Todmorden Town Deal **Board**

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 3 December 2024
Todmorden Community College

Attendance
Pam Warhurst (Chair)
Cllr Denis Skelton
Cllr Silvia Dacre
Cllr Helen Brundell
Keith Brealey
Esther Ferry-Kerrington
Tony Lawson
Gareth Marshall

Others in attendance
Cllr Sarah Courtney
Kate McNicholas
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali
Councillor Susan Press
Catherine Bann

1. Welcome and apologies
Apologies received from Amna Nisah, Josh Fenton-Glynn MP, Kerry Wheelwright-Lee.

The chair expressed good wishes to KWL on birth of her baby.

Action: RS to forward our best wishes.

2. Confirmation of quorum
The chair declared the meeting quorate.

3. Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the meeting held 10 October 2024
The Board approved the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

a. Matters arising

Gareth Marshall (GM) has been following up on the sustainability elements of the Public Places project. Still to connect with Riverside for the same purpose.

Action: GM / Riverside project conversation.

On Active Todmorden, KM confirmed Active Travel England are not essential to the progress of the project. The mobility hub update will be provided at the next meeting. A comms plan for 2025 will be shared at that meeting also.

Action: RS to schedule mobility hub and comms plan update for next meeting.

The banking hub has now been confirmed for Todmorden. Cllr Skelton reported it will be temporarily based in Tod College for approximately 12 months. The decision was made by the organisation Link. However, it was noted that the high street would be a more suitable long-term location.

Regarding the issues around buses raised at the last meeting, Councillor Courtney reported that she has not received a response from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The Chair committed to reinforcing this effort by sending a follow-up letter if needed. Connections have also been made to the Rochdale MP.

Action: Cllr Courtney to follow up on communication with WYCA regarding bus issues.

5. Programme update

Rob Shipway (RS) reminded the board of the positives heard from projects in the informal project partner meeting that had preceded the board. He reported that overall, the programme is progressing well although some projects faced specific challenge.

A project decision was made yesterday to go ahead with the walking and wheeling option for the Active Todmorden project. The timescale now requires updating to reflect this change. Cllr Brundell emphasised the importance of effective communications regarding the project, particularly in light of the recent results. GM flagged that it was clear from the consultation that most people wanted investment to proceed. Cllr Dacre reminded the board that the decision on option was also based on input from the Town Board and Town Council. Cllr Skelton inquired about the scale of responses from the consultation.

Action: KM to liaise with the project to share a summary of consultation feedback.

GM flagged the importance of rapid progress, and Keith Brearley (KB) asked if the project includes elements such as the Tipside connectivity. KM confirmed it does. PW highlighted any additional elements will need to be informed by agreed outputs and what is achievable in the timescale.

For Centre Vale Park, good progress is being made. Planning applications have been submitted. Work on the tennis courts is complete except for the line markings and the war memorial consultation was successful. The Fielden Hall project is expected to be completed by March/April. The MUGA has been renamed to Play zone, with no change to the delivery included. GM asked about the possibility of relocating the gym, and RS confirmed that this has been explored.

There is a potential projected overrun of £150,000 across the project. Cost savings will need to be identified, which will be informed by the tenders. As with all projects, if there is a change of less than 20% it will go to the Programme Board. If there is a

greater than 20% change proposed it will be shared with the Town Board for further review.

6. Programme risk and opportunities

The Community Learning Hub has achieved success with match funding, and outputs are on target for delivery.

For Riverside, RS reported the project is currently significantly over budget. The project partner is likely to need to review the elements included in the project which in turn will have an impact on outputs. These revisions will be considered by the Programme Board in the first instance as per the Assurance Framework.

Concern was expressed that further work is also required to confirm the basis for the costings. Monitoring visits help inform the programme view on project deliverability. GM also flagged concern about project certainty around sustainability measures. Surveys and Environmental Agency input will have an impact on delivery timescales. The build time is likely to be six months.

The Programme Board will review the project, including the impact of any rescoping, and the viability of a revised business model, with a further discussion at the Town Board to follow.

For Public Places, the project team has made substantial progress with designs and car parking. However, costs have increased because the project is tackling a larger area than the original proposals, and a changed approach to the outdoor market will be informed by the tender process to follow. The value of including the regeneration of the Rose Street element was discussed. The Board noted that Calderdale Council will retain car parking revenue to fund maintenance etc, as landowners.

Action: KM to flag Biodiversity Net Gain resource follow up to the project.

The Hippodrome project has secured more match funding and is now on track to complete Phases 1 and 2, having previously reported that the project would only be able to deliver phase 1.

The Enterprise Centre has a shortfall of around £200,000. The project partner, CVCLT, has approached the Council for support who have requested further details. GM flagged imminent funding deadlines which could provide a route for more resources. Other options include reviewing elements of the project to assess their necessity to the successful delivery of the project.

Action: RS to encourage the project partner to work with GM on funding application asap.

7. Board Development Support

RS shared the specification for work to inform the Town Board's future focus, building on discussions to date. The approach was agreed.

Action: RS to progress with commissioning the board development support.

8. Panel updates

a. Sustainability Panel update

Issues noted as above for Riverside, Public Places and Enterprise Centre. Ongoing discussions with Centre Vale Park are taking place.

b. Youth Panel update

The Youth Panel's work is moving ahead, with funding to facilitate conversation with young people at the high school, and work to do on how to feed those discussions into the Town Board.

Catherine Bann (CB) informed the group about the Todmorden Youth Matters meeting on 11th January and invited anyone interested to attend to represent the town board. Attendance is limited to one representative from the board.

c. Communications update

Communications update will be provided at the next Board meeting.
It was agreed that the Board and its members' profile and role needs to be raised and clarified. There is scope to tell more engaging stories as well as updating basic information on the website.

Action: FM to update website re members.

There was a discussion about the importance of connecting the community with civil society decision making? Cllr Courtney noted that this type of work with young people is already a priority for councillors.

Action. Cllr Brundell to report back to the Board on what the council is doing in this area.

9. Any Other Business

There was a brief discussion about progress at the train station. New contractors are in place. Links to the Active Todmorden project in terms of alignment of timescales are in view at a project level.

Cllr Brundell suggested there is scope in the future to share information on key Council decisions, work of the MP, activity within the Town Council, and other public bodies.

10. Date of next meeting

13th February 2025 at Todmorden Community College.

The Board suggested introducing a hybrid way forward for meetings for Josh Fenton Glynn MP to attend.

Action: RS to investigate how to make hybrid work appropriately and add option to future meetings.