

SOUTHPORT TOWN DEAL BOARD

MEETING HELD AT THE ON 10 MAY 2023

Attendees:

Andrew Booth (Vice Chair) (AB) Dan Taylor (DT) Peter Hampson (PH)
Agnes Ng (AN) Ian Raikes (IR) Rob Anderson (RA)
David Head (DH) James Brayshaw (JB) Stephen Watson (SW)
Rt. Hon Damien Moore MP (DM) Cllr. Marion Atkinson (MA)

In attendance Sean Joughin (SJ)

Officers in attendance: Clare Wright (CW), Heather Jago (HJ) and Stephen Tant (ST)

17. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Rob Fletcher (the meeting was chaired by AB in the chairs' absence).
- Michelle Brabner

The following officers also sent their apologies for the meeting: Stuart Barnes, Mark Catherall, Keith Molloy, Claire Maguire, and Andy Dunsmore.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No comments or amendments received. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 20th March 2023.

20. GOVERNANCE

LCR CA has nominated Sean Joughin (SJ) as their representative on the Town Deal Board.

SJ introduced himself as an Investment Analyst at the Combined Authority. He is currently working on place-based regeneration and innovation projects across the region, having been involved in the MLEC funding, is familiar with the project and funding route. Prior to joining the CA, he worked in the housing sector.

Decision: It was agreed that Sean Joughin will be invited to join Southport Town Deal Board, representing the Combined Authority.

Action: CW to collate the welcome pack responses for the new members.

21. MONITORING & EVALUATION

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HJ confirmed that as part of the annual assurance and performance management for Town Deal Sefton Council as Accountable Body are required to submit 6-monthly monitoring and evaluation returns to DLUHC. This is in addition to the annual assurance process on governance, transparency and management of Town Deal funding. Details are provided in the Levelling Up Funds Local Authority Assurance Framework Guidance that apply to the Town Deal projects as well as Levelling Up funded projects. Key themes such as procurement, conflict of interest, subsidy control, counter fraud and risk management are all monitored.

Sefton Council, as the accountable body are required to submit bi-annual Monitoring and Evaluation returns. This provides an update on the overall programme performance, funding profiles, milestones, project outputs and outcomes and key risks. In terms of Governance and transparency we are sharing the draft M&E plan with board members in good time of the submission due early next month.

June return

CW provided an overview of the completed draft return.

The M&E return template remains largely unchanged from the last submission in December. Working through each tab, Board members were given the opportunity to comment and raise queries on the draft response. Most of the workbook uses a RAG rated scoring to ensure all parts are completed.

The deadline for return of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan is 9th June 2023.

Action: To consult with the chair and S151 Officer to finalise the return in preparation of the submission to DLUHC by the 9th of June deadline.

22. PROJECT UPDATES

On behalf of the project delivery teams, SW confirmed that work continues on each of the Town Deal projects.

MLEC. The vital milestone of obtaining Planning Approval was achieved at the end of April. The project is still on programme to achieve commencement of the demolition works in the summer, subject to discharging the necessary planning conditions. Part of the planning committee discussions focussed on the impact of the construction process. The Contractor and delivery team are developing the management plan to ensure stakeholders are involved through regular consultation and community engagement. Details of the engagement and social value activities were summarised in the last meeting. The contractor will lead on the delivery phase plan.

Les Transformations. Works are programmed to commence after the busy summer period to lessen the impact on local businesses. Copies of the detailed design will be circulated to the Board and wider consultation for full visibility prior to commencement of the works.

Enterprise Arcade. A Cabinet report is being prepared to update members on progress of the contractor procurement and approval of funding for the enabling works. Work is ongoing with the project team continuing to progress the delivery and operator models options.

Building Better Customer Experience. Southport College are leading on the delivery

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of the training programme. They have faced delays due to challenges with recruitment, but issue now addressed. The first course for 40 learners commenced this week.

Equality and diversity remain a key cross cutting theme across all aspects of project delivery. We are also working with SAFE (Southport Access For Everyone) group who are keen to work with the Council and promote inclusion for all.

PH queried if moving the Les Transformations programme dates to Autumn compress delivery. SW confirmed that the aim is to avoid the busy summer and Christmas tourism periods. Programme information can be provided as part of the detailed design update for Les Transformations. The aim will be not to impact on the summer periods, this year or next.

AB questioned whether the opportunity of the former coop building along Eastbank Street coming back on the market had been considered. SW confirmed this site formed part of the wider Enterprise Store aspirations in the Town Investment Plan. The Council do not have the resources to acquire the site and redevelop but given the completed and planned works in the vicinity (the market, public realm improvements, the Coronation pub, etc) will make it an attractive commercial proposition for private investment.

DT made enquiries as to whether local businesses will receive updates on key milestones for MLEC. Discussion took place on a comms plan for Town Deal Projects to keep businesses, residents and stakeholders in the wider area informed of forthcoming milestones. A variety of engagement tools will be utilised including social media. Board members wanted the comms plan to be clear on timescales. MA highlighted that the Council have delivered what they have said they would do to date, and the focus is to remain on delivery of the aspirational projects. Action. SW to review the key programme dates and issue comms plan that can keep Board members, local businesses and key stakeholders informed. SW to review further with Southport BID (DT).

AN was keen to understand the current programme, progress of Contractor negotiations and how advance notice of the key work stages can be incorporated in the planning stages. SW confirmed that negotiations with the preferred contractor at MLEC is in the second stage of procurement allowing the design work undertaken to be fully priced.

The Contractor is already involved in Community engagement activities including working with local schools, the college, offering apprenticeships to care leavers. There are lots of positive stories that have been and can be communicated.

23. AOB

Southport Pier – given previous queries from board members, SW confirmed survey work was ongoing and that an update would be provided to the Board when complete.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next meetings have been scheduled as follows:

12th September, 08:30am

12th December, 08:30am

