

## NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### NUNEATON TOWN DEAL BOARD

19 May 2023

A meeting of the Town Deal Board was held on Friday 19 May 2023. The meeting was held in Committee Room B, Town Hall.

Present: Sean Farnell (CWLEP) – Chair, Councillor Jeff Clarke (WCC), Marcus Jones MP, Jet Jones

Officers in attendance: Catherine Marks (WCC), Mark Farmer (NBBC), Andrew Punshon (NBBC), Tom Shardlow (NBBC), Sandy Johal (NBBC)

Apologies: Alison Thompson, Marion Plant, Patricia Willoughby, Dr. Julie Nugent (WMCA), Stuart Noss, Councillor Chris Watkins, Tony O’Callaghan, Lindsey Randle, Councillor Peter Butlin (WCC), Councillor Clare Golby (NBBC), Kerry Elkins, Councillor Kris Wilson (NBBC)

TDB177 Chair’s welcome and announcements

The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting.

TDB178 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2023, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

TDB179 Declarations of Interests

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

**ACTION:** All attendees to review the Schedule of Declarations and update before the next meeting

TDB180 Communications Update

Presentation was given which included:

- My Town Nuneaton website which had had 2 new entries this week - All Saints 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, and Nuneaton, the UK’s best town economic opportunities.
- Positive media coverage stories
- Comms Team and Media Strategy for coming months which details previously covered projects and includes future media coverage.
- NBBC has purchased a drone which will allow aerial footage of our new developments to take place.
- Upcoming milestones:
- Key upcoming media opportunities.

The presentation was followed by a short film about the Boroughs cultural strategy “communities creating culture” with the permission of Cllr Sue Markham showing economic transformation goes hand in hand with transformation.

**ACTION:** Slides to be distributed to Board members.

A discussion took place. It was generally felt that the My Town Nuneaton front page is in need of a new photo which is more upbeat and vibrant. Important as the projects progress the website progresses with them. The work so far has been positive, need to keep the momentum going.

**ACTION:** change photo on My Town Nuneaton

**ACTION:** metrics around the social activity, positive/negative feedback etc to be brought to the Board. Future metrics could include how likely are you to work here, visit here, etc.

JJ stated that it would be good to connect and be part of NBBCs Cultural Strategy and use the logo on their website and shop doors. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

TDB181

### 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, the key risks and upcoming activities.

- George Eliot VC – Delay is due to an Issue with Whitbread’s legal team. MP Craig Tracey and MP Marcus Jones have both offered to help if they can.
- Saints – progressing well, procurement stage for design of ballroom, hoping out to tender end of May. Lease agreement is still with NBBC solicitors trying to get it moving. Other forms of funding £40,000 has been realised for a youth space with a recording studio in the basement elevations. £30,000 is from NHS and £10,000 is from Violent Crime Reduction Department. Additional funding is being sought via bids from Biffa and Leveling up funding with Charles Barlow. Heritage features will be retained.
- Museum/Parks – funding gap – confirmed at end of March this year that the funding from Visiting Nuneaton Changing Perspectives can be moved along with the underspend on the Weddington Road Cycle link to this project. Progressing with potentially getting our contractor Queensbury to help with design and build on a PCSA. Report going to cabinet next week.
- Wheat Street Junction – has gone through first stage one safety audit, can now go through technical detail design. Project completion is likely to be summer 2024

A discussion took place regarding infrastructure delays affecting other projects.

**ACTION:** pull demographics together of projects and how they link together.

**ACTION:** Details of major highways projects that may impact delivery of these projects.

TDB182

### Any Other Business

- a) Visiting Nuneaton Changing Perspectives – funding has been reallocated to Museum and Parks project. Still committed to deliver project but will need to seek funding from elsewhere.

**ACTION:** agreed to remove project from Towns Fund reporting programme.

TDB183

Exclusion of the Public and Press

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 9172, 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 on the description specified in paragraph (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

TDB184 Risk register

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

Changes since the previous risk register was considered:

- Item 2 - funding gap - changed to green as DHLUC has confirmed moving the funding.
- Item 21 - Staffing resilience – NBBC is going through an internal restructure, need to fulfil Assistant Director role, and Programme Manager role, also have approval for an additional role within the Regeneration team. Programme Manager and Assistant Director posts are in progress.

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Chair of the Board