

Morley Town Deal Board

FINAL Minutes

Tuesday 16th July 2024

14:00 – 16:00

Large Banqueting Suite, Morley Town Hall

Board Members

Gerald Jennings (GJ)	<i>Director, G.R Jennings Properties LTD (Chair)</i>
Steven Foster (SF)	<i>Director, Land Securities (Vice Chair)</i>
Councillor Robert Finnigan (RF)	<i>Morley Town Council</i>
Councillor Jane Senior (JS)	<i>Morley South Ward Member</i>
Rachael Hutchison (RH)	<i>Co-opted Member</i>
Lalit Suryawanshi (LS)	<i>Community Representative</i>
Dan Merrick (DM)	<i>Community Representative</i>
Dawn Ginns (DG)	<i>Resident, Morley</i>
Christine Hirst (CH)	<i>Community Representative</i>
Councillor Helen Irving (HI)	<i>Morley Town Council</i>
Councillor Charlotte Hill (CH)	<i>MP Representative</i>
Adam Brannen (AB)	<i>Head of Regeneration, Leeds City Council</i>

Apologies

Councillor Helen Hayden (HH)	<i>Executive Member, Sustainable Development and Infrastructure</i>
Mukesh Patel (MP)	<i>Community Representative</i>
Martin Farrington (MF)	<i>Director of City Development, Leeds City Council</i>
Mathew Wood (MW)	<i>Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce</i>
Mark Casci (MC)	<i>West Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce</i>

Attendees

Libbi Watson (LW)	<i>Career Grade Officer, Leeds City Council</i>
Miriam Browne (MB)	<i>Programmes Executive, Leeds City Council</i>
Helen McGrath (HM)	<i>Senior Project Manager, Leeds City Council</i>
Chris Coulson (CC)	<i>Executive Manager, Leeds City Council</i>
Ryan Kaye (RK)	<i>Area Lead – West Yorkshire, Cities and Local Growth Unit</i>
Sam Nicolls (SN)	<i>Community Representative</i>
Megan Lipp (ML)	<i>Head of Development, Ahead Partnership</i>
Natalie Cooper (NC)	<i>Project Manager Ahead Partnership</i>
Chris Way (CW)	<i>Principle traffic engineer, Leeds City Council</i>

1.0 Introductions, apologies, and membership

- 1.1** Apologies were noted as above. The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the Board meeting. There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting.
- 1.2** The Chair welcomed a new board member, Cllr Charlotte Hill representing Morley Town Council. Cllr Helen Irving was also welcomed, attending the meeting on behalf of the new MP, Mark Sewards. **ACTION** - GJ to reach out to Mark Sewards about the MTD and understand his representation on this Board going forward.
- 1.3** The Chair noted that Cllr Jonathan Pryor now holds the Council's executive portfolio for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development and will attend future meetings of this board in place of Cllr Hayden.
- 1.4** It is also to note, Martin Farrington will be leaving Leeds City Council in September and Angela Barnicle, the new interim Director of City Development will replace Martin's role.
- 1.5** Rachael Hutchison has now stepped down from being a board member, due to other work commitments. Board noted thanks for her contribution, effort, and commitment to the Town Deal Board and leading the Skills, Education and Employment working group.
- 1.6** Gerald Jennings will be the temporary new Chair of the Skills, Education and Employment working group.
- 1.7** Sam Nicholls was in attendance at the board meeting as an observer. He is the Founder and Director of Music Local, an academic at Leeds Beckett University as well as sitting on the WYCA Culture, Heritage and Sport board.
- 1.8** **ACTION** - GJ to formally invite Sam to be a Board member. All new Board members to receive future Board invites and also invites to relevant working groups from LW.

2.0 Declarations of interest

- 2.1** A declarations of interest register is included in the board papers. The Chair reminded Board members if there are any changes to their declarations of interest to inform LW.
- 2.2** **ACTION** - LW to send declarations of interest form and other relevant paperwork to new board members.

3.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 3.1** The previous minutes of the May meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.
- 3.2** All previous actions had been completed or were covered under the main agenda items.
- 3.3** Regarding previous action 6.2.4, the potential for an asset transfer of the Lewisham Community Centre has been discussed with a new community group. A condition survey is required to help inform a potential case for the asset transfer and it was agreed that £5,000 towards this could be Town Deal funded as part of the Lewisham Park project.
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Decision – Board endorsed the condition survey using funding from Lewisham Park remaining budget allocation.

4.0 Correspondence log and questions from the public

4.1 No questions were submitted in advance of the meeting or raised at the meeting.

4.2 All open correspondence matters have been dealt with.

5.0 Ahead Partnership Presentation – Y2 Outputs

5.1 Natalie and Megan from the Ahead Partnership attended board to give an overview of the Growing Talent Morley work programme, Year 2 outputs.

5.2 It was noted that in Year 2:

- 36 events have taken place.
- 56 businesses have engaged.
- 159 individual volunteers.
- Over 3,000 young people have been supported and engaged.

5.3 ACTION – Ahead Partnership to share separate report on the activities undertaken on the Town Deal capital projects.

5.4 It is to be noted, all schools in Morley have been offered the same opportunities however, not all schools have engaged with the programme. Ahead Partnership will still continue to work with schools through corporate and match funding opportunities.

5.5 Ahead Partnership thanked Town Deal Board and Leeds City Council for their ongoing support and the platform that has been given.

5.6 ACTION – GJ to pick up with Matthew Wood regarding engagement with the Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce as another opportunity for Ahead to engage with.

5.7 ACTION – DG to see if NHS can contribute and engage. LW to share Ahead Partnership details with DG for them to liaise.

5.8 ACTION – LW to share Ahead Partnership details with Sam Nicholls. Sam to link up with Ahead Partnership on Grand Futures and linking creative and music industries with career advisers.

5.9 The board raised the question of how the work of the MTD can ensure a legacy of the work post 2026. **ACTION** – Working Group Chairs to start to consider the legacy of their projects on programme completion in future working group meetings. To have legacy and the long-term impact and plan of Morley Town Deal as an agenda item for future board meetings. Each working group to pick this up for their respective projects.

5.10 Ahead Partnership to document a case study on the career pathway of a school/college leaver to show the impact the Growing Talent Morley programme has had. **ACTION** – LCC Comms Officer and Ahead Partnership to liaise to promote this.

6.0 Programme wide review

- 6.1 MB and HMc presented a programme wide review to Board Members. It is to be noted, any re-allocation of funding needs to ensure that outputs are still being delivered, funding cannot be re-allocated without justification or assessment of the impact on outputs. Board noted that no project adjustments will be submitted until at least September when we will have greater cost-certainty on schemes overall. Any adjustments up to 30% of spend and outputs can be done under a delegated Project Adjustment process and MHCLG just need to be notified.
- 6.2 **ACTION** – MB to confirm the time period over which commuted sums payments from the MTD would provide for maintenance and upkeep of public works capital projects.
- 6.3 The presentation highlighted that total tree planting outputs to be delivered are still being confirmed. Board also noted that the Beryl Burton Greenway phase 1, is reliant on match funding for delivery.

7.0 Feedback from Working Groups

7.1 Skills, Education and Employment

- 7.1.1 The Chair provided a brief update on the Morley Learning and Skills Centre and White Rose Innovation Hub projects.
- 7.1.2 It is currently anticipated that planning permission will be achieved for the White Rose by the end of July. LCC project lead, is currently working on the grant agreement, grant calculations and subsidy assessment. Approvals for these documents will be required outside of the board cycle meetings to ensure they are on track with programme delivery. The programme has now been updated with a delivery date of March 2026. On the Morley Learning and Skills Centre it was noted planning has been submitted and validated.

7.2 Transport, Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing

- 7.2.1 The Chair provided an update on progress with both the Greener and Connected and Station Gateway projects. Board noted that forthcoming consultation is to take place on the remaining public realm projects including Town Square.
- 7.2.2 A report was presented by the LCC Principal Engineer on Morley Bottoms at the previous request of Board. A summary was given to board members of the report contents, outlining funding, timescales and scheme benefits alongside risks and issues. The Board was asked to endorse the reopening of Morley Bottoms to two-way traffic with potential for the community to close it on weekends and events.
- 7.2.3 Costs to make these final changes are minimal and will be covered by LCC Highways and Transportation funds rather than Morley Town Deal funding. Signals and signage will be updated, with signage being a priority for pedestrian safety.
- 7.2.4 A letter drop will be done directly to all the businesses at Morley Bottoms. **ACTION** – LCC comms officer to consider key communication message around Morley Bottoms and how to share the news. JP and CW to liaise.
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7.2.5 Whilst it was acknowledged that Morley Bottoms has been a contentious scheme with both support and opposition, Board recognised the regeneration benefits brought to the Morley Bottoms area with new businesses locating and the improvement in air quality due to the closure. Noted that the works and the reprogramming of the signals will be undertaken before the end of the year.

7.2.6 DECISION – Board endorsed the recommendation to:

- Alter the traffic signals at Morley Bottoms to accommodate a two-way movement along Queen Street by way of shuttle working, noting that this will extend the timing of the signals whilst reducing the impact of transference elsewhere.
- Close Morley Bottoms during the weekend period (Friday evening through to Sunday night) on a limited number of occasions as a trial provided that appropriate responsible parties can be identified to enact the closure using the rise/lower bollards installed for that purpose and that suitable dates can be agreed;
- Advertise traffic regulation orders to facilitate a trial closure on a trial basis and to note that any permanent arrangement will be subject to further approvals.

7.2.7 ACTION – HMc to circulate full Morley Bottoms report to all board members following the meeting.

7.2.8 DECISION – Board endorsed the updated design for Queen Street Pedestrianised Area and Station Road.

7.3 Town Centre, Placemaking and culture

7.3.1 The Chair provided an update on the Town Hall and Heritage Investment projects.

7.3.2 The spotlight on the Heritage Investment fund has been deferred to the September Board.

7.3.3 The working group Chair is keen to bring arts, culture, and education together and to focus more on the collaboration and partnership that could be leveraged through Morley Town Deal. Sam Nicholls to support with this offer as a new member of the working group.

7.3.4 Noted that the in-person consultation for the Morley Town Hall project, will be on Wednesday 24th July. Communications and posters will be going out this week to coincide with the launch of the commonplace survey for the design proposals.

8.0 AOB

8.1 ACTION - HMc to share the updated working groups Terms of Reference.

ACTION – HMc to invite Cllr Helen Irving to the Employment, Skills and Education working group. Sam Nicholls to be invited to the Town Centre, Placemaking and Culture working group.

ACTION – GJ to pick up with the MP which working group he wishes to attend and to ensure he receives all necessary invites.

8.2 The Chair raised the matter that the Mass Transit route consultation has now gone live, and it was confirmed that the board are supportive of the route through South Leeds.

9.0 Date of next meeting

9.1 Tuesday 17th September 2024, 2pm-4pm, Morley Town Hall, Large Banqueting Suite
