



## TODMORDEN TOWN DEAL BOARD

Thursday 11 April 2024

### **Attendance:**

Pam Warhurst (Chair)  
Keith Brealey  
Councillor Helen Brundell  
Rupert Corbett  
Councillor Silvia Dacre  
Ester Ferry-Kennington  
Tony Lawson  
Gareth Marshall  
Amna Nisah  
Town Councillor Denis Skelton  
Kerry Wheelwright-Lee

### **Others in Attendance:**

Councillor Sarah Courtney  
Kate McNicholas  
Rob Shipway  
Frankie Mullen

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Following the informal meeting with project partners, the Chair welcomed Board members, declaring the meeting quorate.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were given from: Craig Whittaker MP

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

#### 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

##### Matters Arising

Agreed next meeting the Board would receive presentations on Climate Action Plan and Net Biodiversity Gain. **Action:** RS

Discussed business support and working and developing a relationship with Tod Connect. Asked Board Members to act as conduits of engagement with the business community. Any Board Members who may be interested to let PW know. **Action:** ALL

The Chair apologised that the Board Development Discussion Paper had not been prepared, will aim for June Board Meeting. **Action:** PW

#### 5. Panel Feedback

##### Sustainability (Gareth Marshall)

GM expressed concern that the development of the Enterprise Centre project does not meet Town Board or Climate Action Plan aspirations. He suggested businesses won't be attracted as they won't be able to show to customers their green credentials. He suggested that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) might be considered in conjunction with other projects in the programme. **Action:** KM to follow up on approach to BNG.

GM suggested that there may be scope to co-ordinate construction across a number of projects including the Enterprise Centre and Centrevale Park. **Action:** RS to discuss with project partners. He asked whether there was scope to put more photovoltaic generation in at the pavilion, and use contingency funds to bring back the green roof at the Enterprise Centre.

TL asked whether if we are not achieving the intended outcomes there should be a review of the projects. Cllr SD flagged the way in which the programme is structured, with fixed funds against rising costs. She suggested a further discussion on project outputs with CVLT, via our programme monitoring systems.

Options regarding approach were discussed, including potential additional match funding, and bending existing funding streams, in the context of a focus on exemplar projects.

It was **agreed** that the Board are disappointed to note that in a declared climate crisis the ambitions around the high environmental standards envisioned for the Enterprise Centre are currently unattainable, and the Board urged the Council, CVLT and others to work together to identify additional funding, including

potential Biodiversity Net Gain funding for the site. **Action:** KM / RS / CVLT to follow up.

It was **agreed** that CVLT should cost up elements of the Enterprise Centre that have been removed, with a view to securing additional funds and adding them back in. **Action:** CVLT to cost up elements.

DS flagged the work of Todmorden Town Council to bring in funding to support the Centrevale Park project.

KB asked about timescales for any potential decisions. KM confirmed that our pathfinder status does provide additional flexibilities. She flagged that there are agreed outputs with the project partners which form the basis for progress. **Action:** RS to provide a summary of agreed project outputs.

Cllr SD asked what happens if the Council (as accountable body) agrees that the outputs are being delivered on a project and the Town Board are unhappy with outcomes? PW responded that that question reflects the way in which the programme has been established. It was agreed that a clear position on project progress will be available at the next Board meeting for the Town Board's consideration.

### **Youth Panel (Tony Lawson)**

TL provided an update. In progressing open access youth provision the panel has identified other organisation with Lottery funding taking forward a similar project. The panel will follow up to consider how to build on that.

Other work on engaging with young people to inform development and delivery is progressing, e.g. with Todmorden Town Council at Centrevale Park.

### **Communications (Frankie Mullen)**

FM confirmed a full report will be provided in June. She shared some of the library of assets which will be displayed on screens and via social media. The information has also been shared with the project partners. The focus is on outcomes and impact, animating the benefits of the projects.

The potential to use the resources in other buildings was discussed. Physical banners are also being prepped. The website refresh is bringing a clearer and cleaner approach. Every email is responded to that comes in from the website.

### **Events Panel (Esther Ferry-Kennington)**

20 people attended the first meeting from ten organisations. Culturedale presented on their programme. Collaboration is already happening. Part of the job will be to extend the mailing list – with follow up on who hosts it. A lot of the emphasis is on what happens after the projects have completed – establishing a strategic group to support that.

## 6. Programme Update (Rob Shipway)

Three projects were unable to be present at the pre Board project partner meeting, due to holidays.

- Hippodrome
- Centrevale Park
- Todmorden Learning Centre

Hippodrome are progressing with a Community Ownership Fund application.

Centrevale have good news on match funding, with ongoing engagement on design works and the tennis court works underway.

Todmorden Learning Centre are seeing work progress. They are working on some revisions to the second phase of works due to higher than expected costs.

On the risk log, Enterprise Centre costs have already been discussed. All projects have contingency plans to manage rising costs where necessary.

PW discussed the potential benefit of bringing together strategic funding partners to look at the legacy of the Town Fund programme. KM suggested this needs to be based on clear ideas for projects. PW agreed to work up the Board Development Discussion Paper as above to clarify areas for future investment.

In terms of maximising social value and the economic benefits of procurement on local supply chains, it was agreed to bring the experience of CVLT and others to a project partners meeting. **Action:** RS to schedule social value discussion at project partners meeting.

## 7. Any Other Business

KM confirmed that a broader update on developments in Todmorden will become a standard agenda item at future Town Board meetings.

**Action:** RS to collate wider update. **Action:** KM to update on progress around step free access at the train station.

## 8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

6.00-8.00pm on Thursday 6 June 2024 at Todmorden College.