

## **Town Deal Fund - Newark-on-Trent Town Board**

**Minutes from the meeting of the Board held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 8.30 am to 11.00**

**Castle House, Newark and Sherwood District Council**

### **Attendees**

Alan Mellor, Clerk, Newark Town Council  
Cheryl Davison-Lyth, Clerk to Balderton Parish Council  
Cllr. David Lloyd, Leader, NSDC  
Cllr. Ronnie White, Chairman of Balderton Parish Council  
Darren Burke, Proprietor of Masdings Newark  
Darren Scott, Team Manager, National Careers Service  
Dave Tantum, Towns Fund Consultant  
Fiona Anderson, Economic Partnerships Manager, NTU  
Frank Horsley, Head of Business and Innovation, D2N2  
Ian Dagley, General Manager, Hoval  
Jean Sharpe, District Operations Leader, DWP  
Jo Bradley - Business Development Lead, YMCA  
Johanne Thomas, Urban & Civic  
John Coles, Director, Evenbrook  
Matt Lamb, Director of Growth & Regeneration, NSDC  
Mick Baker, Farndon Parish Council  
Nicola Marshall, Business Manager, Town Centre Development, NSDC  
Nicola McCoy-Brown, Place & Communities, Notts CC  
Pete Holmes, BEIS Local  
Rob Bentley, Benoy  
Robert Jenrick, MP for Newark and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Sandhya Ward, Homes England  
Simon Shaw, Duncan and Toplis  
Simon Witts, Founder and CEO, Aviation 360  
Steff Wright, Chief Executive, Gusto  
Sue Gray, MP for Robert Jenrick MP  
Tom Cartledge, Chief Executive, Benoy  
Tony Aspbury, Chairman of Development Committee, Newark Showground

### **Apologies**

Andrew Fox, Business Unit Director  
Andrew Ruff, Senior Sponsor, Network Rail  
David Jones, Timico  
David Wright, Area Lead, D2N2  
Derek Higton, Service Director, Place & Communities, Notts CC  
Gary Headland, CEO Lincoln College Group  
Godfrey Mpundu, Factory Manager, British Sugar  
Jackie Insley, Chief Officer, Citizens Advice Bureau  
Jane Cooper, District Manager, DWP  
John Gelsthorpe, Pratt & Gelsthorpe  
John Robinson, Chief Executive, NSDC  
Karl Tupling, Director Markets Partnerships Place, Homes England  
Keith Girling, Deputy Leader, NSDC  
Kerri McGarrigle, Chair of Newark Business Club  
Matt Colbourne, Managing Director, EM Digital Media  
Matthew Ellis-Mather, Co-owner, Ellis Mather Group & Magnet Expert  
Nikki Burley, CEO, Newark Emmaus Trust

Paul Gasgoine, Head of Place, Partnerships & New Business (Midlands), Homes England  
Richard Coppell, Urban and Civic  
Stephen Barker, CEO, Nottingham Creative Quarter  
Stuart Ellis-Mather, Co-owner Ellis Mather Group & Magnet Expert  
Timothy Calvert, Senior HR Business Partner, Dixons  
Tina Holmes, HR Director, NSK

**Main points and Actions:**

- Chairman introduced
- Newark Place Strategy consultants introduced and work plan outlined
- Ambitions and potential projects discussed
- 3 sub-groups set up to progress work for the Town Investment Plan

**Items to be circulated to Board:**

- Presentation
- Aviation and Aerospace Academy information sheet

**1 Welcome**

CLLr David Lloyd welcomed members to the second Town Board meeting. Tom Cartledge was introduced as the Chair of the Board, following his nomination at the January Board meeting.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies for absence received and recorded above.

**3 Introduction to the day**

The Board Meeting was an opportunity to share ideas for transformational funding through an 'ideas workshop'; set out the Newark Place Strategy and Town Investment Plan and agree next steps.

**4 Update since last meeting**

Matt Lamb updated the Board on progress:

The Town Deal area has been agreed with Government and has been extended beyond the original boundary to include the Sustainable Urban Extensions around Fernwood and to the South and East of the town (see slide 4 of presentation).

The Board's Terms of Reference were ratified and will be published on the NSDC website.

The team of consultants from Benoys Limited have been appointed to produce the Newark Place Strategy and Investment Plan following a competitive tendering process.

**5 Developing the Newark Strategy and Investment Plan: Team & Programme**

(Slides 5-9 of presentation by Benoy refer)

Robert Bentley introduced the programme of work to develop the Newark Strategy and Investment Plan. The multi-disciplinary team of consultants being led by Benoy will take a 3-stage approach: thinking, consulting and listening; appraising and refine options; drawing together findings into the final bid for funding in accordance with the Government's timeline.

## 6 Ideas Workshop

The Chairman introduced the Ideas Workshop element of the meeting. In doing so he stated that he was honoured to be the Chairman of the Board and his motivation was personal in caring about the future of Newark; the Town Funds was an opportunity to bring Newark's ambition alive and enhance the ambition of its young people.

(Slides 10-14 refer) The Board were asked to discuss ambitious ideas and opportunities around the following broad themes, being mindful that proposals are ambitious and have a legacy effect:

- Economic – eg creating jobs, must have economic viability
- Social – ensure social mobility alongside economic success
- Environmental – proposals must answer longer-term sustainability

Three sub-groups to the Board were proposed:

- Town Centre, Culture and Heritage
- Infrastructure
- Education, Business and Skills

## 7 Feedback from Workshop Discussion

### (i) Town Centre

- Move residential living into town centre
- Conversion of empty retail space into flexible business space
- Increase hotel accommodation to develop the night-time economy
- Heritage assets need better promotion – eg St Mary Magdalene Church
- Independent retail works well with the heritage setting – including nationals with an 'independent' focus
- Improve the offer for residents – compete with Nottingham / Lincoln
- Creative quarter is realistic with the property offer in town centre
- Support from Council – planning classifications, business rates
- Car parking – price points etc – needs to be right for the town
- Market Place – under-used asset, needs re-imagining and re-connecting with the town
- A change of attitude and 'dynamism' by people to re-imagine the town centre
- Increase residential offer – but challenging with low value property
- Risk that Newark will become a dormitory town – harness the night-time economy
- Multi-use destination – food, hotel, bars; plastic-free shopping; Newark tourism app.
- Destination map to encourage visitors to move around key attractions
- Food provenance: food 'Fosse Way'
- Develop Newark's USP
- Create a cosmopolitan feel; increase town residential – more vibrant night-life
- 'We Works' type community office space for self-employed
- Safe environment for women – involve in the re-design of the town
- Zero traffic zones and encourage car sharing
- Dedicated cycle network throughout the town's area. Walkways with signage. Celebrate history and heritage of the area.

### (ii) Infrastructure

- Northgate Station - Business hub, additional platform
- Rail crossing – needs upgrading (flyover) and re-instate rail link between stations
- Traffic congestion – slip-road onto A1 from the industrial estate
- Improved and safer cycle / walking routes – e.g. country park / Middlebeck development

- Opportunity for funding from Homes England with future growth
- Ageing demographic needs to be taken into account
- Young people – take into account their views and involve in consultation
- Bus services important since Newark is not big enough to sustain a tram / light railway system
- Future car ownership / use – sufficient charging points?
- Social Infrastructure – green space, mode shift from car to cycling / walking / public transport
- Energy sustainability – eg solar-powered and electro-kinetic roads
- Digital connectivity – potential to partner with other towns
- Ambitions have to be longer term and visionary
- Riverside – potential to develop
- Install solar-powered roads
- Full network of EV charging points
- Create more green spaces
- On-demand autonomous routes and kinetic energy routes for key footfall areas
- More sporting activities – dedicated areas such as jogging routes (see Budapest)
- Partners with other Nottinghamshire Towns Fund recipients on digital connectivity
- Create infrastructure in readiness for 5G – ie new street furniture capable of hosting 5G
- On-demand motor modal transport

### **(iii) Education and Skills**

- Bring in Youth Council voice
- Look to reduce dependency on out-of-county schools
- Businesses engaged with schools
- Schools need to give kids ambition at 15-16
- Opportunity for Newark to lead the UK to on AI and digitisation of business and education with a centre of excellence for businesses, co-working, on-line education
- Demand for skills, education in logistics, AI, warehousing and potential to develop a campus working with Newark-based businesses
- T Level courses – opportunities to develop with employers and focused on local industry expertise giving young people the chance to access higher education
- Newark Showground – aspiration to be a centre of excellence in agriculture with links to Brackenhurst College
- Air and Space Education potential for centre in Newark - Lincoln College Group and industry partners (see information sheet)
- Work with Newark businesses – staff recruitment and retention and workforce planning needs

## **8 Next Steps**

The Chairman thanked the Board for their contributions and invited members to join the sub-groups.

Matt Lamb advised that the work started will continue outside of the Board meetings via the sub-groups and the Town Strategy Consultancy team and brought back to the Board for consideration and decisions.

## **9 Next Meeting**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00 am breakfast for 8.30 am start.  
Newark and Sherwood District Council, Castle House, Newark.