

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

NUNEATON TOWN DEAL BOARD

18th November, 2022

A meeting of the Town Deal Board was held on Friday, 18th November, 2022. The meeting was held at the King Edward VI College.

Present

Sean Farnell (CWLEP) – Chair

Present: Councillor Jeff Clarke (WCC), Councillor Peter Butlin (WCC), Tony O’Callaghan (WMCA, substitute for Dr. Julie Nugent), Marion Plant, Lindsey Randle, Les Ratcliffe (CWLEP) and Councillor Richard Smith (NBBC, substitute for Councillor Kris Wilson).

Officers in attendance: Ian Andrew (NBBC), Wendy Bolton (NBBC), Tom Hobbs (NBBC), Catherine Marks (WCC) and Les Snowden (NBBC). Rob Hughes (Queensberry - agenda item 5).

Apologies: Dawn Dawson (NBBC), Councillor C. Golby (NBBC), Jet Jones, Uly Lyons, Dr Julie Nugent (WMCA), Marcus Jones MP, Councillor Jill Sheppard (NBBC, substitute for Councillor Chris Watkins), Alison Thompson, Councillor Chris Watkins (NBBC), Patricia Willoughby and Councillor Kris Wilson (NBBC).

Stuart Nos, Principal of the King Edward VI College, gave the Board members a tour of the new college facilities prior to the start of the meeting. The renovation and refurbishment of the first floor Queens Street ex-retail space had received advanced funding from the Towns Fund.

TDB155 Chair’s welcome and announcements

The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting. The Chair noted that due to non-attendance of members under the Board’s Terms of Reference the meeting was not quorate and therefore items for consideration on the agenda were for noting only. The Chair stressed again the importance of members of the Board attending the quarterly meetings whenever possible in order for any required business to be completed.

TDB156 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th August, 2022, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

TDB157 Declarations of Interests

Board members’ interests for the meeting were as set out in a Schedule of Declarations of Interests, attached to the agenda.

The schedule of declarations of interest were noted.

TDB158 Digital Skills & Innovation Centre Presentation

A presentation of the Abbey Street Scheme was made by Rob Hughes of Queensberry, with specific focus on the Digital Skills & Innovation Centre design, status of development and anticipated timeframes for completion.

It was noted that the centre masterplan was underpinned by a sustainability strategy. The scheme was at RIBA 3-4 design stage. Members queried if the space could have potential for conferencing and it was also noted that the restaurant would be a good hospitality venue for local businesses.

Consideration was given to the surrounding infrastructure and wider changes to the town centre through the broader Transforming Nuneaton programme. The Chair requested that a further Transformation Nuneaton overview presentation be made to the group in summer 2023.

The chair thanked Rob for his presentation and the content was noted.

TDB159 Highlight Report

The Regeneration Programme Manager (NBBC) submitted a Highlight Report to update Board members on the status of the Towns Fund programme and individual projects. The report detailed the overall Towns Fund programme financial status as at November 2022, the key risks and upcoming activities.

Consideration was given to the key risks of increasing costs and inflation.

It was reported that the Saints project building purchase was now progressing towards completion.

The content of the Highlight Report was noted.

TDB160 Communications and Engagement Plan

The NBBC Corporate Communications and Marketing Manager submitted an updated rolling masterplan of Towns Fund communications and engagement, for information. The live document detailed completed activities and the anticipated communication and engagement opportunities for specific projects.

The following comms opportunities were considered further:

- The wider place making agenda.
- The launch of the Abbey Street brand.

- Carbon/sustainability theme.

The content of the rolling masterplan was noted.

TDB161 Any Other Business

Date of the next meeting – to be scheduled for mid February 2023, with the Saints as the proposed venue; date and venue to be confirmed.

TDB162 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

TDB163 Risk Register

The Programme Manager (NBBC) submitted an updated Programme Risk Register. The Board considered the specific risks raised by the updated register.

The content of the current Risk Register was noted and members requested that an additional column be added to the register to indicate risk movement.

TDB164 Project Update

The Programme Manager (NBBC) provided an update on the Museum and Park projects. It was reported that discussions had taken place with the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing and the Board considered two possible options. The consultation and approval approach was also noted.

The Chair asked to be kept informed of all developments and any proposals regarding these two projects.

Chair of the Board