

## TOWN DEAL

30 JUNE 2022

### Present:

Carole Dixon (Co-chair)	Hastings Community Network
Graham Peters (Co-chair)	Team East Sussex
Andrew Harvey	Hastings Business Improvement District
Bob Thust	White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures
Cllr Maya Evans	Deputy Leader, Hastings Borough Council
James Harris	East Sussex County Council
John Bownas	Hastings Business Improvement District
Justin Thomas	NewRiver REIT
Liz Coleman	Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum
Sally-Ann Hart	MP for Hastings and Rye
Sean Dennis	Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce
Steve Manwaring	Hastings Voluntary Action
Terry Hume	Public Health East Sussex
Victoria Conheady	Hastings Borough Council

### Others in attendance:

Nigel Stewardson	Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities
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### HBC Programme Team present:

Chantal Lass  
Ian Sycamore  
Pranesh Datta  
Ruby Crowhurst  
Stephen Dodson  
Allison San Diego

## 82. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Candice Miller, Darrell Gale, Jane Hartnell, Jess Steele, Lourdes Madigasekera-Elliott, Kate Adams, Sonia Blizzard, Rebecca Collings, Ruth Kynoch

Councillor Maya Evans, Deputy Leader, representing Hastings Borough Council was welcomed to the meeting.

Thanks were extended to Iain McNab for this support to Hastings since January 2020. He will now be focusing on Essex following a restructure at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Nigel Stewardson is the new Area Lead for Hastings and will be joining these meetings. Adam Szczotka is the Team Leader for East and West Sussex.

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### 83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

### 84. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

Update on reallocation process – the uplift was agreed by the Town Deal Investment Panel and confirmation is awaited from DLUHC (as detailed in the programme progress update report).

### 85. PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE

#### 1. Town Deal Programme update

Pranesh Datta, Economic Development Manager at HBC presented and summarised the progress to date as listed in the report.

MP Sally-Ann Hart offered to make some enquiries regarding subsidy control. Pranesh thanked her and explained that legal advice is being sought and a template is being prepared in order to assess the impact on the Town Deal projects. An update will be given at the next meeting, if available.

#### 2. Decisions of the Town Deal Investment Panel

Ian Sycamore, External Funding Manager at HBC summarised the decisions of the investment panel on the new project assessment, Hastings Commons business case assessment and the general fund re-allocation.

These decisions were noted by the meeting. It was also noted and agreed that during the summer holidays, the board will be informed electronically of any decisions that are made by the investment panel with opportunities to query any decision as appropriate.

#### 3. General project update

Chantal Lass, Tackling Climate Change Programme Manager gave an update on the Public Realm and Green Connections project:

- The project and is being led by East Sussex County Council, in partnership with Hastings Borough Council and the Garden Town Team

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- Working with Arup, who are experts in projects such as this, the project is looking at active travel solutions, combined with how to green up the town centre and improve the public realm
- Draft designs for the project have been received, looking at an active travel route from the top of Havelock Road down to the seafront. It is hoped these can be shared soon
- A range of stakeholders, including the bus companies have been engaged to consider the improvements that need to be made
- A phased approach will be taken as the ideas coming forward, if agreed, will cost more than the available Towns Fund budget
- Through the work that is being carried out, the scope of Arup's work is being extended in order to improve the town centre beyond the remit of the current project
- The business case is currently being finalised and will be submitted on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 for assessment and more information will be shared in due course following the assessment
- Ways to improve and make more creative use of the public realm is also part of the projects consideration and will be carried out at a later phase

Bob Thust, updated on the Hastings Common project:

- Hastings Commons is an eco-system of organisations working across the three buildings included in this project and others
- These are nearly ready to go to the next stage of delivery
- The lease for 12 Claremont has been signed will be fully renovated as artist workspace and will also be a culture and retail venue. The plans are now ready and rapid progress will be seen over the next few months
- For Eagle House, there is an option to secure the freehold, which will enable the Common Room, which opened in September, to continue. It is hoped the purchase will take place over the next 2-3 months
- The Observer Building is in the current stages of renovation which should be complete in 10 weeks' time. The funding will help to establish a digital hub and will build on work that has been carried out in other buildings, particularly Rock House. Tours will be arranged soon and information will be shared with the programme team for circulation

#### **4. Business case progress report by theme**

Ian Sycamore highlighted that there are two business cases currently being assessed (Former Debenhams Building and Green Construction, Energy and Vehicle Training Centre), which will be presented to the investment panel in July.

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### 5. Communications update

Ruby Crowhurst, Engagement and Communications Officer explained that the blog is being updated and [CitizenLab](#), the digital engagement platform will be integrated with the blog in due course.

She also explained that the project open day is currently in the early stages of planning, will no longer be taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> September. A date in October, to fit around Hastings Week, will be identified soon and further details will be circulated as soon as possible.

With regards to Priory Street car park project, MP Sally-Ann Hart explained that she is one of the chairs of the back bench policy committees at DLUHC looking at housing and planning. Nicholas Boys-Smith, from Create Streets has offered to engage with the project. Details will be passed on. All engagement is welcome and partners will be contacted in due course.

It was clarified that parking needs in the town centre are being reviewed by HBC's Planning Policy team in order to identify what provision will be required in the future and this will be considered when developing this project.

### 6. Project change request

This has been submitted, with signatures from the co-chairs and the section 151 officer. It is hoped this can be turned around by DLUHC very quickly.

### 7. Programme finance update

The table shows how the capacity funding to initiate the programme has been used, including the business case support by Mott MacDonald and the assessment work by Steer Group. It is intended that regular updates will be brought forward as projects progress and the Accelerated Fund projects will also be included.

### 86. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

10am, Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022