

# **Newark Town Board Meeting**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Newark Town Board**

**Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 11.00am**

**Newark College, Friary Road, Newark**

PRESENT: Tony Aspbury, Asbury Planning  
Linný Beaumont, Canal and River Trust  
Steffen Benbow, YMCA  
Michael Bingwa, The Futures Group  
Jane Buxton, Cllr. Balderton PC  
Louise Casey-Simpson, N&S CVS  
Rowan Cozens, NSDC  
Neil Cuttell, NSDC  
Joelle Davies, NCC  
James Daykin, Daykin Marshall  
Andrew Fearn, St Mary Magdalene Church  
Simon Gabbitas, My Future Prospects  
Jenny Garbis, Gustos  
Keith Girling, Cllr. NCC  
Matthew Gleadell, Clerk – Newark Town Council  
Susan Gray, Office of Robert Jenrick MP  
Jane Harrison, Newark Civic Trust  
Peter Hill, Rt. Rev. – Chair of Transforming Notts. Together  
Dan Howitt, representing Caroline Henry, Notts. PCC  
Clare Janes, Inspire  
Matt Lamb, NSDC  
Tom Marsden, Lincoln College  
Lee Marshall, Viridisbsl  
Cate Martin, BeanBlock Café  
Paul Peacock, NSDC  
Andrew Phillips, NSDC  
Elaine Poon, NSDC  
Abi Rhodes, Savills  
Ben Robinson, Historic England  
John Robinson, NSDC  
Neil Ross, Newark Town Council  
Liam Searle, Nottingham Forest  
Penny Taylor, Lincoln College, representing Town Centre Partnership  
Anna Tsartsari, Be Design Group  
Dave Williams, DWP  
Steff Wright, Gusto

1.0 Welcome

Matt Lamb welcomed members to the meeting, Tom Cartledge sent his apologies and it was agreed that Tony Asbury would chair the meeting.

## 2.0 Apologies for Absence

Fiona Anderson, Nottingham Trent University  
Alex Ball, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire  
Darren Burke, Masdings of Newark  
Nikki Burley, Newark Emmaus Trust  
Tom Cartledge, Benoy  
Louise Creswell, Environment Agency  
Hollie Drake, RSPB  
Charlotte Ellam, Notts Police  
Paul Gascoine, Homes England  
Salim Hadjoudj, Barcode Warehouse  
Paul Holmes, Wirtgen Group  
Bernadette Hunter, Headteacher Rep  
Jackie Insley, S&N Citizens' Advice  
Kate Milne, RSPB  
Will Morledge, D2N2/EMCCA  
Melanie Phythian, DBT  
Jayne Saunders, Farndon PC  
Louise Sinclair, Beaumont House  
Sam Thompson, The Duck  
Kevin Vasey, Lincolnshire Co-Op

## 3.0 Minutes of Meeting held on 1 March 2024

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

## 4.0 Newark Towns Fund Projects Update

The report updated the Board on current progress of Newark Towns Fund existing projects.

The Newark Town Investment Plan (TIP) was developed in Spring 2020 and from which, ten priority projects were identified, including:

- Newark Construction College – a full report on delivered outcomes will be presented to the Board later this year.
- YMCA Community & Activity village – a full report on delivered outcomes will be presented to the Board later this year.
- Air & Space Institute – expecting students to be able to use the facility after the Easter break and is intended that an opening event will be undertaken in Summer 2024.
- Newark Southern Link Road – the project is expected to be open to traffic in November 2025.
- Relocation of Newark Police Station (subsequently withdrawn)
- 20 minute Cycle Town – a full report on delivered outcomes will be presented to the Board later this year.

- Newark Cultural Heart – is now being delivered by Newark & Sherwood District Council, having taken the lead from Newark Town Council, the capital ask due to be captured in a Full Business Case in Summer 2024.
- 32 Stodman Street Redevelopment – demolition expected to complete in June 2024 and construction expected to complete in October 2025.
- Newark Gateway (Smart Innovation Supply Chain & Logistics Enterprise Zone - SISCLog) – is a challenging project, impacts of A46 Newark bypass, need to relocate the lorry park, before the Gateway Development can be delivered. If the project is paused it will be necessary to re-divert the committed Towns Fund Grant, the Board were advised that a Council decision is expected shortly on the relocated Lorry Park.
- Castle Gatehouse - Newark Castle Gatehouse has progressed to a Full Business Case (FBC) stage, and an urgent decision was granted on 12 March 2024 by the Chair of the Town Board to approve the FBC following an assurance report by Quod. The urgent decision was required due to the need to confirm Towns Fund funding prior to the National Lottery Heritage Funding (NLHF) panel on 13 March 2024, which seeks an additional £1.59 million from NLHF to fund additional elements to the scheme, including:
  - Creation of step free access to the Gatehouse
  - New interpretation to tell the story of the site through interventions such as architectural fragments, information boards, and play trails; and
  - External lighting.

A decision is expected to be received from NLHF shortly, the outcome of this will be reported to the Town Board.

Agreed that the Newark Town Board:

- Noted the progress to date on Newark Town Fund projects;
- Noted the Full Business Case approval for Newark Castle Gatehouse; and
- Delegated authority to the Chair of the Board and the NSDC 151 Officer to approve any Project Adjustment Requests (PAR) to divert funds from the Newark Gateway (SiSCLog) Project to one of the other Towns Fund projects as detailed at paragraph 3.10 and 3.11 below in the report.

## 5.0 Long Term Plan for Towns Funding (LTPfT)

The report updated the Board on the LTPfT funding opportunity and to seek permission to request a LTPfT boundary change to the Government proposed Boundary before the 1 April 2024 deadline.

The Board will be aware from the meeting on 1 March 2024 of the Long Term Plan for Towns (LTPfT) opportunity for an additional £20m of grant funding over a 10-year period for Newark. The Board were informed that the Newark Masterplan Vision and consultation had engaged over 1,500 responses and that the Masterplanning Team would be providing a Vision for submission on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. Further to the Vision the Government have asked for the Board to submit a 3 year Investment Plan for 2024/25-2026/27 for use of the grant funding by August 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

The Board have had an opportunity to review the membership to ensure that it is inclusive of stakeholders that are keen to drive forward the regeneration and development of the Town. The Government have recently provided guidance to establish strong local Board representation and community involvement. The membership of the Board must comprise a number of mandated parties including all tiers of government, community leaders, employers, local authorities, educators, and the local MP. All Board members will be required to complete various governance requirements that align with the Nolan Principles, and include declaring interests and signing a conflict of interest statement.

The Newark Town Board has been in place since January 2020 and a refreshed Board met on 1 March 2024, the minutes having provided a full list of organisations who were in attendance.

Future meetings leading to sign off were proposed:

- Monday 29 April 2024 10.00am, at Holy Trinity Community & Partnership Centre
- Thursday 30 May 2024 8.30am, at Barcode Warehouse
- Thursday 27 June 2024 3.30pm, at Newark College
- Thursday 25 July 2024 3.00pm, at the Palace Theatre

Agreed that the Newark Town Board:

- Noted the progress to date on the LTPfT Fund Vision (Newark Masterplan & Design Code); and
- Supported an amendment to the current LTPfT boundary pending preparation and prioritisation of projects and programs as part of the LtpfT Investment Plan (Town Investment Plan).

## 6.0 Board Governance and Future Meetings

The Board understood that it needed to be in place to make decisions, with a Constitution and Terms of Reference. It was decided that as well as the Board everybody would be invited to attend future meetings including all those in the room at today's meeting.

Forms were provided for completion with reference to the Code of Conduct including adhering to the Nolan Seven Principles of Public Life:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Also required for completion and return was the Newark Town Board Member Register of Interest form. Board Members are asked to return these documents to Elaine Poon, Town Programme Manager, [Elaine.Poon@Newark-Sherwooddc.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Poon@Newark-Sherwooddc.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

The Chair highlighted the requirement of flexibility back to Governance, as well as funding, skills, digital, sustainable and accountability to get people actively engaged.

#### 7.0 Any Other Business

The Chair requested to keep on the agenda the A617 passing the Rugby Club and the need for a new bridge at Kelham. The second point for an upgrade to the Nottingham/Lincoln train line.

ML noted, advising that a Kelham Bridge proposal to bypass at a possible cost of £16m. The Castle line crossing the East Coast main line estimating the cost at £700m a few years ago, and will be substantially more now.

#### 8.0 Date of Next Meeting

29 April 2024

Meeting ended at 12.35pm.