

Town Deal Fund - Newark-on-Trent Town Board
Minutes from the meeting of the Board held on Friday 26th June at 8.30 am
Meeting held virtually hosted by Benoy Ltd

Attendees

Alan Mellor, Clerk, Newark Town Council
Alan Leather, Canal and River Trust
Cllr. David Lloyd, Leader, NSDC – CHAIRMAN
Cllr Mick Baker, Farndon Parish Council
Cllr. Ronnie White, Chairman of Balderton Parish Council
Clive Fletcher, Historic England
Craig Berens, YMCA
Danny Collins, Savills
Darren Scott, Team Manager, National Careers Service
Dave Tantum, Towns Fund Consultant
David Wright, Area Lead, D2N2
Gary Headland, CEO Lincoln College Group
Jackie Insley, Chief Officer, Citizens Advice Bureau
John Robinson, Chief Executive, NSDC
Kerry Jackson
Lyndsay Hutchinson, Benoy Ltd
Madeleine OSullivan CEO of Newark Community and Voluntary Services
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
Paul Carr, Deputy District Operations Leader, DWP
Paul Gaiscone
Sandhya Ward, Homes England
Simon Witts, Founder and CEO, Aviation 360
Steff Wright, Gusto
Sue Gray, Office of Robert Jenrick MP
Tom Cartledge, Chief Executive, Benoy – CHAIRMAN
Tony Aspbury, Chairman of Development Committee, Newark Showground
Yamen Badr, Senior Designer, Benoy Ltd

Main points and Actions:

- Presentation on Stage 2 – findings, projects and consultation
- Timetable for Strategy and Town Investment Plan

1 Welcome

Cllr David Lloyd welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked the sub-groups and colleagues for their work since the last Board meeting.

To recap on progress to date:

- Data gathering and analysis for 30 year vision
- Public and stakeholder consultation

- Identified high-level projects for the Town Investment Plan (TIP)

2 Introduction

Tom Cartledge thanked the Council and in particular Director Matt Lamb, the Board and sub-group members for their hard work in keeping momentum going despite the demands of covid-19.

- Excellent response to on-line survey (circa 1,800)
- The ambitions of the Board are evident in the projects going forward
- TIP will be submitted by 31st July but work will continue beyond this
- Commercial investment and interest is there to complement government funding

3 Presentation from Benoy Ltd

Mike Wilson-McCormack presented the findings and conclusions from Phase 2 'Doing' of the Strategy work, giving feedback from the public consultation and outlining the main themes and projects for the TIP and longer-term projects which will be taken forward beyond the timetable of the Towns Fund. Projects within the TIP will be those that can demonstrate impact and maturity, commitment to invest, a covid-19 recovery focus and links to local and national policy. The Strategy and Vision for Newark will go beyond the Town Deal.

4 Comments and Feedback from the Board

Tony Asbury

- Welcomed the findings and praised the ambition of the projects.
- Supports the initiative and concept for the Showground site
- Importance of moving traffic and congestion out of Newark town centre to improve living conditions
- Residential offer – noted that Newark has historically had low value housing and absence of 'apartment' living
- Potential for a Newark Northgate Hub if sites can be released
- Benefits of green urban space on residents' living environment
- (Benoy – looking at green corridors, and streets that can have urban greening; blue corridor – riverside; routes between transport hubs

Gary Headland

- An inspiring presentation
- Potential to attract a significant office / service relocation from London eg MOD
- A regional impact from the skills / education offer
- Potential to set up a Hub in Newark for the Institute of Directors

Paul Gascoine

- An exciting package of skills, homes, leisure and residential
- Will support the ambitions in terms of home and look to work with commercial investors

Steff Wright

- Great work and progress
- Important to involve smaller developers in residential development
- Coverage of broadband and full fibre optic to residents and businesses is important
- (Matt Lamb – this is being picked up by NSDC officer with colleagues at County Council)
- 'Community Conversation' in Collingham – low-cost but powerful local networks (will share information and link with the Board)

Nicola McCoy-Brown

- Additional funding available to roll out end-to-end fibre
- Telecoms companies are stepping up with offers to provide services, fill gaps in coverage
- Can share information on gaps in coverage at premise level
- Would like to see more evidence of low carbon, mental health / wellbeing and the green agenda in the Strategy
- Ensuring diversification and inclusion at all stages of the Strategy development is crucial – including women’s views on how they use town centres

Craig Berens

- Very positive presentation
- Cycling is a core offer in the YMCA village – leisure and training
- Importance of the destination aspect of the town, as well as focus on residents – eg largest skate park in England will draw in visitors

Actions from Discussion:

- Links to be made via professional interest groups including - Women in Engineering; Planning; Aviation
- More detail on development sites and Strategy to be shared with Clive Fletcher, for Historic England feedback

5 Timetable

Matt Lamb informed the Board:

The Town Investment Plan (TIP) is the start of a conversation with the Government; longer-term there will be the opportunity to bring forward more projects. David Wright (BEIS) commented that the projects are well presented and advanced. It would be useful to understand the timeframe of Newark’s intervention and the impact of Covid-19, and which Government Departments the TIP projects will need to be targeted at.

6 Summing Up

Cllr David Lloyd thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting and the positive conversation. He acknowledged that not all projects and ideas can be incorporated into the TIP, which is the catalyst for the longer-term vision and strategy. The Town Deal focus is on large-scale and ambitious interventions which will trigger growth and future projects. Newark is the primary focus but the impact of the TIP project and the longer-term Strategy will reach out beyond Newark: eg with the digital infrastructure project at Sherwood Forest Corner as well as with surrounding villages. Consultation with communities and stakeholders will continue as the TIP and Strategy develop.

The Board was asked to be sensitive about the confidentiality of the presentation.

The meeting finished at 10.20 am.

7 Date of Future Meetings

Friday 17th July
Friday 11th September

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