

Burton upon Trent Town Deal Board Minutes

3rd March 2022

Board Members Present

Ben Robinson Chairman
 John McKiernan Parish Council Representative
 Mick Clifford Burton Civic Society
 Cllr George Allen East Staffordshire BC
 Cllr Bev Ashcroft East Staffordshire BC
 Valerie Burton Community Representative
 Shaïd Hussain Business and Community
 Representative
 Cllr Philip White Staffordshire CC (via Zoom)
 Cllr Victoria Wilson Staffordshire CC (via Zoom)
 Samantha McKewan Representing Kate Griffiths MP

In Attendance

Andy O'Brien East Staffordshire BC
 Mark Rizk East Staffordshire BC
 James Abbott East Staffordshire BC
 Thomas Deery East Staffordshire BC
 Wayne Mortiboy Staffordshire CC
 Andrea Davies East Staffordshire BC

Apologies

Kate Griffiths Member of Parliament
 Lynette Howgate Cooper Square
 Shopping Centre
 Nik Hardy Business
 Representative
 Chris Plant Chamber of Commerce

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Decision / Discussion / Recommendation	Action Points	Date Action Required
1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chairman welcomed the Board to the meeting and noted that apologies for absence had been received from Kate Griffiths MP, Lynette Howgate, Nik Hardy and Chris Plant.		
2	Minutes of 3 rd February 2022 Town Deal Board meeting and Matters Arising	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.		
3	Confirmation of Meeting Quorum	It was agreed that the meeting quorum be 8, to include the chairman and one Board Member representative each from East Staffordshire Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council.		

4	Reflections on visit to the Market Hall	This item was deferred.		
5	Project Updates	<p>The Chairman requested that AOB and GA provide an update to members of the board following the decision by the Council on Monday 28th February 2022 not to proceed with the Burton Town Deal Programme. GA advised that the proposals had been defeated by one vote at the Council meeting held on 28th February 2022. As a result of this decision, within the past few days Councillors and Officers had begun working on an alternative plan. GA advised that he had had meetings with the Leader of the Opposition and with the Controlling group to ascertain what could be progressed to move projects forward. In addition AOB had met with BEIS the previous day.</p> <p>AOB informed the Board that he had received advice from the Civil Servants and that their view was that they had already seen progress from the Board over the year and they advised to see what was achievable and to submit a proposal by the existing deadline of 24th March 2022. They confirmed again that the money could be recycled on existing projects (i.e. money could be moved from one project to others). A Project Adjustment Form had already been submitted for Project F which has been held in abeyance whilst this new procedure was finalised, which was being led by the Secretary of State. They stressed that the Project Adjustment Form and the process for Project Adjustments was changing. As such, they advised that it may be more difficult to make adjustments in the future, so the advice was that it would be easier to regroup and submit proposals on the March deadline, rather than wait until the second Heads of Terms date in September, except for Project C which already has an extension approved. The Civil Servants indicated that they could support this way forward as they saw the proposals as achievable.</p> <p>AOB provided a summary of the key discussion points from recent meetings with a view to amending the proposals as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to move money from Project E to other projects; • Recognition that Project D was the most powerful project; • Desire to see money spent on Towpath project; • Visitor Centre to be sited elsewhere within the Project D geography - focus on the washlands, with the visitor centre to be sited next to the water tower (instead of the food hall); • Hidden heritage could be celebrated as part of an investment on the cladding on the exterior of the Library building; • Bring the Heritage Centre forward to Phase 1 (thus demonstrating some added value with Project D); 		

		<p>The Board noted that the Business cases could be readapted to incorporate these points and subsequently would be submitted to Council at the meeting to be held on 21st March 2022.</p> <p>An opportunity for questions followed and the Chairman invited members of the Board to comment individually on the update provided.</p> <p>PW stated that SCC would now look to reinvest in Burton Library in its existing location, when budgets allowed. WM indicated the importance of highlighting that the library service would still be maintained within any press releases.</p> <p>GA asked WM to provide details of costs already incurred at Project E, so that these could be reimbursed through the Towns Fund monies.</p>		
6	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting would take place on Thursday 24 th March 2022.		
7	Any Other Business	Social Media– AOB stated that some Board Members had experienced abuse online since Monday. He asked other Board Members to forward any correspondence if they had experienced anything similar.		