

Report Title: Update to Hastings Town Deal Board

Date: 5th July 2023

Report by: Town Deal Programme Team

4.1 Town Deal Programme update

Programme Overview

The programme has now fully entered project implementation with all project business cases formally approved by DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) including the Public Realm and Green Connections phase 2 project uplift and re-allocation.

Under the current Town Fund programme, the following projects have been completed (capital build and opening of the facility):

- 1) Churchfield Business Centre - HBC (Hastings Borough Council)
- 2) Debenhams: Freedom Works
- 3) Debenhams: Moxi Management and Owens Entertainment
- 4) Priory Meadow Phase 1 – conversion of New Look building (Job Centre Plus and the Gym Group)
- 5) Hastings Commons – Digital Hub in the Observer Building

We will now be monitoring their output and impact over the next year.

On staffing issues, a town investment and partnership manager has finally been recruited and is due to start September 2023. Additionally, interviews were held recently for the town investment engagement and communications officer, with the successful applicant starting September 2023. One of the first tasks of this role is to get the blog updated fully, which has fallen behind without a dedicated post, leaving it with outdated information. Additionally, following HBC's further restructuring after the appointment of the new Senior Leadership Team in Spring, Ian left the Towns Fund programme and regeneration team at the end of June and is now working in the Strategic Programmes office.

Following discussion at the last Board meeting work is currently being completed to publish various project documentations with the consent of the project sponsors. As examples: from HBC these include the options for the Priory Street Car Park Study, Homes England Market Review; along with other project public documents. These will be available on the Hastings Town Deal Blog as soon as possible.

4.2 Communications update (for info)

A news item has been added to the blog to update the position on the town centre projects following the fund re-allocation approval. The blog now has a space for public documents as mentioned above.

There has been programme coms activity related to Owens Entertainment given the HIP and Guardian articles last month. HBC supplied information to both organisation

before publications. HIP has since published a further response in their letters section, issued to them after their article was published. It can be found [here](#).

4.3 Programme finance update (for info)

Project	Allocated from town fund	Total spent to date	Total left to spend	% TDF spent
PROJECTS CLOSED	£23,085,000.00	£3,371,140.42	£19,713,859.58	14.60%
Source / Courtyard lift	£65,000.00	£65,000.00	£0.00	100.00%
Hastings co-working, flexible office, community space	£116,732.00	£116,732.00	£0.00	100.00%
FACILITIES DELIVERED				
Churchfields	£778,211.00	£778,211.00	£0.00	100.00%
Broadening Futures Together	£417,121.00	£301,358.82	£115,762.18	72.25%
Former Debenhams Building	£400,000.00	£400,000.00	£0.00	100.00%
Priory Meadow shopping centre (Fast Track element)	£349,676.00	£337,000.00	£12,676.00	96.37%
ON SITE				
Hastings Commons	£3,997,203.00	£1,115,799.99	£2,881,403.01	27.91%
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	£9,754,458.00	£65,695.00	£9,688,763.00	0.67%
Town Living	£1,037,615.00	£0.00	£1,037,615.00	0.00%
WITHDRAWN				
Priory Street	£80,157.00	£80,156.61	£0.39	100.00%

4.4 Homes England update

Following a site visit of Homes England and a meeting between HE (Homes England) and HBC on 12th June, the next steps of this project are still being discussed. Homes England have now published their Five-Year Strategy ([Delivering quality, affordable homes and regenerating towns and cities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)) and we are now waiting for their detailed general budgetary allocations before any decisions are made regarding possibilities for Hastings Town centre.