

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

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Board

Held 21st August 2023

Venue: Todmorden College

Board members attending

Pam Warhurst (Chair)
Pam Warhurst Chair
Rupert Corbett
Keith Brealey
Councillor D. Skelton
Tony Lawson
Esther Ferry Kerrington
Kerry Wheelwright
Gareth Marshall
Craig Whittaker MP

In attendance

Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting. Apologies received from Councillor Dacre, Amna Nisah, Councillor Courtney. Councillor Dacre. The Chair declared the meeting quorate.

2. Declarations of Interest

Pam Warhurst declared an interest in the Enterprise Centre and Fielden Hall having bought a nominal share in the Calder Valley Community Land Trust 5 years previously.

Esther Ferry Kerrington declared a similar interest.

Councillor Skelton also declared an interest in CVCLT, as the Town Council had bought shares and he was Chair of the Committee.

3. Minutes from the meeting held 14th June 2023

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

RS reported that he had linked up the project manager for Active Todmorden with Andrew Kim regarding opportunities for water in the market square.

UCVR have now brought forward plans for stakeholder engagement.

RS has put Gareth Marshall in touch with the project manager for the Town Hall project.

Councillor Skelton raised the issue of car parking, noting that the Town Council had been expecting the results of the survey. PW suggested an update should be presented to the Board on 6th September.

Action: RS to secure an update on the car parking survey for the next meeting of the Board.

5. Programme Update – Enterprise Centre

Rob Shipway presented a report on the Enterprise Centre. The report followed a presentation to the June meeting of the Board when officers presented a report to the Board regarding the failure to secure the backing of the Environment Agency to build the Enterprise Centre on Rose Street. As a result, Board members instructed officers to work with CVCLT to find alternative site(s) for the development, as it is the flagship project for the programme.

RS reported that following the Board meeting, Officers assessed options for the development. This began with identifying land that would offer:

- Immediate vacancy
- No flood risk or conservation area issues
- Within Council ownership
- Brownfield site
- Similar scale
- Easy access to the Town centre.

Only 1 site was identified that met all these criteria, Ferney Lee. Rob reported that Cabinet had approved proposals for disposal of the land at Ferney Lee, at nil value, to CVCLT. This was on condition the site was used to facilitate delivery of the project, incorporating the Enterprise Centre and affordable housing. Consultants have revisited the proposed development to check the commercial viability. Rob reported the findings were positive and CVCLT were keen to pursue the development.

KB welcomed the proposals and noted the positive impact the new location would have, such as improved parking.

CW stressed the importance of the Enterprise Centre as an opportunity to bring significant investment in to the town. CW fully endorsed the proposals.

Cllr Skelton asked of the business model included cafés, and if the new location would therefore adversely affect the commercial case. RS reported that the business model was entirely focused on micro business, not retail or leisure, and reiterated the revised business case appraisal which confirmed the site's suitability.

PW noted the proposed location's proximity to the school, train station, and park. Whilst no longer the centre of town, there was an opportunity to enhance the gateway to the town from this approach to Todmorden.

GM endorsed the relocation of the project but urged a review of the proposed Public Realm works in the main square. He reminded the Board that a key objective of the project was to deliver transformational change through innovative, sympathetic design. The loss of the Enterprise Centre from Rose Street should be seen as an opportunity to do more with the public realm works. If additional funds become available to the programme - for example if other projects require less grant - GM asked the Board to consider investing these funds in an expanded public realm project.

PW asked the Board whether they supported the report and its recommendation to endorse the proposed amendment to the project. The Board agreed unanimously and agreed that RS should submit a Project Adjustment Report (PAR) to DLUHC.

6. Project update – Public Realm

RS provided an overview of the Public Realm proposed developer brief, and the considerations about project change following the relocation of the Enterprise Centre. The most immediate change is the project scale, as the proposals can now extend to Pollination Street and Rose Street.

GM reiterated his thoughts that the project should be given further support, including greater financial contributions if possible. The new site location, while yet to be fully determined, provided opportunities for co-creation, innovation, and high-quality event space.

PW reported her confidence that the relocation of the Enterprise Centre has opened new opportunities which the town should grab.

PW reminded Board members that the project team would be attending the Board meeting on the 6th September for formal and informal discussions on the project.

7. Any other business

KW asked about the proposed events space and whether thought had been given to how events across the Town would be coordinated. Cllr Skelton noted the need to make sure beautiful spaces were not created to be then left underused as a programme of town-wide activity was not in place.

PW agreed this is a big issue, reminding the Board that events and events management impacted on the Hippodrome, Bandstand, Public Realm, Town Hall, as well as wider town ambitions for a greater cultural offer. EFK noted the same issue had arisen during the meeting sponsored by Andrew Kim in June. PW asked officers to explore this issue further.

Action: RS to raise with colleagues and return with an update top the next meeting of the Board.

KE asked about communications and whether there was scope for more awareness raising of what the Town Deal is trying to achieve, and the role of the Board. PW explained the recent reappointment of a communications consultant who was now completing a communications strategy.

Action: Communications to be an agenda item for the next Board meeting. the town lead by a comms professional.

8. Date and venue of next meeting

6th September 2023, Todmorden College, starting 5.30 p.m.

