

Morley Town Deal Board

Final Minutes

Tuesday 14th November 2023

14:00 – 16:00

Large Banqueting Suite, Morley Town Hall

Board Members

Steven Foster	<i>Director, Land Securities (Vice Chair)</i>
Councillor Robert Finnigan	<i>Morley Town Council</i>
Councillor Andrew Hutchison	<i>Morley North Ward Member</i>
Councillor Jane Senior	<i>Morley South Ward Member</i>
Jacob Sharp	<i>Office of Andrea Jenkyns MP</i>
Rachael Hutchison	<i>Morley Town Centre Manager</i>
Lalit Surywaski	<i>Community Representative</i>
Christine Hirst	<i>Community Representative</i>
Mukesh Patel	<i>Community Representative</i>
Mark Casci	<i>West Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce</i>
Dawn Ginns	<i>Resident, Morley</i>
Dan Merrick	<i>Community Representative</i>
Mathew Wood	<i>Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce</i>
Mark Goldstone	<i>Head of Regional Policy, CBI</i>
Adam Brannen	<i>Head of Regeneration, Leeds City Council (deputy for Martin Farrington)</i>

Apologies

Martin Farrington	<i>Director of City Development, Leeds City Council</i>
Gerald Jennings	<i>Director, G.R Jennings Properties LTD (Chair)</i>
Councillor Helen Hayden	<i>Executive Member, Sustainable Development and Infrastructure</i>

Attendees

Helen McGrath	<i>Senior Project Manager, Leeds City Council</i>
Martin Gresswell	<i>Senior Asset Management Officer, Leeds City Council</i>
Chris Coulson	<i>Executive Manager, Leeds City Council</i>
Liam Riley	<i>Regeneration Officer, Leeds City Council</i>
Libbi Watson	<i>Career Grade Officer, Leeds City Council</i>
Claire Newton	<i>Senior Project Officer, Leeds City Council</i>
Stephen O'Malley	<i>Project Support Officer, Leeds City Council</i>

1.0 Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were noted as above. The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the Board meeting. There were 6 members of the public present at the meeting.
- 1.2 A new Board Member from the Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce was welcomed to the Board meeting. **ACTION** - Matthew Wood to select a working group to attend. It was thought the Skills, Education and Employment working group would be most relevant.

2.0 Declaration of interests

- 2.1 The Chair gave a reminder for board members to update the declarations of interest register and inform LW via email if any updates or changes. **ACTION** – LW to circulate declaration of interest form.

3.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 3.1 The previous minutes of the September meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.
- 3.2 All actions from the previous meeting have been actioned or are picked up as part of the agenda of the meeting.

4.0 Correspondence log and questions from the public

- 4.1 Two emails were received from the public in advance of the meeting. The first email was regarding a pocket park design on Commercial Street. The Chair of the Skills, Education and Employment working group responded to say that this example given to students, as part of the Growing Talent Morley programme, is not being developed as a pocket park following earlier public consultation. This was simply an example to give the students a hypothetical case study to learn from. Other points related to Morley Bottoms and a planning application at White Rose Park which will be responded to directly. **ACTION** – SF/HMc to raise this point at the next Ahead Partnership Steering Group.
- 4.2 The second email was from the Troy Road Residents group, regarding an increase in Troy Road traffic. The Highways traffic engineer was present at the meeting and explained that a traffic count survey is going to be undertaken. Once the data has been received, a survey report will be produced. Once the surveys have been completed, a meeting will be arranged with Highways officers and the residents group to update them. This will be taken outside of Morley Town Deal Board business and dealt with as a Highways and Transportation related issue.
- 4.3 A Board Member requested the data to show that Corporation Street traffic flow has actually improved following the installation of the upgraded signals. This will be done as part of the monitoring and evaluation of all Morley Town Deal schemes.
- 4.4 All other correspondence, including a FOI from the MP's office has been completed

5.0 Spotlight on Morley Town Hall

- 5.1 This item was brought forward in the agenda. Colleagues from the Council's LCC'S, Arts, Events and Venues team attended the meeting and presented on the potential vision for the
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Morley Town Hall once refurbished. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. The Chair reiterated that the ideas presented were for illustrative purposes only and to provide an overview of how the space could potentially be used in the future.

- 5.2 Board Members thanked them for their presentation and noted that extensive community consultation was undertaken at the start of the project and the team should be able to access that. **ACTION** - RH to share previous community consultation with Arts, Events and Venues team.
- 5.3 Another Board Member asked that the funding for the Town Hall would not just be for maintenance issues and this was confirmed as correct by the Chair of the relevant working group.
- 5.4 Cllr Finnigan noted that neighbouring Kirklees Council were closing some cultural assets and could potentially attract residents from those communities to future Morley events at the Town Hall.

6.0 Feedback from Working Groups

6.1 Skills, Education and Employment

- 6.1.1 The working group chair gave an update on the Morley Learning and Skills Centre. A press release regarding the acquisition of the St Mary's in the Wood United Reformed Church was issued on 13th November. Board acknowledged and thanked the great work by the team to get to this point which marked a major milestone for the Town Deal.
- 6.1.2 The Chair of the working group noted a request by the previous occupants to include the name St Mary's in a part of the new Learning and Skills Centre building. This was being looked at by Luminare/Leeds City College and a room etc could be named in that way.
- 6.1.3 Board requested a site visit before the next board meeting in January or March 2024. **ACTION** – LW to organise site visit with team. It was noted PPE would be required and may not have enough for all Board Members.
- 6.1.4 The working group chair gave an update on the White Rose Innovation Hub project. The planning application is due to be submitted before the end of the year to the Local Planning Authority. The grant application is still ongoing. The final grant application to be brought to a future Board meeting for endorsing although the contractual and legal agreement is between Leeds City Council and Munroe K. **ACTION** - A workshop between Munroe K, Morley Town Deal Board working group members and Leeds City Council to be arranged to review how the Innovation Hub will remain connected to Morley in the future.
- 6.1.5 It was noted that Leeds Beckett University have a new pot of funding available. **ACTION** – RH to put Morley Chamber of trade and Commerce in contact with the University.
- 6.1.6 Ahead Partnership are continuing to promote and engage in activities with the Growing Talent Morley programme. Ahead Partnership worked with 25 students from Years 10 and 12 at Woodkirk Academy earlier in the year and have produced a promotional video which Board thought was a really positive piece.
- 6.1.7 The Morley Jobs Fair was held on Thursday 5th October with more than 300 visitors attending. Employment and Skills are monitoring how many job positions were filled
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through the jobs fair. The Chair personally noted that the White Rose Centre had successfully recruited over 40 jobs following the event. Potential for Employment and Skills team to carry out the fair annually going forward.

6.2 Transport, Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing

- 6.2.1 The Chair of the working group gave an update on progress with the parks projects. Hembrigg Park is now completed. However, there has been an opportunity to enhance it further with make a safe space for women and girls funding. Lewisham Park will be the second park to have a make a safe space for women and girls included too. It is to be recognised these will be the first two parks across the city to have this space. It was noted by the MPs office that need to ensure the messaging on this is correct when publicising safer spaces for women and girls so do not get targeted negatively. Cllr Finnigan noted that will ensure any communication will be tailored and appropriate.
- 6.2.2 The planning application for Dartmouth Park is to go in to enhance the botanical gardens. Churwell Park is due to start on site by end of January 2024. Discussions are still ongoing with Greenbelt, the current owners of Springfield Mill Park. Pocket parks are also under development and delivery.
- 6.2.3 The Beryl Burton Greenway scheme is progressing and resolving some ongoing issues.
- 6.2.4 The first phase of public realm and highways projects have undergone consultation over the summer and are currently reviewing and analysing the feedback, particularly for Commercial Street with feedback opposing the one way outline proposal.
- 6.2.5 The issue with the Morley Bottoms resurfacing works was raised by Board. The Highways engineer explained that the ground condition at the time was not stable due to a water leak and resurfacing shouldn't have been undertaken. Cllr Hutchison has requested a report form Highways on what exactly went wrong. **ACTION** – CW to take this back to the Highways team and a report to be circulated or brought to a future Board.
- 6.2.6 It was noted that there is an output for 27,000 new trees to be planted across the programme. The project lead is currently looking at opportunities for third party land for these trees to be planted on as well as external funding. **ACTION** – CN to re-look at target output for new trees and take into consideration the red line boundary of the Morley Town Deal.

6.3 Town Centre, Placemaking and Culture

- 6.3.1 Cllr Hutchison expressed concerns on current performance and progress on the Town Hall project. This is to be discussed in the confidential part of the meeting.
- 6.3.2 The Heritage Investment Fund grant project now has approval for launch to interested shopfronts and businesses. A social media campaign is due to be launched as well as a letter drop to targeted properties. The Heritage Officer noted that approx. 13 properties were initially interested in taking up the grant and had started to appoint architects. This is a key milestone for the project and a review of grant uptake will take place in Spring 2024.

7.0 Highlight Report

- 7.1 It was noted that the Board had received project updates on all 6 projects as above.
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- 7.2 The Programme Manager noted that a monitoring and evaluation reporting return was being produced for the Towns Fund team in the Department of Levelling Up. This would need Board to review and the Chair to sign off. **ACTION** – HMc to distribute return for review before end of week commencing 27th November.
- 7.3 The Programme Manager highlighted several high risks which are under review regularly and also gave an update on the financial position. Currently have an underspend this financial year however, once all schemes start construction the spend should increase significantly in the next financial year. Reforecasting of financial spend to be looked at as well as potential for reallocation of funds across the programme. The Programme Manager and the Capital finance lead regularly meet with the Towns Fund representative to keep them updated on progress, risk and finance.
- 7.4 A Board Member requested to know how much private and public funding was being leveraged as part of the Town Deal and for this to be included in future reports. **ACTION** – HMc to include in future finance section of highlight report.
- 7.5 The Programme Manager referred to the annual satisfaction survey analysis which has been produced by Mott Macdonald. A user-friendly infographic is to be produced to be shared back with respondents. LCC will identify how through the projects we are providing potential solutions to any of the key findings and issues raised. Overall it was a fairly positive response for the baseline year, which will then be repeated each year throughout the Town Deal programme.

8.0 AOB and confidential items

- 8.1 Cllr Finnigan and Cllr Senior are currently working on a project with Morley Rugby Club, to create opportunities for girls and women playing rugby as there is no appropriate changing rooms at present. They asked board for any help and support to enhance the opportunity for girls and women. Rachael suggested they contact Sport England and has offered her support in writing a bid to them.
- 8.2 The public part of the meeting was closed for any confidential items to be discussed.

9.0 Date of next meeting

- 9.1 Tuesday 16th January 2024, 2pm-4pm, Morley Town Hall, Large Banqueting Suite
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