

The logo for Todmorden Town Deal is a green banner with a pointed bottom edge. The text 'TODMORDEN' is in black and 'TOWN DEAL' is in white, both in a bold, sans-serif font.

TODMORDEN TOWN DEAL

TODMORDEN TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 19th April 2022

Hybrid Meeting at Todmorden Learning College and Zoom

MINUTES

Present:

- Pam Warhurst (Chair)
- Councillor Silvia Dacre
- Councillor Denis Skelton
- Stephen Curry
- Frankie Mullen
- James Duffy
- Gareth Marshall
- Amna Nisah
- Andrew Kim
- Tim Benjamin

In Attendance:

- Councillor Jane Scullion (CMBC Cabinet)
- Jess Thompson (Turner and Townsend)
- Mark Dowson
- Nathan Canavan (Minutes)
- Catherine Bann
- Shelagh O'Neill

Apologies:

Tony Lawson, Councillor Susan Press, Amanda Bloxsome, Craig Whittaker MP, Andrew Rollins, Kate McNicholas.

1. Welcome and Apologies

PW welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 17th March 2022

Minutes of the previous meeting agreed as a correct record.

Action – MD to invite Cllr Jenny Lynn to future meeting.

4. Chairs Report - Pam Warhurst

PW discussed the Town Deal Open Day taking place on Saturday 23rd April between 10am-3pm at Todmorden Learning College. The purpose of the Open Day is to advise on some of the concerns of the projects, and to communicate with the community regarding the current position, the ambition and the scale of the work and aspirations. When having these conversations any issues coming forward are not to be taken on singularly by sponsors, but rather looked at collectively.

The Board queried the potential lack of detail relating to some projects and whether there was additional information that could be shared at the event or further consultations? MD advised that some projects are more developed than others, with some such as Active Todmorden at an early stage in the scheme design process. It was noted it is hard to strike a balance between 'talking it up' and recognising the issues. Cllr JS agreed the Open Day is a good way of showcasing the projects in the TIP. JT confirmed that we need to take project business cases to RIBA stage 2 - Concept Design, these will be concepts and there will be still further opportunities for people to get involved.

PW updated on a conversation with Robin Tuddenham (Chief Exec of Calderdale Council) regarding the Towns Fund, where we are currently and where we can work together to unblock obstacles. She flagged the importance of financial reporting at future board meetings.

5. Comms Sub-Group Update

SC advised the Open Day will have a story of past and present. Banners have been created to support the projects with information from the TIP. Past consultation documents will also be available.

Panel workshops are bookable through Eventbrite, social media such as tweets have been posted, currently the mailing hasn't been sent however this will be done soon.

FM advised the press release would emphasise the importance of conversation and listening. SC outlined actions to take attendees' details to add to the mailing list and generate future conversation.

PW queried if all projects would have representation, AK confirmed that Murmuration would have a representative present from around 1.30pm.

The Board queried whether the TIP is now on the website. SC advised comms are trying to produce a slimmed down version, currently with the comms team. PW emphasised the importance of getting this on the website before the Open Day, recognising that there is a small comms team that requires support.

Action - SC to ensure TIP is on website prior to event.

6. Highlight Report - Mark Dowson

The 5% Advance Payment has been received by CMBC to support the development of the full business cases (FBC) before the deadline of 5th August 2022. Work is progressing with T&T to help project sponsors to develop the full business cases. Some further work is required to understand exactly what each project sponsor requires to develop full business cases.

PW highlighted the importance of match funding, some concerns from project sponsors and the quantum of match required. MD advised ongoing dialogue with Richard Thorpe on this.

JT added T&T funding and legal services would be bought in. PW queried wider funding, such as access to the Shared Prosperity Fund. SON indicated this is a small funding pot, and the details are still being worked up. An update should be available by the next meeting. PW referenced 8 other towns in Calderdale that would be applying for funding such as Heritage Lottery Fund. Some projects such as the bandstand has significant match funding requirement.

The Board queried some of the smaller Centre Vale Park projects and concerns around not being sighted regarding match funding requirements. Cllr SD advised that Colin from Todmorden Town Council has worked hard, outlined key issues and pulled together information, but has been moving at pace so possibly some groups are somewhat out of the loop. Conversations have begun with the Council's Safer, Cleaner, Greener team who maintain the park to see if any additional match funding is available.

The Board queried where have the match funding figures come from? PW commented that these were speculative in the TIP's production stage. Cllr SD advised in the development and re-prioritisation of the TIP, it was known that some projects would have additional funding requirements.

PW outlined further discussions need to be had to understand the support in place for sponsors with no experience of this type of funding previously.

Action - JT and MD to discuss funding and legal support further.

Cllr DS queried is there a specific time frame that we are working to currently. MD advised FBC need to be submitted to government by 5th August 2022, also the government have published a briefing document on how Project Adjustments work. Todmorden is not the only town with match funding issues. MD added project adjustments are reviews of the outputs and outcomes that may need to change as the projects develop. SON confirmed that the guidance would need to be understood in terms of what changes are permitted.

MD added the Council is supporting in any way they can ensure the FBC are submitted on time. The Cabinet has delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration SON, the Section 151 officer and Cllr JS. Additionally, the replacement for the programme manager position has been offered, with a start date of 1st July 2022.

7. Project Dashboards – Jess Thompson, Turner and Townsend

Public Places

The Public Places scheme still has a red RAG rating, however a few of the risks have improved. Until T&T have the landscape architect in place, this will keep as amber. An essential part of this project will be the relationship with the Enterprise Centre, and discussions are progressing.

Town Hall

The Town Hall project has a RAG rating of green, positive progress being made with the project, with no significant concerns.

Centre Vale Park and Fielden Hall

Centre Vale Park and Fielden Hall projects has a RAG rating of Amber overall, the risk section has moved the conflicting interests of stakeholder risk to green which is a positive for this project.

Hippodrome Theatre

The Hippodrome project has a green RAG rating, the Hippodrome has had conversations with Storah Architects who have been to site and know the building.

Enterprise Centre

The Enterprise Centre currently has a RAG rating of Red. JT has spoken with Paul at CVLT and with architects and surveyors who have previously developed enterprise centres. Once project adjustment approval is gained from government for the residential side of the project the RAG rating will improve.

MD advised previous positive dialogue held with Richard Thorpe at DLUHC regarding the residential aspect. Board ratification of any variation is likely to be required.

Active Todmorden

Active Todmorden is still has a red RAG rating due to the match funding elements of the project. T&T are looking to bring in a local individual who is experience in active travel projects to support SL including around the funding landscape for these types of projects.

Action- JT to give SL a call this week to bring him up to speed.

Todmorden Learning College

Todmorden Learning College is still currently has a green RAG rating, JT is to have a call with TLC this week and talk through the project.

Riverside

Riverside projects are currently RAG rated as amber at present. SC brought forward the issues regarding the 3G pitch for football. JT advised on encouraging conversations held with RT.

All Ability Cycle Centre

All Ability Cycle Centre is currently at a RAG rating of red. SC advised that UCVR has concerns around a 25-year land lease.

Murmuration Workshops

The Murmuration's Workshop has a current RAG rating of red. JT informed that a building has been scoped out for Murmuration Workshop but isn't for sale at present. An offer has been made on the building, but not accepted. Discussions are being held around an appropriate way forward, with advice from the Council's head of finance.

8. Panels update

GM updated on Sustainability Panel. Riverside as a project with strong potential for positive impacts around lighting and bio-diversity.

JT added T&T are looking to bring on board a sustainability specialist that would work with the environmental services at Calderdale and the project sponsors. This will establish design principles such as LED lighting, timber structures etc. This allows the cost manager to price up an accurate picture of the sustainable elements. SC expressed that incorporating sustainable elements into a project can make it 15% more expensive.

Cllr JS outlined the difficulties of expressing how things add value in a business case. She emphasised the commitment to sustainability is something that make Todmorden stand out. AN supported the above and expressed a need to emphasise this on Saturday.

PW confirmed the importance of establishing how the panels can input into project discussions, and developing metrics for both sustainability and inclusion.

9. Any Other Business

No AOB.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 19th May 2022, 5pm-7pm - via Zoom

Action - NC to circulate Zoom meeting link.

Action summary

MD to invite Cllr Jenny Lynn to future meeting.

SC to ensure TIP is on website prior to Open Day event.

JT and MD to discuss funding and legal support.

JT to give SL a call this week to bring him up to speed re Active Todmorden project support.

NC to circulate Zoom link for next meeting.

