

Hastings Board Meeting – Visioning Workshop



Date: 19th April 2024 – 10:30am to 13:30pm

Venue: East Sussex College Group – Hastings Campus, Station Approach, Hastings TN34 1BA

Present:

Rebecca Conroy (RC) (Chair)	East Sussex College Group
Adam Daly (ADa)	Cultural Leaders Group rep
Adam Doyle (ADo)	Integrated Care Board
Andrew Harvey (AH)	Business Improvement District
Cllr Julia Hilton (JHi)	Hastings Borough Council
Cllr Keith Glazier (KG)	East Sussex County Council
Emma Smith (ES)	Dept for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Sally-Ann Hart MP (SAH)	MP for Hastings and Rye
Jay Mendis-Gunasekera (JMG)	Chief Inspector, Sussex Police
Sean Dennis (SD)	Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce
Steve Manwaring (SMan)	Hastings Voluntary Action
Tracy Dighton (TD)	Hastings Community Network Executive
Tracey Rose (TR)	Hastings Community Network Executive

HBC Officers/support present:

Jane Hartnell (JHa)	
Victoria Conheady (VC)	
Dawn Poole (DP)	
Allison San Diego (ASD)	
David Howells (DH)	Advisor to Hastings Board
Scott Marshall (SMar)	Advisor to Hastings Board

1. Welcome and apologies

Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made. It was explained that this is not a public meeting as we are currently in the pre-election sensitive period.

Apologies were received from:

Katy Bourne	Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner
Lorraine Clarke	Priority Education Investment Area Board
Michael Ratcliffe	Connected Futures
Simon Mansbridge (Vice Chair)	Kurt J Lesker

2. Declarations of Interest

The following were declared:

- Steve Manwaring – as Chief Executive of Hastings Voluntary Action and a potential deliverer of some of the interventions
- Adam Daly – as Director of Hastings FAT Tuesdays and as a member of the Cultural Leaders Group
- Cllr Julia Hilton – as a trustee of the Hastings Greenway Group

3. Minutes and actions from last meeting

Dawn updated that all actions have been completed.

Amendments required to the minutes:

- Page 5, item 6 – Any other business: text to be added as Victoria had stated that today's meeting could not be public.
- Page 4, item 3 – Development of the three-year investment plan and the ten-year vision and boundary change request for the board to consider: text to be amended as Andy Harvey did not vote in favour of extending the boundary.

Governance

4. Updated Terms of Reference

Scott presented the draft terms of reference.

It was agreed that an additional paragraph will be added around substitutes for board members, and that these need to be of equivalent seniority.

The sub-groups of the board are still to be established. These will include high streets, heritage & Regeneration; transport & connectivity; and Safety & Security, and cross-area working groups, linking with Rother and Eastbourne where possible. The representation and expertise of these groups will be vital, the key tasks for each need to be clearly set out and will be circulated.

The secretariat should be informed as soon as possible if board members want to be the lead on any of the sub-groups.

With regards to the Executive Group, it was agreed that the membership should be extended to five members. It was also agreed that there needs to be clear scope and clarity on the decisions that are likely to be taken; these will be drawn up and added to the amended Terms of Reference and circulated next week.

If there are any decisions that the board does not want the executive group to make, there may be a need to hold extra ordinary meetings.

The board agreed the terms of reference, subject to the above-mentioned additions/amendments being made and circulated. **Action: SMar**

5. Visioning / round table discussion

The challenges facing Hastings, comparing them with the England benchmark were discussed.

The meeting was then split into two groups and were asked to consider two tasks:

Task 1: Challenges and Priorities for each of the three themes under which spending can take place:

- Safety and Security;
- High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration; and
- Transport and Connectivity

Task 2: Long Term Plan funding allocations

Summary feedback points:

The LTP to focus on young people and develop interventions for them to succeed over the lifetime of the plan

LTP to tackle inequalities that exist in Hastings

Need to consider the topography of the town in developing interventions

Opportunities for apprenticeship

Safety & Security

The perception of crime

Road safety

Place-making

High Streets, Heritage & Regeneration

Hastings as a tourist asset

Celebrate the historic assets and listed buildings

Culture and arts interventions

Transport & Connectivity

Green roofs

e-bikes

e-scooter

Improving digital connectivity

There was general agreement that in setting the priorities it is important to focus on the existing key strengths and what can be enhanced in order for these to be transformational for

the area. A clear steer has been provided in the guidance on what should be included but it is also important to allow local people to contribute to the process.

6. Hastings LTP – verbal update

David talked through the key next steps as follows:

1. Build a more granular evidence-base
2. Engage 3 sub-groups to consider challenges and priorities
3. Wider consultation and engagement with the local community
4. Consider project design and delivery, e.g.
 - Commission
 - Co-create
 - Allocate resource to thematic groups
 - Invitation to apply for grant funding
5. Consider capital / revenue split

Board Approvals

7. Resource Allocation paper

The board discussed if some of the funding allocation commissions could be combined into one larger commission. Victoria advised the Board that this would take the commissioning thresholds over a limit that could be delegated to senior officers and would therefore add additional time pressures on the delivery of the LTP.

The board agreed the indicative funding allocations and that further allocations of funding can be approved by the Executive Group.

8. Community Engagement draft brief

The draft brief set out two potential approaches. The board agreed the brief and to support option 2, to commission via an open competitive tender process.

9. Town Centre Perception Survey draft brief

The draft brief was agreed by the board.

Information

10. LTP Policy Toolkit re: Statutory Powers briefing paper

The significant implications for the local authority and the police were highlighted and the briefing note was noted by the board.

11. DLUH&C - FAQs now published

[Long-term Plan for Towns: Technical Q&A - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The above was noted.

12. Any other business

Proposal from Connected Futures.

Victoria Conheady, Sean Dennis and Tracey Rose declared interests as members of the Connected Futures Core Partnership Board.

The board agreed that it would need more information in order to be able to consider the proposal, and a clearer breakdown of the costs involved will also be requested.

Action: VC

13. Date of next meeting

Meetings will be arranged to take place in early June and towards the end of July – dates to be confirmed.

Action: DP/ASD