



HYNDBURN

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ACCRINGTON
TOWN CENTRE
PARTNERSHIP
BOARD
MEETING
MINUTES

January 25
2024

Date, Time & Location
Thursday 25th January 2024
5:30pm – 7:00pm
Online, Microsoft Teams

Contents

Date, Time & Location.....	1
Attendees	1
Present	1
Apologies.....	1
Item 1 Welcome and Introductions	2
Item 2 General Council funding update – Steve Riley.....	2
Item 3 LUF Project Update – presented by Gretta Starks	3
Item 4 Long Term Town Plan - presented by Tom Lees (able to join at approx. 6:30pm).....	3
Item 5 / AOB / Close & Next Meeting.....	4

Attendees

Board Members Present

David Sanderson	(DS)	Independent Chair
Purves Ali	(PA)	Accrington Stanley Trust / Boost
Edward Matthews-Gentle	(EM-G)	Lancashire County Council
Richard Hooper	(RH)	Adventure Hyndburn
Jen Hill	(JH)	East Lancs Chamber of Commerce
Louise Sydenham	(LS)	East Lancs Chamber of Commerce
Miranda Barker	(MB)	East Lancs Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Parkin	(AP)	Nelson Group (Accrington and Rosendale College)
Lyndsey Sims	(LS)	Hyndburn Leisure
Sara Britcliffe MP	(SB)	Hyndburn & Haslingden Member of Parliament
Marlene Haworth	(MH)	Hyndburn Borough Council

Apologies

Munsif Dad	(MD)	Hyndburn Borough Council
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Advisors to the Board

David Welsby	(DW)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Steve Riley	(SR)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Jess Simkin (minute taker)	(JS)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Gretta Starks	(GS)	Rider Levett Bucknall
Tom Lees	(TL)	Bradshaw Advisory

N.B. Actions in this document are detailed in blue and preceded by ^[ACTION]

Appendices references are indicated with green text

Item 1 Welcome and Introductions

DS welcomed attendees to the meeting and talked through the Agenda items.

Item 2 General Council funding update – Steve Riley

SR explained that the Council has recently received £463k of funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund to progress the development stage for Market Chambers. This is in addition to £370k of match funding required from the Council (total development phase budget £833k). SR also confirmed the Council has received funding from the High Street Accelerator Pilot project for Great Harwood's High Street (Queen St, Church St, Blackburn Rd). The Council has been allocated £237k over the next 15 months. The Council also has an opportunity to bid for funding into a £5m greening fund for this High Street. Craig Haraben has been asked to be the Council lead in developing a submission from the Council and will pull together a group of stakeholders. A Great Harwood Panel is being formed and will be chaired by Peter Holden and the first meeting took place this week with local business owners/residents, property owners, police, HBC officers/Councillors.

DW explained how the current Town Centre Board would be great to take on the additional tasks from the long term plan funding. At the last meeting, we invited members to invite or recommend new members. DW thanked the people that had sent names through. DW confirmed how we have also had a discussion with LCC. DW suggested somebody from the police, Lancashire Care Board, CVS. DW confirmed decisions will be made by the end of February and this will be done in conjunction with the Chair and circulated to board members.

LS commented how she would like to see panel members to be able to report to their respective organisations to keep them updated.

DW hopes to be in a position soon to finalise a board membership.

Item 3 LUF Project Update – presented by Gretta Starks

GS confirmed we are at the end of the design process with regards to the planning submission and that the team is now starting to progress some enabling works on site. GS confirmed they have started procurement work for an operator to manage Burtons Chamber and the Market Hall and that they would have input into the look and feel of these facilities when on board. GS confirmed that the planning permission for Burtons Chambers has received approval and they hope to have all other permissions in place during February and March.

GS explained the trader decant cabins had arrived as planned in December with the fitting out progressing. Work has started to move the traders into these and will continue throughout January in phases as was requested by the traders. One every trader has been moved, there is a plan for an official opening of the new temporary market set up.

GS confirmed that further survey work is underway inside the buildings and the contractor has been asked to focus on priorities such as the Changing Places toilet facility to meet the external funding deadline end of June 2024. The upcoming period will be slightly disruptive with vehicles, demolition noise etc. but they will try and minimise this as much as possible.

GS confirmed that we still progressing with operator procurement and it's likely that Burtons Chambers will be first around March and the Market Hall a little later in April/May.

Burtens Chambers still has a leasehold tenant in there and Market Chambers has three and a number of residential accommodation. The Council's property acquisition consultant is still engaged in discussions which hopefully will result in sale/vacant possession by agreement. However, the CPO strategy is now running in parallel for both buildings.

GS shared photos of the temporary market, explaining that branding and weather canopies on the edges would be installed over the coming weeks, once traders were inside.

GS directed all Board members to the ATC website for updates and progress, also sharing the details of the up and coming 'getting connected day' with Morgan Sindall.

MB explained how there has been a strong desire from local businesses to be part of the supply chain and they really want to make sure they are part of this project where they can. GS added that this would be a good event for them to attend, as other than the cabins, other work hasn't been procured yet.

JH asked if we have statistics from website visitors so we can offset the comments around people not knowing what's going on. GS said we could get numbers of visitors and try and get this promoted further to businesses, asking for any ideas for promoting further. JH added that we need to cater for non-internet / social media users. GS added that we have good Coms compared to other LUF funded projects. SB offered to write to local businesses from her to provide updates.

There was a coms presentation to the Board in November where stats were shared. A further update can be provided in the future is wished.

Presentation attached again

EMG explained how he'd asked at a meeting at Lancashire if they were aware what's going on in the districts so they don't act as a barrier with districts. DW confirmed that we do keep in touch and added that they may appoint an individual from Economic Development.

Presentation attached

Item 4 Long Term Town Plan - presented by Tom Lees

TL shared his presentation slides which details plans for the next 6 months and then beyond that. TL explained this was Government endowment funding to be used on long-term interventions which will change the town, rather than spending money on immediate short term projects.

TL talked the panel through the presentation in depth.

DS asked in terms of timescales. TS added that 75% of the plan already exists in the Town Centre Investment Plan (TCIP) but is aware the timing is short, being an August deadline to submit the Council's long term plan to government.

SB asked what happens if there was overspend and if funds can be taken from future funding. TL explained that the guidance says there are fewer strings attached and appears for this to be the case with uneven blocks of spending over the period allowed.

Presentation attached.

Item 5 AOB

DW added that a board we would need to work on a similar process to LUF, where we invite proposals in terms of how the funding is to be spent, enabling us to update the TCIP, adding there is quite a lot of work between now and August.

SB asked if there is scope for things to change if there is a political change. DW explained that provided the plans we come up with are evidence based and are agreed with at panel level, without politics in mind, this should not be the case but there should also be in any event, scope for plans to change as it was highly unlikely plans could be made for the whole 10 years of funding.

RH asked to what extent we have the 10 year plus plan that is self-sustainable, what will be the overall benefit of these current projects. DW explained how this was discussed about in the early stages of the LUF projects discussions and that we should not be concentrating on leaving a meaningful legacy in the projects chosen and believes this board has acted in this way so far and will do in the future.

DS thanked all attendees.

Item Next Meeting

Date to be confirmed but will be a Thursday 29th February – 5:30pm – 7pm on MS Teams