

ST HELENS TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING

Friday 13th November 2020 – 14:30 hrs | Microsoft Teams



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Board Members in Attendance:

Town Deal Board Chair – John Tabern, Local Businessman and Ambassador

Conor McGinn MP, St Helens North

Marie Rimmer MP, St Helens South and Whiston

Tracy Mawson – Chief Executive, St Helens Chamber

Mick Allen – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Alex Dawson – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Sophie Bevan – Investment Manager, LCR Combined Authority

Julia Callaghan – Marketing Director, St Helens College

Cameron Sheeran – Principal, Cowley International College

Glenys Chalk – Headteacher, Rivington Primary

Philip Fell – Associate Pastor, St Helens Christian Life Centre

Justin Hill – Chief Executive, YMCA St Helens

John Hodkinson – Director, 2K Supplies

Andy Lock – Coalfields Regeneration

Chris O’Dea – Managing Director, OD’s Designer Clothing

Stephen Palfrey – Managing Director, Palfrey Greer

Dyan Clegg – St Helens & Knowsley NHS Trust

Howard Lawrenson – Managing Director, Lawrenson Associates

Steve Coffey – Chief Executive, Torus Group

Fay Lamb, Chief Executive Citadel Arts

Phil Mayall – Muse Developments

Emma Howarth – Managing Director, MITE

Sharon Bridge – Managing Director, Sabroso Restaurant

Lance Flor – Managing Director, McDonalds St Helens

Geoffrey Appleton – Lay Chair, St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group

Andrew Darron – Director, Groundwork Trust St Helens

Chris Jones – Managing Director, Abbey Group

Local Authority Representation:

Councillor David Baines – Leader of St Helens Borough Council

Councillor Richard McCauley – Cabinet Member Economic Regeneration

Kath O’Dwyer – Chief Executive, St Helens Borough Council

Lisa Harris – Executive Director Place Services, St Helens Borough Council

Mike Poulter – Interim Director of Strategic Growth, St Helens Borough Council

Jayne Taylor – Head of Corporate Communications, St Helens Borough Council

Victoria Hardcastle – PR and Media Manager, St Helens Borough Council

Cathryn White – Place Project Manager, St Helens Borough Council

CBRE Representation:

Rhian Davitt-Jones – Associate Director, Planning & Development CBRE

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:

Rt Honourable Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government

Sarah Coskeran, Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, MHCLG

1. WELCOME – CHAIRMAN JOHN TABERN

St Helens Town Deal Board Chairman John Tabern welcomed all to today's meeting, expressing his thanks to all for their time.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from:
Stephen Lingard – Director, SL Consultancy
Gary Ellis – Coalfields Regeneration
Andrew Darron – Director, Groundwork St Helens

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from those present were made.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 16th October were agreed as a correct record.

5. GUEST IN ATTENDANCE

The Right Honourable Robert Jenrick MP – Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government joined the meeting.

John Tabern introduced himself as Chair of the Town Deal Board and welcomed The Rt Honourable Robert Jenrick to today's Board meeting, expressing thanks and gratitude on behalf of the Board for his time and commitment in attending today's meeting.

Chairman provided the Secretary of State with a comprehensive introduction to St Helens' rich industrial heritage and proud identity, comprising, innovation, industry, and skills. John covered all things St Helens, its identity as the home of glass innovation. The Pilkington brand, originating in St Helens over 200 years ago, is recognised globally for its rich portfolio of glass products and has both offices and manufacturing plants still based in St Helens today. John shared the heritage as a Rugby League town and there is a real 'can do' attitude felt within the town, the population of the borough being fiercely proud of their roots.

Conor McGinn addressed the Board and the Secretary of State, echoing the Chairs comments in relation to the strong and proud heritage as an industrial town, highlighting that these links are not just part of our history but are very much part of the future too. Conor added that St Helens as a town is synonymous with the Glass Industry and the innovation that comes with that and indeed being home to the best Rugby League team in the world, for many reasons it's a town known right across the country and indeed the world and it needs an investment from the Towns Fund to support it in reaching its full potential.

Chairman thanked Conor, before introducing Councillor David Baines, Leader of St Helens Council.

Cllr Baines set out the context that St Helens Council is currently operating in, the funding challenges faced and the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, adding that the sense of pride in the town is strong and that has been demonstrated more than ever over the last six months, in the work of the St Helens Together initiative that has seen the Council, partners, residents work together across communities in St Helens to respond to the emergency.

Cllr Baines emphasised just how transformative Town Deal funding would be for St Helens and for the wider Borough and thanked Mr Jenrick for his time and support today.

Chairman John Tabern thanked Cllr Baines and welcomed Lisa Harris, Executive Director Place Services at St Helens Council to deliver a presentation setting out St Helens strategic narrative, key themes and objectives for St Helens Town Investment Plan.

Lisa Harris, Executive Director Place Services, St Helens Borough Council

Lisa Harris introduced herself and welcomed Mr Jenrick, before going on to deliver today's presentation, setting out St Helens strategic narrative and the key themes, and objectives for the Town Investment Plan.

Lisa began by highlighting that stakeholder engagement with the business community, local residents and the voluntary sector is at the heart of our plan, drawing on our unique heritage and embracing the future opportunities that Glass Futures brings.

There is a need to consider the health of our local communities, responding to the key challenges facing St Helens, especially tackling our health deprivation. Repurposing key civic assets and creating new space for co-working will be key, building on the strength of St Helens Cares the creative partnership between the Council and our health partners.

Our glass making heritage is our unique selling point and we want to celebrate our culture and heritage legacy, whilst at the same time bringing it right up to date with Glass Futures, the town's key asset of the canal, one of the oldest in the world and our important listed and heritage buildings across the town including Cannington Shaw, Quaker meeting house, St Mary's Church.

We recognise the need to break down this reliance on the car and embrace new forms of transport by creating strong permeability across the town centre and beyond. Our focus on linking existing key assets with new growth opportunities, improving public realm, creating high quality spaces to dwell, all form part of our vision.

As part of the Liverpool City Region, St Helens will benefit from a new digital super spine but in order to connect into this opportunity there is a need to lay strong digital infrastructure foundations so that St Helens can attract the right businesses and future investment into the town.

Glass Futures is a catalyst to drive further innovation and opportunity in the area. The Glass futures model can be extended to include medical glass manufacturing and can be replicated for other foundation industry research and development and have already identified strong interest to do this.

Lisa concluded by explaining that these projects showcase just a flavour of what St Helens has to offer, the role we play in the national economic recovery and the help, support and financial assistance required to make it happen.

Marie Rimmer MP, St Helens South and Whiston

Marie Rimmer MP concluded today's presentation to the Secretary of State, summarising the many strengths of the Borough and the work of the Town Deal Board to date in developing the key projects, offering thanks to the Minister for his time and support in recognising the opportunities that St Helens have as part of the Towns Fund initiative.

The Right Honourable Robert Jenrick MP – Secretary of State, MHCLG

The Secretary of State thanked the Board and all speakers for their presentations today and concluded that he felt the proposals we can see emerging from the projects look to be really excellent. Mr Jenrick added that he recognises the hard work that has gone into developing such strong proposals, especially throughout the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, adding that if St Helens can secure the Town Deal in 2021 it will no doubt be a source of real confidence and optimism for the future of the Borough.

Robert Jenrick left the meeting.

Chairman John Tabern continued with the agenda items for today's Board meeting, handing over to Rhian Davitt-Jones to update the Board of further progress in developing projects.

Rhian Davitt-Jones, Associate Director CBRE

Rhian delivered a presentation that broadly covered the strategic narrative and key themes, strategic objectives and the refined project shortlist. Rhian also shared key benefits and a readiness appraisal of each of the six projects, including next steps. Conor McGinn queried the term 'animated experience' as one of the proposed thematic areas and suggested that this needed to be re-worded.

Next Steps:

Achieved to date:

- Document review and SWOT analysis
- Formalised Vision & Objectives
- Refined Project Shortlist (Top 6)
- In process of drafting Stakeholder Engagement Plan

November-December:

- Further project scoping and refinement, including strategic rationale & proportion of 'ask'
- Benefit Cost Ratio/ Economic analysis of projects
- Theory of change analysis
- Drafting of TIP document
- Production of high-level spatial plan
- 14th December – Board Meeting – Summary and project status update
- 8th January 2021 – Board Meeting – Draft TIP complete
- 27th January 2021 – Cabinet sign-off of TIP
- 31st January 2021 – Final Town Investment Plan/ bid to Government
- 2021 – Master planning exercise for wider Town Centre

AOB

Chair thanked Rhian and all today's speakers for their continued hard work in progressing projects, chair particularly expressed his thanks to Conor McGinn MP in working to coordinate the Ministerial visit.

Councillor McCauley wished to note his support to all of the aforementioned detail shared by Rhian. Andy Lock expressed that the key is deliverability, and a larger bid attracts a higher level of scrutiny. With timescales in mind he would be inclined to focus on the priority projects that we are confident we can get over the line.

Next Meeting Date: Monday 14th December 2020 | Microsoft Teams 10:00 – 11:30 hrs