

TOWN DEAL

27 APRIL 2021

Present:

Carole Dixon (Co-chair)	Hastings Community Network
Graham Peters (Co-chair)	Team East Sussex
Andrew Harvey	New River REIT
James Harris	East Sussex County Council
Jane Hartnell	Hastings Borough Council
Jess Steele	Heritage Action Zone
John Bownas	Hastings Business Improvement District
Kate Adams	Project Art Works
Liz Coleman	Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum
Liz Gilmore	Hastings and Rother Cultural Leaders Group
Lourdes Madigasekera-Elliott	Public Health East Sussex
Rich Moore	The Source Park
Sally-Ann Hart	MP for Hastings and Rye
Sean Dennis	Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce
Sonia Blizzard	Sea Change Sussex
Steve Manwaring	Hastings Voluntary Action
Stuart Mitchell	New River REIT

Others in attendance:

Rebecca Collings	Towns Hub Coordinator
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HBC project team present:

Hannah Brookshaw
Pranesh Datta
Stephen Dodson
Victoria Conheady

46. WELCOME, APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Candice Miller, Dan Shelley, Darrell Gale, Helen Kay and Iain McNab

47. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Accepted as an accurate record.

The Chair reminded board members to keep their declarations of interest forms up to date.

No matters arising.

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48. UPDATE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Pranesh Datta updated:

A decision on the Town Investment Plan (TIP) submission is expected in mid-May, after the local elections (6th May) and the draft Heads of Terms will be received. Initial indications are positive, but it is not clear what level of funding will be received. The projects within the TIP may be RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated. Should there be a need to re-profile the projects depending on the RAG ratings, Genecon will be asked to provide independent advice. Rebecca explained that a red RAG rating indicates that a project within the submission will not be able to proceed, although very few submissions have received such ratings.

Once we receive the heads of terms, these will have to be agreed and returned to MHCLG within 3 weeks of receipt. Blackpool Council has published their heads of terms on their website and the link will be circulated to the board. **Action: Pranesh**

Link (cut and paste into browser):

<https://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s57870/Appendix%20a%20Draft%20Heads%20of%20Terms.pdf>

Accelerator fund projects update:

- White Rock Baths – capital works are almost complete and scheduled to open to the public in May
- Employment, events and advice hub at East Sussex College – 80% works complete and final works to be completed at the end of May
- Electric Vehicle Charging – project has been delivered and is nearing completion
- Hastings Commons Lower Alley – 90% of the works are complete, with minor landscaping works remaining which are due to complete mid-May

The co-chairs extended their congratulations to the projects on the fantastic achievements in getting the projects to this stage in a very short space of time. It was commented however that it is not good for community engagement to be working at such speed.

Engagement Programme update:

Hannah Brookshaw updated:

The current phase of the engagement programme is focusing on building brand awareness through the blog and social media channels. Once we receive the outcome of the submission and the draft heads of terms, work will commence with the project leads to develop the business cases.

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New funding initiatives:

Community Renewal Fund

- Bids of up to £3m
- Expressions of interest should have been submitted to East Sussex County Council by 18th April, followed by full applications by 30th April. ESCC will submit the preferred proposals to government by 18th June 2021.
- Spend is likely to be from August/September 2021 to the end of March 2022
- The programme is a pilot for the Shared Prosperity Fund expected to be launched next year

Levelling Up Fund

- £4.8b fund will focus investment on projects that require up to £20m of funding. Bids above £20m and below £50m will be accepted for transport projects only
- The first round will focus on transport investments, regeneration and town centre investment and cultural investment
- The deadline for submission of first round bids is 18th June, with decisions expected in the Autumn and spend to be achieved by 2024/25.
- HBC submission is likely to be during the next round

High Street Task Force

- Hastings has been selected to participate in the High Street Task Force 'Unlock Your Place Potential' visit and discussion following the unsuccessful Future High Streets Fund application in March 2019
- The purpose of the visit is to diagnose and recommend technical and professional expertise for strategic transformation plans for the town centre
- The visit will take place in May 2021 – with restricted numbers

Community Ownership Fund

- £150m national fund to help community groups buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost
- The first bidding round will open by June
- Community and voluntary sector organisations will be able to bid for up to £250k match-funding
- Further guidance is yet to be published

The importance of ensuring how the various funding streams and projects can work together was discussed and the best approach should be considered once submissions have been made.

25th May 2021 has been identified as the date for an emergency board meeting to agree the heads of terms. A subsequent HBC cabinet meeting will also be arranged to seek cabinet agreement for the local authority Managing Director and Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) to sign the heads of terms, alongside the co-chairs of the board.

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49. **PHASE 2 - GOVERNANCE, BOARD STRUCTURES, PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR BUSINESS CASE STAGE**

Victoria Conheady updated:

Once the heads of terms have been agreed, the next phase is to prepare business cases and to develop a project programme based on the offer received. It is intended that the board will be maintained as it is, but the membership will be refreshed to achieve a better balance of community representation. If any members are wishing to stand down, the project team should be contacted. The number of meetings will also be reduced to align with presentation of summary documents for review, prior to submission to government.

An internal Hastings Borough Council Town Investment Plan Programme Management Board will be set up as the council's section 151 officer will ultimately be responsible for the programme. A Town Deal Investment Panel will also be established to provide independent scrutiny to the business cases as required.

The remaining capacity funding and other HBC funding will also be used to support phase 2 of the programme, including a dedicated programme management team, external support for the development of business cases and external independent assessment of the 5 case business cases. HBC is also exploring mechanisms to support project leads with project design, costing and development.

Any questions should be directed to the project team at: TownDeal@hastings.gov.uk

50. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This date may have to be changed depending on when the draft heads of terms are received. Board members were asked to be flexible and were thanked for their continuous contributions.