body for the Towns Fund, SK was invited to introduce himself to the Board, summing up his responsibility as the District Councils Section 151 Officer as follows:

- NSDC as the accountable body for the Towns Fund has a responsibility to assure best value for money.
- The S151 role is a statutory one and will ensure that all projects meet their objectives
- Proper accounting procedures will ensure that the Towns Fund is kept separate from the District Council's funds
- There will be an agreed and proper process for signing off the TIP and funding and periodical returns to Government

10 AOB and Final Comments

Alan Mellor – Newark Town Council

- There had been clear support from NTC after the presentation to Town Councillors earlier in the week. AM will write a letter of support to the Board.
- What and when can detail on the Town Strategy and TIP submission be presented at local councils?
- The Chairman replied that Board Members should share within their own organisations only for the present, until the last Check and Challenge session has taken place and the draft TIP has been agreed. He asked Board Members to observe an informal embargo on the information for the present.

Clive Fletcher – Historic England

- Asked whether any presentations would be circulated to the Board in order to make a response: Historic England has not yet given a formal response on the Newark Town proposals.
- The Chairman confirmed that the presentation would be sent out next week, after the Check and Challenge session had concluded.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and their input on shaping the work.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 11th September

Start time **8.30 am if virtual**, 8.00 am if at Castle House.