

Town Deal Agenda

Thursday, 27 April 2023 at 11.00 am

MS teams

This meeting will be held by MS teams only. There will be no meeting at held at Muriel Matters House.

For further information, please contact Towndeaal@hastings.gov.uk or

| | | Page No. |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Welcome and apologies 11:00 | |
| 2. | Declarations of interest 11:05 | |
| 3. | Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising 11:10 | 1 - 6 |
| 4. | Programme progress update 11:20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Deal Programme update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-allocation of Town Fund monies ○ Decisions of the Town Deal Investment Panel ○ Public Sector Equality Duty Assessment (PSED) • Business case progress report by theme • Communications update • Programme finance update • Additional town centre regeneration updates | 7 - 24 |
| 5. | Project updates (10 minutes + questions) 11.55 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project lead updates | |
| 6. | Any other business | |

12.20

7. Date of next meeting: TBC

Agenda Item 3 Public Document Pack

TOWN DEAL

18 JANUARY 2023

Present:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Carole Dixon (Chair) | Hastings Community Network |
| Cllr Maya Evans | Deputy Leader, Hastings Borough Council |
| James Harris | East Sussex County Council |
| Jane Hartnell | Hastings Borough Council |
| Jess Steele | White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures |
| 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 |

Others in attendance:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Kevin Boorman | Hastings Castle project lead, HBC |
| Nigel Stewardson | Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities |

HBC Programme Team present:

Hannah Collins
Ian Sycamore
Pranesh Datta
Stephen Dodson
Allison San Diego

93. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

Hannah Collins, Communications Manager at Hastings Borough Council will be covering Town Deal communications matters for the interim was welcomed to the meeting. Hannah explained that shops in the town centre are slowly re-opening following the recent flooding and thanked everyone for their help.

Apologies have been received from: Graham Peters, Darrell Gale, Kate Adams, Richard Moore, Richard Watson, Sonia Blizzard and Victoria Conheady.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Jess Steele pointed out that with the funding re-allocation item on the agenda, there is a clear interest for project leads present, including herself. She also declared an interest in the Hastings Castle project due to her recent involvement in the project and a proposal she is currently putting together.

TOWN DEAL

18 JANUARY 2023

95. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- Page 3, item 91, second paragraph under 'Town Deal programme update' – Homes England is organising stakeholder engagement meetings and should be contacting Hastings Commons if they haven't already
- Page 4, 3rd paragraph under 'Decisions of the Town Deal Investment Panel' – Right to Buy information is included in the programme update report (item 4)

96. PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE

- **Town Deal Programme update**

Pranesh Datta, Economic Development Manager at HBC explained that Right to Buy has been considered in depth by HBC in an early project, York buildings. Although the scheme carries some risk, this is minimal for the first 10 years and only increases in year 11. It is difficult for the council to avoid this as the legislation exists and it is important for the council to engage while it has the opportunity to try and address the housing crisis and work within the boundaries that exist.

Questions on the housing crisis will be dealt with outside of this meeting and referred by HBC colleagues to the housing team.

The possibility of putting properties into a trust or putting a local occupancy clause on the properties should be considered due to the risks involved. This will be referred to the housing team and reported back to the next meeting. **Action: Pranesh**

- **Decisions of the Town Deal Investment Panel**

Ian Sycamore, External Funding Manager at HBC explained that Hastings Castle project business case was approved by the Town Deal Investment Panel at its meeting on 15th December 2022.

It was clarified that the investment panel is a subgroup of the town deal board, and its decision is to approve the project business case which has been assessed externally and the concept of the project as it currently stands to proceed, is to be noted by the board. This approval does not exclude other ideas of concepts that may come up in the future to support the project. Assuming the Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities (DLUHC) approves the project summary document, the project can proceed to the next stage of development.

The investment panel's decision was noted by the meeting.

TOWN DEAL

18 JANUARY 2023

Nigel explained that he has reviewed the summary document and monitoring and evaluation plan for the project, and a DLUHC decision should be received in a week or so.

- **Re-allocation of Town Fund monies and update on redevelopment of Priory Street Car Park and the West Wing of the Priory Meadow Shopping Centre**

Pranesh summarised the reasons and context for re-allocation, the options and the next steps to the meeting.

There was general agreement that a significant uplift to the Public Realm and Green Connections project should be supported. The following comments were made:

- The public realm project has already been identified as having best value for money and a high level of certainty. Major improvements are needed in the town centre and anything to improve the public realm, make it more attractive and to help to avoid future flooding should be done
- Other unfinished existing projects could benefit from re-allocation of some of the funds. Consideration should be given to re-allocating 80% to the public realm project and 20% to others, not just to complete the projects but to help them become highly successful and thrive
- Re-allocating 75% of the funds to the public realm project and 25% to other projects should also be considered due to inflationary pressures, particularly in construction costs, that have been faced by everyone since the town deal started. This would have to be discussed with the investment panel and DLUHC
- General re-allocation in an attempt to save unviable projects should not be considered
- ESCC is the public realm project lead. Although the project has been assessed as having a high level of certainty, it will still be subject to traffic regulation orders, considerations by planning committees, and discussions with Southern Water to establish their plans for the area which may or may not have a significant effect on the flooding issues in the town centre. The project will partly contribute positively to the flooding issues but will not solve them completely. Once the design consultation and tendering process has been completed costs and how much of the project can be delivered will become clearer
- The work in Arup's initial report cost £10m but only £3.4m was available to the project. If the project is allocated 80% or 75% more funding this may enable delivery of more of the project
- Homes England has started their first piece of work; their officers have visited the town several times and key stakeholder engagement has started on the Station Gateway study. Work has commenced but a firm commitment is yet to be made
- The Priory Meadow west wing was previously identified as possibly capable of delivering new homes in the town. It is important that the Station Gateway study not only focuses on Priory Street but also extends across to Middle Street and over into Queens Square and to the south of the train station. NewRiver REIT is not

TOWN DEAL

18 JANUARY 2023

reliant on Homes England, although unfortunately the challenges to the council meant the Priory Meadow redevelopment project could not go ahead

- Clarification on the justification of £5.5m additional funding to the public realm project and what this would deliver was asked for. If the re-allocation to the project was to be less, i.e., £3.5m, this would allow a bit more flexibility in other areas of the programme.
- It is also important that delivery of the public realm project is not just by the county council but also by the community (Garden Town Team) who initiated it, especially if it becomes the biggest town deal project
- The castle project is not currently good value for money and has high risk but could be turned around and the benefit cost ratio improved if additional funding could be provided
- The Observer Building is already part of the programme and has planning permission to build 15 flats which already have windows in. Hastings Commons does not have the funds available to build these flats and cannot source the funds from Homes England without becoming a registered provider. The flats could be built in the next 2 years with an injection of funding
- All projects leads could be asked what they could do with extra funding, some may not be able to use extra funding, or justify the need for it
- DLUHC, as a department understands the housing aspirations of any town, however with this specific town deal, the involvement of Homes England puts the funding at risk if a project adjustment request cannot be delivered by the end of March
- It was explained that DLUHC is working with 101 towns which are all working to a very tight timescale and further extensions cannot be given as funds are only available up to a certain time. DLUHC fully supports the Homes England work but this is unfortunately outside of the timelines of the Towns Fund and was not part of the original Town Investment Plan

All comments from the board will be considered by the Investment Panel prior to any final decision. Further feedback is welcome from board members up to 27th January either in writing to Towndeal@hastings.gov.uk or via phone call to Pranesh on 01424 451784.

The chair thanked everyone for their valuable contributions.

- **Future of the Town Deal Board**

Ian explained that there is a proposal that the function of this board continues as it is and meetings are scheduled quarterly, and any requests to join the board are considered on a 6-monthly basis by the co-chairs. In addition, the future of the investment panel will need to be considered if there are no more business cases to go through for approval.

- **Business case progress report by theme**

Noted.

TOWN DEAL

18 JANUARY 2023

- **Communications update**

Noted.

- **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The programme is committed to produce an equalities impact assessment. The consultant carrying out this work has met with project leads and it is hoped a report and action plan can be circulated to project leads and to the board in March.

- **Programme finance update**

Noted.

- **Staff changes**

A full-time replacement for Ruby will be recruited and Hannah is covering communications matters for the interim.

Any questions on the contents of the report can be directed to the team:

Towndeal@hastings.gov.uk

97. **PROJECT UPDATES**

Hastings Castle

Kevin Boorman, Marketing and Major Projects Manager from Hastings Borough Council explained:

- Following recent approval of the business case, the project is still in its very early stages
- A statement of significance has been produced as the castle is a scheduled monument
- Engagement with various organisations has taken place, including schools and colleges, Hastings Academy, Hastings Youth Council, many local attractions, English Heritage tourist guides, Hastings Area Archeology Research Group and at the town deal open day on 15th October
- An online survey attracted around 1000 responses
- HBC cabinet approval for the project will now be sought
- Project costs is one of the huge challenges. The project is still a concept and firm proposals and drawings are still needed. Work is not due to start on site until the third quarter of 2024 so will be difficult to get firm costs for the work at this stage

TOWN DEAL

18 JANUARY 2023

- A project design team and architect will be appointed to get some firm plans costed up, bearing in mind the risks and sensitivities for the site and making the West Hill lift accessible by doing some work at the top of the lift will be a challenge
- The bridge from Ladies Parlour across to the castle had to be removed from this phase of the project as this would be difficult and too risky to provide and was in danger of impacting the whole project
- An update will be given to the town deal board once the project is worked up a bit further

Jess added that she has met with Kevin and there have also been a number of community meetings and a potential answer to challenges that have been raised to do with access and public space. St. Mary in the Castle is at the foot of the castle and could be the visitor centre which could be connected by a lift and would address the access problems. The project group has been convened by Hastings Creatives and hosted by Hastings Commons and the next meeting is taking place tomorrow (19th January at 2:30pm at the Observer Building). A proposal will be submitted to HBC by 4th February which is the deadline for expressions of interest for the St. Mary in the Castle.

98. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 11:00, THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL 2023**

Agenda Item 4

Hastings Towns Fund Programme Meeting update

Date: 27th April 2023

Report by: Town Deal Programme Team



1. Welcome and apologies

2. Declarations of interest

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

3.1 Right to Buy (Town Living Project)

The council at this stage has not considered setting up a trust. This might be considered at a later date but the Council has not expressed a wish to do so to date. Every arrangement has its pros and cons. The Cllrs expressed wish at the moment is to directly manage housing where it can.

4. Towns Fund Programme Update

4.1 Project re-allocation of funds

Following discussion at the Town Board meeting on 18th January 2023 the Town Investment Panel agreed to allocation of additional £6.9m to the Public Realm and Green connections project. A Project Adjustment request was submitted to Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities on 24th March 2023 for their full approval. If this is agreed the Public and Green Connections project will have been awarded a total sum of £9.8m to invest in the Town Centre. The project will be led by ESCC and supported by the Garden Town and Hastings Borough Council.

Subject to above all the funds have now been allocated to a total of eleven projects with supporting business cases (Hastings Commons as one project). A full list of the projects approved, and their current status is attached – see Appendix 1.

4.2 Decisions of the Town Deal Investment Panel

The Town Deal Investment Panel is a subgroup of the Town Deal Board. It has been given delegated responsibility to assess business cases and make final recommendations on projects together with the accountable body (HBC) and its representative – the Section 151 Officer.

This note is to confirm the decisions of the investment panel and the Section 151 officer.

Towns Fund re-allocation assessment further to Town Deal Board meeting 18th January 2023 – February 2023

The investment panel met on 8th February 2023 to further consider the options for the £6.913m reallocation following the Town Deal Board discussion on 18th January 2023 and additional written responses from Town Deal Board members.

Following declarations of all conflicts of interest and clear agreement on who could take part in the decision the panel agreed unanimously to reallocate 100% of the £6.913m to the Public Realm and Green Connections project. The decision was taken for reasons outlined below and follows further discussions with DLUHC on 6th February 2023 and the section 151 Officer (accountable person for the Towns Fund at HBC):

1. DLUHC continued to express concern and were negative about the ‘general uplift’ approach. Most of the uplifts proposed were substantial without any additional outputs or considered justification of need. Hastings has already had a general uplift for the projects approved earlier in the programme (summer 2022).
2. The PAR guidance emphasised by DLUHC states that revised business cases would be required by projects to justify any uplift in funding. This means secondary confirmation that the project business case has been updated and reappraised and that it still represented good value for money with increased outputs. It would present insurmountable challenges for most projects to pull together and submit the PAR on time (end of March 2023).
3. Project Adjustment Requests have to be submitted by end of March 2023 to secure the funds for the town otherwise they may be lost.
4. DLUHC and 151 Officer strong preference was for one project that represents good value for money with increased impact for all residents / businesses.
5. DLUHC guidance allows for the submission of “in delivery” Project Alteration Requests, so these are possible after the March 2023 deadline. Again, this will require confirmation that the project business case has been updated and reappraised and still represents good value for money.

The merits of expanding the Castle project to include St Mary in the Castle were considered but clear guidance was given that this would be defined as a new project. This was further clarified with DLUHC who confirmed the view that this would be treated as a new project and could not be dealt with by way of a PAR.

It was then unanimously agreed to reallocate 100% of the £6.913m to the Public Realm and Green Connections project. A Project Alteration Request will now to be submitted to DLUHC by end of March 2023 with a revised business case assured ASAP. This decision by the investment panel is subject to confirmation by DLUHC, the results of which we will be informed hopefully in April 2023.

The phase 2 business case was then developed by the project sponsor and independently assessed by Steer Group and has been recommended for approval by the Town Deal Investment Panel and confirmed by HBC's S151 Officer as able to proceed to delivery and implementation.

'The overall assessment of the (phase 2) economic case is that the scheme will deliver a benefit cost ratio of 3.22:1 taking account of the strong strategic alignment, and strong evidence-based case for change; and our assessment is that the scheme represents High value for money, with a High level of certainty of achieving that value for money.' [The phase 1 BCR is 2.5:1.]

| Project name and sponsor | Description | Assessment comments | Proposed outputs and outcomes | Project cost and Towns Fund offer |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Public Realm and Green Connections (both phases) ESCC | <p>The project comprises public realm and active travel improvements; primarily along a key route running from the rail station through the town centre (and Harold Place) to the seafront. It will include a reallocation of road space to pedestrians and cyclists, safety improvements at junctions, and the creation of a "central, adaptable public space" to host public events. Finally, there will be numerous improvements to dwell space provision and increased tree planting and biodiversity measures in Hastings town centre.</p> <p>To include enhanced pedestrian footways, Sustainable Urban Drainage System planting, segregated two-way cycle lane, one-way bus lane, new bus stops, and potential re-routing of a one-way bus route. The project will also deliver improvements to Albert Circus and Wellington Place. The project will be designed with local community input to address a range of wider issues, such as antisocial behaviour, poor connectivity and environmental risks.</p> | <p>Alignment with national, regional, and local policy has been explained and is compelling. The business case explains the project's benefits and draws out its wider context to show how it will address the principles of the Hastings TIP, i.e. 'Inclusive Economic Growth', 'Delivering Clean Growth' and 'Improving Health and Wellbeing'. The project is particularly strong when it comes to the Improving Health and Wellbeing principle.</p> <p>The intervention is needed to increase footfall in the town centre and help Hastings reach its net zero commitments and carbon reduction goals. It is also needed in terms of the public health benefits that will be driven by more walking and cycling across the town. A strong evidence-based case for change has been made regarding the poor state of the public realm in this area of the town centre and its potential to become a better visitor gateway.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new public space in Albert Circus; • 447 square metres of soft landscaping planting along Harold Place; • at least 35 new trees planted; • 80 square metres of new outdoor play space along Harold Place; • improved lighting to at least 13 columns; • 14,580 square metres of improved public realm; • approx. 1.35km of upgraded pedestrian routes and 0.53km of cycleways, 28 cycle parklet • Improved active travel connectivity: 1.88km • 15% uplift in walking and cycling trips • Improved personal security/better wayfinding/shade & shelter/improved drainage | <p>(phases 1&2) Project value £10,313,626</p> <p>Towns Fund grant approved £9,834,615</p> <p>Match funds £479,011</p> <p><u>Timelines:</u></p> <p>Start: June 2023 (detailed design)</p> <p>Finish: March 2026 (construction complete)</p> |

The Town Deal Board is requested to note and support the decisions of the Investment Panel as set out above.

4.3 Public Sector Equality Duty Assessment (PSED)

A condition of the grant offer from the government was to undertake a programme level Public Sector Equality Duty Assessment (PSED). To ensure all projects were fully compliant with the Public Sector Equalities Duty requirement.

The PSED reporting system is a key mechanism for implementing the responsibility of public bodies to consider how their policies, programmes and decisions might impact on those with protected characteristics, under the Equality Act 2010.

Hastings Borough Council appointed Dr Anne Rathbone to conduct the report, where she consulted with community members with protected characteristics and with project leads.

A copy of the PSED report is attached for comment and discussion - see Appendix 2.

4.4 Business case progress report by theme

All business cases have now been submitted. Awaiting approval on Public Realm and Green Connections phase 2 business case only.

4.5 Communications update

Verbal update (Hannah Collins)

4.6 Programme Finances

| Project | Allocated from town fund | Total spent to date | Total left to spend | % TDF spent |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| TOTALS per project: | £23,085,000.00 | £3,105,132.49 | £19,979,867.51 | 13.45% |
| PROJECTS CLOSED | | | | |
| Priory Street Car Park | £89,410.00 | £80,156.61 | £9,253.39 | 89.65% |
| Hastings co-working, flexible office, community space | £116,732.00 | £116,732.00 | £0.00 | 100.00% |
| Priory Meadow shopping centre (Fast Track element) | £349,676.00 | £337,000.00 | £12,676.00 | 96.37% |
| Source / Courtyard lift | £65,000.00 | £65,000.00 | £0.00 | 100.00% |
| FACILITIES DELIVERED | | | | |
| Churchfields | £778,211.00 | £778,211.00 | £0.00 | 100.00% |
| Former Debenhams Building | £400,000.00 | £400,000.00 | £0.00 | 100.00% |
| ON SITE | | | | |
| Hastings Commons | £3,997,203.00 | £1,054,787.16 | £2,942,415.84 | 26.39% |
| Broadening Futures Together | £417,121.00 | £96,363.72 | £320,757.28 | 23.10% |
| APPROVED | | | | |
| Green construction, energy and vehicle training centre | £2,638,758.00 | £0.00 | £2,638,758.00 | 0.00% |
| Hastings Castle | £3,450,069.00 | £111,187.00 | £3,338,882.00 | 3.22% |
| Public Realm & Green connections | £9,745,205.00 | £65,695.00 | £9,679,510.00 | 0.67% |
| Town Living | £1,037,615.00 | £0.00 | £1,037,615.00 | 0.00% |

4.7 Additional town centre regeneration updates

Hastings Station Gateway Project

Homes England is currently working with the council to consider opportunities for long-term regeneration investment in the town centre. An initial appraisal of the development sites around Hasting Station has been completed (March 2023) with a decision expected in May 2023.

Hastings Borough Council is currently discussing the next step with Homes England and will keep the Town Board informed and engaged in the process if this opportunity proceeds.

University of Brighton Priory Street & Havelock Road

The University of Brighton Buildings have now been sold to private developers. The building on Havelock Road is being developed into a hotel / apartment and accommodation for students and the Priory Square building, including the former post office, into a mix of residential and commercial use.

Levelling Up Round 3 bid

As stated in the Council's corporate plan the Council is preparing a Levelling Up Round 3 bid for a new Leisure and Health Hub at Summerfield, for submission when the government invites new applications. The Chancellor's budget statement in March 2023 indicated a new round of the funds but it is not clear at the moment the format of the bid and timing of any call.

Levelling Up Partnership Fund

The government also announced in the budget a new Levelling Up Partnership Fund for 20 areas in England including Hastings and Rother. No comprehensive details / guidance has been published on the funds which is hopefully expected over the next few months. We have had indications this will be an investment partnership deal between various government departments and agencies within local areas based on the Greater Grimsby Town Deal agreed in 2018.

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Appendix 1 - Towns Fund programme approved project status

April 2023

| Project | Town Fund Allocation | Description | Project status |
|--|----------------------|---|--|
| Hastings Co-working flexible Office Space | £116,732 | Creation of shared workspaces at the former Debenham building - 3rd, 4th and 5th floor | Completed January 2023 |
| Churchfields Business Centre | £778,211 | Creation of 28 Business incubation units on Churchfield Industrial Estate, Hollington | Completed March 2023 |
| Green Construction, Energy and Vehicle Training Centre | £2,638,758 | East Sussex College Group - Infrastructure for provision for Green Low Carbon Skills & business start-up / development opportunities | In development |
| Broadening Futures Together | £417,121 | Plumpton College and Education Futures Trust - new education and skills offer linked to land based occupations and business opportunities - fast track project | In construction |
| Hastings Castle | £3,450,069 | Hastings Borough Council - telling the story of the Norman invasion and its impact | In development |
| Town to Sea Creative Quarter (Hastings Commons) | £3,997,203 | Lead: Heart of Hastings; White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures, and Leisure and Learning - development of a community led creative quarter in the heart of the town centre - gallery, workspaces, homes, community spaces, wellbeing facilities; digital and education learning facilities. | Observer Digital Hub: completed, December 2022 Eagle Hse & 12 Claremont: in development |
| Town Centre Core Project 1a (New Look Fast Track) | £349,676 | Hastings Borough Council and NewRiver REIT - A fast track project contained for the New Look building at Priory Meadow | Completed October 2022 |
| Public Realm & Green Connections | £9,834,615 | East Sussex County Council - focus on improving active travel connectivity (walking and cycling) and the enhancement of the public realm in Hastings town centre. It will encompass ideas from the Hastings Garden Town - inspired by Great Dixter's philosophy of creative ecology, horticultural innovation and biodiversity. | In development |
| Town Living | £1,037,615 | Hastings Borough Council - Town Centre Housing Investment Proposal - providing new and renovating existing | In development |
| *Source Park Courtyard Lift | £65,000 | Installation of lift to the courtyard - project partly previously funded via the Town Fund Accelerated Fund | Completed October 2022 |

Appendix 1 - Towns Fund programme approved project status

April 2023

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|------------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------|
| *Former Debenhams Department Store | £400,000 | Development of an indoor entertainment centre at former Debenhams Building (ground,1st, and 2nd) - games, indoor bowling, theatre, Visuals, etc. | Completed November 2022 |
| | £23,085,000 | | |

*Additional projects now part of the Town Investment Plan (TIP)



HM Government

Hastings
Town Deal



Hastings Town Deal Public Sector Equality Duty report

Dr Anne Rathbone February 2023

annerathbone@outlook.com

The Public Sector Equality Duty reporting system is a key mechanism for implementing the responsibility of public bodies to consider how their policies, programmes and decisions might impact on those with protected characteristics, under the Equality Act 2010. The Town Deal programme at national level has produced assessment format frameworks. One of these is project specific and one is programme wide. Whilst the purpose of this EIA is to produce a programme wide assessment, some elements of the project-specific template have been included in this tailored format for richer context and justification of conclusions. This mainly serves the purpose of highlighting the high potential for positive impact in some of the more community facing projects explicitly aimed at inclusion of people in communities facing complex barriers to inclusion.

Overall assessment

Summary of the main findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken

This EIA did not identify any negative impact on people with protected characteristics from the Town Deal programme.

All of the projects in the Town Deal have potential to contribute the town economy, many of them directly providing employment and skills development opportunities.

With regard to people with protected characteristics, several of the Town Deal projects have the potential to have significant contribution to positive impact on several groups of people with protected characteristics, particularly in relation to their access to skills development. This includes young people, older people, people facing mental health challenges and refugees. The wider emphasis on community cohesion and inclusivity in these projects, however, highlights the potential for positive potential of all people with protected characteristics from their Town Deal activities.



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|---|--|
| | <p>The Town Deal investment has already had the indirect equalities impact of acting as leverage for a successful large scale funding application from other sources which will significantly enhance young people’s provision in Hastings town centre. This is due to be formally announced early March 2023.</p> <p>The community consultation has resulted in a set of practical solutions that can help to minimise disruption during the implementation phase of the programme and maximise inclusion from the completed programme. Many of these were identified across different protected characteristics groups and some were specific to particular groups. Most groups were keen to work with the Town Deal programme going forward to offer specific lived experience expertise into any upcoming co-design.</p> |
| <p>Is there an additional cumulative impact of different projects when taken at programme level¹</p> | <p>No negative cumulative impacts have been identified by the EIA. There are cumulative positive impacts to address economic and income disadvantage identified which are described directly below.</p> |
| <p>Are there any other impacts of the programme not included elsewhere in the PSED assessment?</p> | <p>The range of elements of the Town Deal programme combine to constitute a programme that will directly create employment opportunities, stimulate small, local business and improve access for marginalised communities into skills development activity. This includes young people, older people, people facing mental health challenges and refugees.</p> |

¹ e.g. whether the combined impact of more than one project on protected characteristics has a different or more significant effect than when considered on a project-by-project basis.



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| <p>What actions or recommendations (if any) have arisen from the assessment?</p> | <p>This EIA recommends that individual projects within the Town Deal with particular experience of co-design and high-level community engagement have an opportunity to share their experience of the value and processes of this approach with other Town Deal projects, with a view to inspiring and maximising opportunities for community co-design where possible. It identifies specific community-led suggestions for how projects and the programme overall can maximise inclusion and minimise disruption in the implementation phase through the Town Deal programme. Some of these may not be practical but they are captured in the EIA report for the consideration of the Hastings Town Deal programme. It also recommends that monitoring of impact encourages self-reporting by individual Town Deal projects of specific examples and evidence of their achievements in promoting meaningful equity of access and inclusion.</p> |
|--|---|

| <p>Specific impact or potential impact by protected characteristic</p> | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Protected characteristic</p> | <p>Baseline situation</p> | <p>Assessment</p> | <p>Recommendations or possible actions to maximise inclusion specific to the protected characteristic</p> |
| <p>Age – older people</p> | <p>2021 census data reports 22.2% of the Hastings population as being in the age category of 65+, higher than England overall (18.6%).²</p> | <p>Positive impact. Enhanced facilities in Hastings Commons projects that are well accessed by older people.</p> | <p>Sufficient disabled parking in projects. See overall recommendations below.</p> |
| <p>Age – young people</p> | <p>Whilst figures of under 25's are not available through census data breakdowns, 2021 census data reports 17.9% of the Hastings population as being in the age category 0-15, broadly similar to England overall (18.6%).</p> | <p>Positive impact. Specific inclusion and targeting of young people in several of the Town Deal projects. Leverage for further significant investment through</p> | <p>See overall recommendations below.</p> |

² These and all subsequent figures reporting 2021 census figures were taken from East Sussex in Figures online at <https://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk/webview/index.jsp?mode=area&submode=result&areaname=Hastings&areatype=LA>. Accessed 1st March 2023.



| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | <p>There are particular issues for young people in terms of educational attainment and income disadvantage. Department for Education reporting indicated a higher % of young people who were not in sustained education, employment or training at Key Stage 5 (55%), than the England average for the same year (66%), resulting in lower progression to Higher Education.³</p> | <p>the Youth Investment Fund to increase youth facilities and promote young people’s engagement in the development of the town centre going forward.</p> | |
|--|---|--|--|

Specific impact or potential impact by protected characteristic (continued)

| Protected characteristic | Baseline situation | Assessment | Actions to maximise inclusion specific to the protected characteristic |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Disability – physical | | Positive impact, with specific inclusion of people with mental health challenges, in particular by the Broadening Futures project. | <p>Ensure new walkways are sufficiently wide for wheelchairs to be able to pass each other and/or buggies and made of stable materials.</p> <p>Sufficient accessible toilets with disabled adult changing facilities.</p> <p>For visually impaired people, during roadworks or building works and for new</p> |

³ Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes dataset, reported in Social Mobility Delivery Plan: Hastings Opportunity Area (2017-2020). Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696829/Social_Mobility_Delivery_Plan_Hastings_v12_FINAL_WEB.PDF.pdf . Accessed 1st February 2023.



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|---|--|---|--|
| | In March 2022, East Sussex County Council predicted that in 2023 there would be 17,942 Hastings residents with disabilities (East Sussex in Figures accessed 28 th Feb 2023 see previous footnote). The type of disability is not broken down into types of disability. | | pavement construction ensure clear signage in large print; written notice of planned works delivered in print form (letter) directly to residents; ensuring tactile pavement to road boundaries. Sufficient disabled parking in projects. |
| Disability – neuro diversity Page 19 | | Positive impact. Specific inclusion of neuro-diverse people in several of the Town Deal projects. | Sufficient accessible toilets with disabled adult changing facilities. Positive imagery and inclusive, ‘welcoming’ branding. Sufficient disabled parking in projects. |

| Specific impact or potential impact by protected characteristic (continued) | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Protected characteristic | Baseline situation | Assessment | Actions to maximise inclusion specific to the protected characteristic |
| Gender reassignment | In 2021 census, 0.51% of Hastings residents over the age of 16 reported that their gender identity was different to their sex assigned at birth. This is slightly lower than the England average (0.55%) but the | Neutral impact. | Positive imagery and inclusive, ‘welcoming’ branding. |



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| | highest of all the areas in East Sussex (for which the average is 0.36%). | | |
| Marriage/ civil partnerships | 2021 census figures show that 39.6% of Hastings resident adults over 16 were single, 0.4% were in civil partnerships and 38% were married (as of 2021). These percentages show a higher proportion of adults in Hastings were single in 2021 than across East Sussex (31.9%) but less than across England (37.9%). A lower percentage were married than in East Sussex overall (46.5%) and across England (44.5%). The percentage of adults over 16 in civil partnerships in Hastings was the same as for East Sussex overall (0.4%) and higher than for England overall (0.2%). | Neutral impact. | |
| Pregnancy/ maternity | The 2021 census reports that in 2020, the rate of live births per 1,000 women in 2020 was 58.5 in Hastings, which is higher than both the East Sussex rate (53.4/1000) and England (55.3/1000). | Neutral impact. | Ensure new walkways are sufficiently wide for buggies and made of stable materials. Ensure sufficient baby changing facilities. |



Specific impact or potential impact by protected characteristic (continued)

| Protected characteristic | Baseline situation | Assessment | Actions to maximise inclusion specific to the protected characteristic |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Race | In the 2021 census, the % of Hastings residents from ethnically diverse (i.e. other than White British or Northern Irish) was 14.9%, significantly lower than for England overall (26.5%) but higher than East Sussex overall (11.7%). | Positive impact, with specific inclusion of refugees, in particular by the Broadening Futures project. | Positive imagery and inclusive, 'welcoming' branding. |
| Religion belief | Calculation based on figures from the 2021 census indicates 42% of Hastings residents stating a religious belief. This is lower than both the East Sussex figure (48.8%) and the overall England figure (57.3%). | Neutral impact. | Positive imagery and inclusive, 'welcoming' branding. Consider prayer room provision. |
| Sex | In 2021 census, 51% of Hastings residents were women, the same as the England average. | Neutral impact. | |
| Sexual orientation | In 2021 census, 4.6% of Hastings residents over the age of 16 reported that they identified with an LGB+ orientation. This is higher than the average for England (3.2%) and for East Sussex (3.3%). | Neutral impact. | Three groups of residents raised the importance of 'visible inclusion' in shared spaces (LGBT+ people, people from ethnically diverse communities/religions and neuro-diverse people. Positive imagery/'welcoming' branding were highlighted. Neuro-diverse people felt this should not necessarily focus on specific protected characteristics but that branding should have an 'everyone is welcome here' messaging. A popular example for |



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| | | | <p>people from diverse ethnic communities was to display the word 'Welcome' in different community languages.</p> |
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Recommendations or possible actions to maximise inclusion across the range of protected characteristics

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|---|--|
| <p>Over all people with protected characteristics and wider community.</p> <p>Page 22</p> | <p>Good bus links to where projects were delivered. This is being addressed by Education Futures Trust and Hastings Commons.</p> <p>Dovetail regeneration plans with other strategic plans and priorities (across different authorities and sectors) to maximise community cohesion and inclusion, for example, focus on maintenance and timely rectification of vandalism and 'moderation' of public and shared spaces to promote shared ownership and physical/psychological safety.</p> <p>Projects to consider targeted sessions for people with protected characteristics e.g. for neuro-divergent people, Carers and lower cost sessions for Hastings residents.</p> <p>Take advantage of opportunities for community engagement/co-design to maximise inclusion of Town Deal projects.</p> <p>Ensure that community communications and engagements are presented in clear and accessible language, supported with high quality visuals. Schools highlighted as useful vehicles for reaching a diverse range of parents.</p> <p>Target engagement to people with protected characteristics, rather than expecting already marginalised groups of people to 'fit in' with more generalised engagement events.</p> |
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Recognise and reimburse the time of staff and residents spent in community engagement.

All the groups consulted expressed interest in receiving updates on the progress of the Town Deal.

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