



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

ST HELENS TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING

18th March 2022 Hybrid Meeting

Board Members in Attendance:

Town Deal Board Chairman – John Tabern, Local Businessman

Marie Rimmer, Member of Parliament St Helens South and Whiston

Conor McGinn, Member of Parliament St Helens North

Councillor David Baines – Leader, St Helens Borough Council

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

Cath Fogarty – Executive Director Corporate Services, St Helens Borough Council

Tracy Mawson, St Helens Chamber

Sophie Bevan, LCRCA

Richard Katz – Chief Executive, Glass Futures

Steve Coffey – Chief Executive, Torus

Rachel Cleal - Director of Adult Social Services, St. Helens Borough Council

Tracy Mawson – Chief Executive, St Helens Chamber

John Hodgkinson – Director, 2K Supplies

Justin Hill – Chief Executive, YMCA St Helens

Sophie Bevan – Investment Manager, LCRCA

Stephen Tant Cities and Local Growth, BEIS

Ellie Stanborough, Cities and Local Growth, BEIS

Support Officers from Local Authority:

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

Sean Traynor – Director Strategic Growth, St.Helens Borough Council

Stephanie Ramsden – Assistant Director Planning & Regeneration

Karen Houghton – Interim Programme Manager, St Helens Borough Council

1. WELCOME – CHAIRMAN JOHN TABERN

Chairman John Tabern welcomed all to the March meeting of the Town Deal Board.

1a. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Councillor Richard McCauley – Cabinet Member Regeneration & Planning

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

The Chair asked everyone to state their interests ahead of the substantive discussions on projects, and the following were recorded

- Richard Katz – Glass Futures
- John Tabern – Cannington Shaw / The World of Glass
- John Hodgkinson – Cannington Shaw
- Justin Hill for item 6 in relation to Youth Endowment Fund
- Marie Rimmer MP– The World of Glass

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda were raised.

ITEM 5: BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT

Chair handed over to Peter Alford of Amion to present progress on business case development.

Peter presented his report on the initial project review of seven projects:

- Cannington Shaw Bottle Shop
- Glass Futures Phase 2
- Town Centre Living and Regeneration
- World of Glass
- Health Innovation Hub
- Connected Places
- Digital Infrastructure

The review involved the following tasks:

Document review, consultations and reporting

Peter confirmed that each of the projects could potentially fulfil requirements in terms of strategic fit, deliverability and value for money.

The strategic case had partly been made at the Town Investment plan stage, and Peter felt confident that strong strategic cases could be made, but there was a deficit of evidence in a number of projects in terms of the other stages of business case.

He commented that significant resource and effort would need to be applied to develop economic cases, and in some cases to resource design development in order to run optioneering sessions with projects, to decide on the best value for money option, capable of delivering a strong benefit cost ratio.

Peter acknowledged the number of risks and commented that these were understood by the project sponsors.

Lisa Harris commented on the scale of work needed between now and the June board, and all present noted. Capacity funding requests later in the agenda would partly address resource needed to get to the next stage.

Marie Rimmer recognised the mammoth task that had been undertaken by officers and consultants and congratulated the team on the excellent board papers.

Peter recommended to the board that all of projects have business cases developed.

Decision: Board agreed to take the seven projects forward to business case

ITEM 6 : HEALTHY COMMUNITIES – YOUTH ZONE

Karen Houghton presented her report on the difficulties faced by Torus in acquiring a site for the Youth Zone and proposing that the money allocated was considered to support a culture and arts based project in the Gamble.

Steve Coffey elaborated on the process undertaken by Torus and reiterated their commitment to a sports-based Youth Zone at some point.

The chair asked that the board's gratitude to Torus go on record.

Cllr Baines thanked Torus for their continued commitment to a Youth Zone including revenue support, and committed the council to help wherever possible

Decision: Board approved the substitution of the Youth Zone with the culture led project in the Gamble

ITEM 7: CAPACITY FUNDING

Karen Houghton presented the paper on capacity funding. The board was asked to note the commitments already made of £278,522 and to consider applications from the following:

Project	Amount requested
MGMIC Glass Futures	£193,000
Cannington Shaw	£56,815
The World of Glass	£44,550
Health Innovation Hub	£148,000
Youth Zone	£130,000
Digital Infrastructure	£138,725

Decision: The board approved all the requests for capacity funding.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

John Tabern raised the issue of promotion and engagement of the work of the Town Deal board and the projects.

Steph Ramsden confirmed that this was something the accountable body could commission on behalf of the Town Deal board.

Action: St Helens to come back to the board with a proposal for communication and engagement.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

17 June 2022 - 13.30-15.00

16 September 2022 - 13.30-15.00

9 December 2022 - 13.30-15.00