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ACCRINGTON
TOWN CENTRE
PARTNERSHIP
BOARD
MEETING
MINUTES

August 29
2024

Date, Time & Location
Thursday 29th August 2024
10:00am – 11:30am
Scaitcliffe House & Microsoft
Teams

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Thursday 29 August, 10:00am – 11:30am, Hyndburn BC, Scaitcliffe House & MS Teams

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Item 6 - Accrington Town Centre Masterplan Update

Item 7 - Long Term Plans for Towns Update

Item 8 - Request from Lancashire County Council to replace their representative

Item 9 - AOB and date of next meeting

Attendees

Board Members Present

David Sanderson	(DS)	Independent Chair
Sarah Smith MP	(SS)	Member of Parliament for Hyndburn & Haslingden
Cllr Munsif Dad	(MD)	Leader of Hyndburn Borough Council
Richard Hooper	(RH)	Adventure Hyndburn
Miranda Barker	(MB)	East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce
Sharon Hendrie	(SH)	Ynot Aspire
Cllr Zak Khan	(ZK)	Leader of the Opposition Hyndburn Council
Elaine Barker	(EB)	Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Community Voluntary Support Group
Steph Armes	(SA)	Lancashire Police
Andrew Parkin	(AP)	Nelson Group (Accrington and Rosendale College)
David Gordon	(DG)	Lancashire County Council

Apologies

Lyndsey Sims	(LS)	Hyndburn Leisure Trust/Hyndburn Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Edward Matthews-Gentle	(EM-G)	Lancashire County Council
Purves Ali	(PA)	Accrington Stanley Trust
Steve Burns	(SB)	Lancs County Council (Deputised by David Gordon)

Advisors to the Board

David Welsby	(DW)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Steve Riley	(SR)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Sarah Ma (minute taker)	(SM)	Hyndburn Borough Council

Guests attended:

Tom Lees	(TL)	Bradshaw Advisory
Gretta Starks	(GS)	RLB

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 Apologies

DS welcomed attendees to the meeting including Sarah Smith MP who was attending as a Board Member for the first time.

Introductions were made.

Item 2 Review of last Minutes

Under Item 4 DW made a correction. Instead of “DW noted that it would be important to find a balance between the capital and revenue spend” it should read “DW noted that it would be important to find a balance between bids around Community Safety and the wish to support community led generation.” [ACTION]

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Item 3 LUF Projects Update

GS shared her update (attached with notes).

TL suggested that another operator could be brought on board for the play element of the project but GS noted that the current operator was keen to do this.

DG agreed to send GS contacts for the Lancashire Skills Hub for Morgan Sindall. [ACTION]

It was noted that FAQs and monthly construction updates were kept on the Accrington Town Square website.

DW thanked GS for her update and work to date. DW enquired when the outcome of the CPO on the Bet Fred unit would be determined. SR noted that this would be around Nov/Dec.

Item 4 Lancashire Combined Authority and UKSPF Update

DW reported that in regards to the Lancashire Combined Authority, the picture in Lancashire was now unsettled and uncertain. Upper tier Authorities who formed the original bid in 2023 wanted to continue with the plan, however District Council’s planned to submit alternative proposals, potentially a Mayoral Combined Authority.

DW noted that in regards to UKSPF it was not currently clear how this would play out. DW handed over to MD and SS who were involved in discussions at a local and national level.

MD explained that since the change of Government, District Leaders had met twice and discussed the potential of a Mayoral Combined Authority (would be pushing for tier 3). MD was confident that a deal

would be reached and that he would be making representations on a Mayoral Combined Authority with UKSPF to be left within the Districts.

SS reported that several meetings had been held with Ministers since 4 July and it was clear that there was a real desire for Mayoral Combined Authorities and the Government is keen to see Lancashire go in that direction. Civil Servants are ready to progress this work and want to move at pace as Lancashire is at the top of the list. SS added that there should be more information about the offer in the next few weeks, there was a lot of work to be done but this was an opportunity.

In regards to Long Term Plans for Town Funding SS explained that she had written to the Minister with specific questions and has received a reply to that which she would circulate. [ACTION]

SS added that this funding falls within the spending review. SS agreed with the Board that this was critical money for us and that the Government understand that, they will be coming forward with further details and a change of submission date, after the treasury review. SS added that the Government want to know about any specific issues so that these can be raised and resolved.

TL offered to send contact details for other MPs in similar positions so that they could work together on this issue. SS reassured the Board that she was working together with her colleagues on this.

Item 5 Update on new Culture and Heritage Strategy

RH talked the Board through the Culture and Heritage Strategy.

EB and RH to liaise for an update to be given on this at the Community Action Network. [ACTION]

MD thanked all stakeholders for their excellent work on this document and added that he was keen to see some cultural events from the Asian community take place in Hyndburn, rather than travelling to Blackburn.

TL questioned the number of objectives and if this was too many. TL to send some comments on the document to RH before 9 September. [ACTION]

SS emphasised the importance of evaluating and measuring the success of each event so that this can inform future decisions.

Item 6 Accrington Town Centre Master Plan Update

SR updated the Board on the Accrington Town Centre Master Plan (attached with notes).

SR to send invite for workshop with wider stakeholders to SH who would send to 2 of her contacts. [ACTION]

SR to arrange for SS to receive information on Masterplan Consultation period so that SS can get the message out. [ACTION]

Item 7 Long Term Plans for Towns Update

Update provided under item 4.

Item 8 Request from Lancashire County Council to replace their representative

DS drew the Board's attention to a letter from Lancashire County Council (previously circulated) requesting that they change their current representation to include a County Council member rather than an Officer which would provide a consistency of approach across all similar Lancashire Boards.

DS noted that he had no concerns and all agreed that they were happy to accept this proposal.

SR to confirm the decision with Lancashire County Council and arrange for invites to be sent to County Councillor Carole Haythornthwaite. ^[ACTION]

Item 9 AOB and date of next meeting

AOB – no matters arising.

The dates of the next meetings were agreed and locations have been confirmed as follows:

3 October 9:30am at the Knowledge Quad & MS Teams.

21 November 9:30am at the College & MS Teams.

13 February 9:30am at the College & MS Teams.

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 3 October at 9:30am at the Knowledge Quad & MS Teams.