

Morley Town Deal Board

FINAL Minutes

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

14:00 – 16:00

Large Banqueting Suite, Morley Town Hall

Board Members

Gerald Jennings	<i>Director, G.R Jennings Properties LTD (Chair)</i>
Steven Foster	<i>Director, Land Securities (Vice Chair)</i>
Councillor Helen Hayden	<i>Executive Member, Sustainable Development and Infrastructure</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 (former)</i>
Lalit Surywaski	<i>Community Representative</i>
Mukesh Patel	<i>Community Representative</i>
Mark Casci	<i>West Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce</i>
Dan Merrick	<i>Community Representative</i>
Mathew Wood	<i>Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce</i>

Apologies

Martin Farrington	<i>Director of City Development, Leeds City Council</i>
Christine Hirst	<i>Community Representative</i>
Dawn Ginns	<i>Resident, Morley</i>
Lorraine Coates/Ryan Kaye	<i>West Yorkshire, Cities & Local Growth Unit</i>
Adam Brannen	<i>Head of Regeneration, Leeds City Council</i>

Attendees

Helen McGrath	<i>Senior Project Manager, Leeds City Council</i>
Libbi Watson	<i>Career Grade Officer, Leeds City Council</i>
Miriam Browne	<i>Programmes Executive, Leeds City Council</i>
Chris Gosling	<i>Project Manager, Leeds City Council</i>
Sam Lewis	<i>Principal Regeneration Officer, Leeds City Council</i>
Mark Mildren	<i>Munroe K</i>
David Aspin	<i>Munroe K</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 13 members of the public present at the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair noted the board membership changes since the last board meeting. Mark Goldstone has had to step back from his position as a board member. The Chair wanted it noted that thanks and recognition be given to Mark for his input, support and involvement throughout his time as board member.
- 1.3 Rachael Hutchinson has now resigned as Morley Town Centre Manger. The Board agreed to have Rachael as a co-opted board member.. She will also remain the Chair of the skills, education and employment working group.

2.0 Declaration of interests

- 2.1 An updated declarations of interest register is included in the board papers. The Chair reminded board members to update their declarations of interest register. Two Board Members are still currently outstanding.

3.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 3.1 The previous minutes of the November 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.

4.0 Correspondence log and questions from the public

- 4.1 A member of the public raised a question at the start of the meeting regarding Morley Bottoms. Mr Morris challenged the planning approvals and community engagement of the Morley Bottoms scheme that was completed in 2020.
- 4.2 **ACTION-** Councillor Hayden asked Mr Morris to submit his complaint to her as Executive Member. She will then request a full report from Highways and Planning including the full history of the works as well as the next steps. The Chair confirmed that Leeds City Council Highways and Transportation department are now responsible for any residual issues relating to Morley Bottoms and not the Morley Town Deal Board.
- 4.3 Two emails were received from the public in advance of the meeting. The first email received was from Chesca Joy, the CEO and Artist director of "Imagine if theatre" charity. Chesca has a keen interest in the community centre at Lewisham Park and would like to explore the possibility of refurbishing and upgrading the building for community use.
- 4.4 All members of the board, including Councillors and the MP's office were supportive of the outline proposal. Matthew Wood suggested potential funding and investment in the centre from the Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce.
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- 4.5 **ACTION** – Miriam Browne/Claire Newton to review the Greener and Connected outputs and priorities that were outlined in the original town investment plan. A meeting with Chesca Joy will then be arranged to discuss any funding opportunities and next steps.
ACTION – Councillor Finnigan to also discuss this at the next working group.
ACTION – Matthew Wood to meet with Chesca to discuss any funding opportunities.
- 4.6 The other email received was from Jim Aveyard regarding heritage walks in the town and EV charging points. A written response from the Council will be provided via email. Jim also asked where the 15 trees that Morley Town Council planted in Lewisham Park have been re-located to as part of the replanting.
ACTION – Miriam Browne/Claire Newton to follow up on this and report back to Morley Town Council.

5.0 **Spotlight on White Rose Innovation Hub/Ingenuity**

- 5.1 Mark Mildren and David Aspin from Munroe K presented the Innovation Hub/Ingenuity project.
- 5.2 Board noted that a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Innovation Hub project (Munroe K), the Learning and Skills Centre project (Luminate) and the Skills, Education and Employment working group of the Town Deal Board is currently being drafted. This would outline information sharing, collaboration and engagement principles between all the three parties. The board are keen to ensure a linkage between the two projects.
ACTION – Helen McGrath/Sam Lewis to draft a letter of support for the planning application with the Chair to sign on behalf of the Town Deal Board.
- 5.3 Matthew Wood explained there are potential future opportunities between Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Munroe K. **ACTION** – Matthew Wood to liaise with Mark Mildren. Mark Casci also offered the opportunity for Munroe K to present at the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce. **ACTION** – Munroe K to liaise with Mark Casci.
- 5.4 Munroe K are looking to get planning approval in March/April 2024 and to secure additional match funding by June with an anticipated start on site date of July 2024. Board is very supportive of the project and recognise that it is progressing well.

6.0 **Feedback from Working Groups**

6.1 **Skills, Education and Employment**

- 6.1.1 The working group chair provided an update on the Morley Learning and Skills Centre. The Chair and some board members attended a site visit prior to the board meeting to view the building. Luminate have carried out four surveys and are currently doing a viability check on the full cost of the scheme to look at the overall match funding contribution from Luminate. Gerald Jennings and Rachael Kennedy have been invited to a meeting with Luminate on the
- 6.1.2 29th Jan to review the design proposals and curriculum.
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6.1.3 Pre-contractor procurement is currently ongoing. Leeds City Council have received expressions of interest from potential contractors with a positive response rate to date. The programme has the opening currently scheduled for September 2025.

6.1.4 RIBA 2 and 3 design stages are due to be completed by the end of March 2024. Luminate design team are to present the project proposals at the March Town Deal Board.
ACTION – Libbi Watson to ensure Luminate are invited to the March board meeting.

6.1.5 **ACTION** – Rachael Hutchison to work with the LCC Comms Officer on how to engage and market both the projects (Skills Centre and Innovation Hub) with the community and local residents.

6.2

Noted that the Ahead Partnership are to be invited to present an update at the July Town Deal Board.

6.2.1 **Transport, Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing**

6.2.2

The Chair of the working group provided an update on progress with both the Greener and Connected and Station Gateway projects.

Springfield Mill is ongoing with acquisition discussions to take place to enable the scheme to progress forward. Churwell park improvements to start in February 2024. Planning for the botanical gardens at Dartmouth Park has been submitted. The Beryl Burton Greenway is progressing well, and is confident of a successful green link from Morley Station to Cottingley.

6.2.3

Phase 2 public consultation on the remaining public realm schemes in the town centre and the connections to Morley station are due to go out Spring 2024.

A briefing paper on Healthy Streets was included in the Board papers. Board endorsed pausing the Healthy Streets project, due to lack of response and appetite following the residents consultation. There is also a wider project called ‘Leeds Streets for People’ which the Highways and Transportation department will be consulting on later in the year and may offer the benefits and outputs. The Healthy Streets projected outputs will look to be delivered through other parts of the Greener and Connected programme.

6.2.4

The allocation of the £1.5 million of funding will now be reallocated to other critical projects across the programme where there may be affordability gaps..

6.3 **ACTION** – Helen McGrath to produce a report on how this funding will be reallocated and the recommendations for Town Deal Board and DLUHC to endorse.

6.3.1 **Town Centre, Placemaking and Culture**

6.3.2 The Vice Chair, Dan Merrick, of the working group provided an update on the Town Hall project. Board noted that there has been significant progress in the past couple of months as outlined in the highlight report.

It was noted that an operational instruction is required for the Arts, Events and Culture team to keep progressing with the project.

6.3.3 **ACTION** – Chris Gosling/Miriam Browne to follow up with the Arts, Events team in the Council.

6.3.4

Board agreed it's important to show the business plan and emphasis 'you said' 'we did'.
ACTION – RH to forward MB original consultation documents.

6.3.5 The Programme Manager provided an update on the heritage investment programme. The soft launch of the grant scheme has been hugely successful, and the first grant approval is currently being processed. The project had a total output of 25 businesses/shops to be improved and have already received interest from 23 in the first month. The Chair wanted to note a thank you to the Heritage Regeneration Officer for all the positive work.

The Board asked about the flexible funding pot and what heritage buildings that is likely to be allocated to.

ACTION – Heritage officer to report back on progress with the flexible funding pot.

7.0 Highlight Report

7.1 The Programme Manager highlighted that the financial dashboard is included at the end of the highlight report. The financial summary now includes grant funding as well as match funding received and the current actual spend position. Board noted that currently have an underspend this financial year, however, once all schemes are under construction in 2024/25 the spend will increase significantly.

7.2 The Programme Manager provided an update on programme wide communications and engagement activity including the Morley Town Deal community newsletter. There was an appetite from Board members to increase comms spend. It was suggested that there should potentially be a specific project newsletter update printed for all residents in the Spring before all the consultation events start. This will alert them to have their say and get all the latest project information as part of the Town Deal.

7.3 There was a discussion about the possibility of having a QR code on posters and beer mats as a cost-effective digital method to keep the community updated on progress.
ACTION – LCC Comms Officer to explore the above options and present an update to the next Comms and Engagement working group meeting.

8.0 AOB and confidential items

8.1 The Chair asked Board if a replacement was needed to replace Mark Goldstone. Board confirmed there was no need for a business replacement, however, it could be useful if someone from the arts or culture sector could be on the board or a working group.
ACTION – Miriam Browne to pick this up with the Chair of the Board.

8.2 There were no confidential items to discuss.

9.0 Date of next meeting

9.1 Tuesday 19th March 2024, 2pm-4pm, Morley Town Hall, Large Banqueting Suite
