



Walsall Council

ACTION NOTES

Title of Meeting: Bloxwich & Walsall Town Deal Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday 17 November 2020: 14:30 – 16:00

Venue: Microsoft Teams 'Virtual' Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS - via Teams

Jhoots Pharmacy / Group (**Chair**) - Manjit Jhooty
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration – Councillor Adrian Andrew
West Midlands Combined Authority – Adam Hawksbee
OneWalsall – Davina Lytton
Walsall North – Eddie Hughes MP
Walsall College – Jat Sharma
Fairfax Saddles / Chair of Bloxwich Town Deal Advisory Board – Rupert Fairfax
Barhale Construction / Chair of Walsall Town Deal Advisory Board – Karl Woodward
The Vine Trust - Kevin Davis
Homeserve NOW – Robert Judson
Midcounties Co-operative – Tarra Simmons

MEMBERS – via Teams

Arcadis – Brett Chambers
Arcadis – Kaushal Patel
Walsall College – James Norris
Walsall Council – Mark Lavender
Walsall Council – Zoey West
Walsall Council – Simon Tranter
Walsall Council (Note taker) - Abdul Raqib
Walsall Council – Elizabeth Connolly
Walsall Council – Jon King
Walsall Council – Lucy Clarke
Walsall Council - Mante Sabaliauskaite

The Chair, Manjit Jhooty had difficulty joining the meeting, live-streaming of the meeting on YouTube commenced, Tarra Simmons stepped in as Chair until Manjit was able to join. Tarra welcomed all to the meeting and asked all to introduce themselves to the group. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. Apologies

Walsall Together, Daren Fradgley
McDonalds Franchise, Doug Wright
University of Wolverhampton, Katharine Clough
Walsall Council, Neil Taylor
ZF Lemforder, Tim Kibble
Walsall South, Valerie Vaz MP

2. Town Deal Board – Governance and Responsibilities

Declarations / Conflicts of Interest

Mark Lavender reminded Board members that if they had not yet submitted their declarations or conflicts of interest forms, these needed to be submitted as soon as possible, together with any amendments, for records to be updated.

The chair asked if anyone had an interest to declare in relation to the agenda; none were declared.

3. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

The Chair advised that items 9 and 10 were to be held during private session, under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). All agreed.

4. Terms of Reference

Mark Lavender discussed the Terms of Reference for the Town Deal Board which had been circulated for comment following the last meeting on the 6th October 2020, held in private session. No amendments or comments had been received, so this was taken as acceptance of the document and it would be posted on the Town Deal webpage.

ACTION: Terms of Reference to be uploaded to the Town Deal webpage. Action Reference Number - 20/TDB/007/JK

5. Town Deal Acceleration Funding Update

The presentation on Acceleration Funds for Bloxwich and Walsall had been uploaded to the webpage, so members and the public could view the details there.

Board members were to note that the necessary programme management functions had been put into place, and projects were feeding in milestones, outputs, spend profiles etc. up to the end of the financial year. Updates would be provided at future Board meetings through to the end of April.

ACTION: Mark Lavender to update the Board on the acceleration projects after Christmas. Action Reference Number - 20/TDB/008/ML

6. Bloxwich Advisory Board

The Chair, Manjit Jhooty joined the meeting at 14:50.

Rupert Fairfax updated the Board on the discussions at the Bloxwich Advisory Board. Since the last Town Deal Board meeting, the Bloxwich Advisory Board had met twice.

The first meeting was to approve and discuss the vision for Bloxwich; Rupert read this out to the Board as follows:

'Bloxwich will build on being a thriving market town at the heart of the country, with exceptional transport links and strong community values.

It respects its heritage, is attractive to, and encourages thriving independent business and provides a quality housing and employment offer to aspirational, happy, prosperous and healthy residents that are proud to call it home.'

PUBLIC

At the second meeting, the project proposals for the main programme were discussed. There was approximately £20m of projects in the pipeline. £17m were well developed in the green category (plenty of detail). £3m were in the amber category (requiring further detail, but working towards green). Things were moving at pace and the Advisory Board were confident with, and broadly supportive of the projects.

Tarra Simmons commented that the vision showed great passion for the area and asked if this would be shared publicly; Mark Lavender advised that as it had been accepted by the Advisory Board, it could be uploaded to the webpage.

ACTION: Bloxwich Vision to be uploaded to the webpage. Action reference Number - 20/TDB/009/JK

7. Walsall Advisory Board

Mark Lavender advised the Board members that the Walsall Advisory Board were slightly behind on the vision production, but it would be circulated to members once finalised.

Karl Woodward confirmed that there were elements of symmetry with both boards, but the Walsall Advisory Board had also held two meetings. The 12 October was an introduction and went through the scope of the group, the 9 November was a review of projects.

A discussion on the projects took place, there would be alignment to additional funding streams or added value where possible. The value of projects was just over £25m and the Board were going through the projects at a high level to get more understanding.

A group had undertaken work on the vision to come up with some recommendations, they wanted to take the Bloxwich vision into consideration - not to mirror, but to balance with the two due to proximity geographically. Arcadis could assist to maximise the value of the vision. The aim was to finalise for the next meeting.

*At this point, live-streaming of the meeting was stopped.

8. PRIVATE SESSION – Town Deal Main Programme

Exclusion of the Press and Public: -

Agreed that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 for the reasons stated on the agenda.

Exempt Information

Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The Board were informed that the Town Investment Plan (TIP) needed to be submitted by the end of January 2021. The team were aiming to have a version for the Board to review / comment on as soon as possible.

If the Town Deal Board were happy with the bids and Central Government liked them, progression to Heads of Terms would be the next step.

The board went on to discuss the proposed projects for both Bloxwich and Walsall.

9. Any Other Business

Minutes

Agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2020 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

Forthcoming Meetings

Mark Lavender advised the Board Members that the Town Deal Board meetings on the 5th January and the 26th January 2021 would be used to consider the projects and the sign off the final document/s. Board Members were asked to hold the meeting dates. Noting that the December 2020 meeting had been pushed back slightly (see revised date below) to tie in with the timing of the TIP document and updates.

Meeting closed at: 15:48

10. Date of Next Meeting

15 December 2020, 4:00pm – 5:00pm