

Blyth Town Deal Board Meeting

Wednesday 06 March 2024 10.00
(Microsoft Teams video conference)

Member Name	Organisation	06/03/2024
Alan Ferguson (AF) - CHAIR	Fergusons Transport	Attended
Thom Bradley (TB)	Blyth Community Network	Attended
Scott Bullock (SB)	Newcastle College	Attended
Lesleyanne Cassie (LC)	Jobcentre Plus	
Angela Cosimini (AC)	Frameworks	
Robin Earl (RE)	Advance Northumberland	<i>Apologies</i>
Ian Flintoff (IF)	Blyth Churches Together	Attended
Greg Gavin (GG)	Blyth Town Forum	<i>Apologies</i>
Helen Golightly (HG)	North East LEP	
Rob Hamilton (RH)	North of Tyne Combined Authority	
John Hildreth (JH)	Advance Northumberland	
Martin Lawlor (ML)	Port of Blyth	<i>Apologies</i>
Ian Levy (IL)	Member of Parliament for Blyth Valley Constituency	Attended
Matthew Murray (MM)	Tharsus	Attended
Cllr Kath Nisbet (KN)	Northumberland County Council	Attended
Wojciech Ploszaj (WP)	Northumberland County Council	
Tony Quinn (TQ)	ORE - Catapult	Attended
Jane Robinson (JR)	Newcastle University	<i>Apologies</i>
Glen Sanderson (GS)	Northumberland County Council	
Wendy Scott (WS)	Cultural Advisory Group	<i>Apologies</i>
Rob Strettle (RS)	Energising Blyth Programme Team	Attended
Warren Taylor (WT)	Blyth Town Council	Attended
Andrew Thelwell (AT)	Bede Academy	Attended
Mark Warnes (MW)	Active Northumberland	
Richard Wearmouth (RW)	Northumberland County Council	Attended

In Attendance	Organisation	06/03/2024
Cristina Armstrong (CA)	Project Manager, NCC	<i>Apologies</i>
Reemer Bailey (RB)	Project Manager, NCC	<i>Apologies</i>
Lara Baker (LB)	Programme Manager, NCC	Attended
Bev Harrison, (BH)	Regeneration Finance & Performance Manager, NCC	Attended
Jenny Hindmarsh (JH)	Senior Programme Officer (Regeneration), NCC	Attended
Carol Jameson (CJ)	Regeneration Programmes Investment Manager, NCC	Attended
Alex Jarvis (AJ)	Business & Trade	





Elaine Maylin (EM)	Regeneration Investment Funding Manager, NCC	Attended
Lee Paris (LP)	Project Manager, NCC	Attended
Taylor Sharp (TS)	Business & Trade	Attended
Helen Swinburn (HS)	Projects Officer, NCC	Attended
Jan Willis (JW)	Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), NCC	Apologies

Notes of discussion:

1	Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence AF welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies and attendance are noted in the list above.	Action:
2	Declarations of Interest Previous declarations still stand. IL – as this is 10 year plan for funding, I just want to advise that at the next election I will be standing for the new Cramlington and Killingworth constituency and my wife Maureen Levy will be standing for the new Blyth and Ashington constituency.	
3	For Information / Approval	
	Long Term Plan for Towns Information on items 3a - 3e were shared with Board prior to the meeting. RS gave a brief overview of these at the meeting.	
3a	LTPFT Background - RS No comments or issues raised.	
3b	Governance Report - RS <u>Recommendations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree that the current Town Deal Board becomes the new Town Board from April 2024 Membership of the Board needs to be amended Agree the eligibility map Next steps <u>Requirements of membership:</u> New Representatives - Police & Crime Commissioner, Community & Culture Sector, Health & Well Being, small Business & Property Landlord, Young people Civic Representation – proposal is for Cllrs Wearmouth and Ploszaj to represent the County Council and Cllrs Taylor and Nisbet to represent Blyth Town Council.	





IL raised concerns about negative online posts regarding the town made by a Board member. IL asked if it was appropriate if a Board member makes such comments whether they should continue on the Board?

RS explained that the proposed membership list reflected the government guidance and could not make any comment on this.

AF – the recommendations are to carry on with who we have now and review in September at the natural review point in terms of the Charing and Vice Chair arrangements, the other membership arrangements are as outlined in the paper. I am not aware of the issue that is being raised.

KN clarified that this referred to her and did not feel this was appropriate to raise in the Board.

AF asked members to focus on the report at hand and confirmed he was happy to speak to both members offline, but this shouldn't be aired in a general meeting.

RS - changing the composition of Board links back to the guidance. Community & Culture reps are proposed to be strengthened by adding 4 reps from this sector and have suggestions on how to do that, ie: from the Cultural Advisory Group (CAG) and/or Heart of Blyth Partnership. Health & Well Being could be a specific health rep possibly from Public Health, the NHS or a GP in the CCG, etc. Small business and property landlords, suggest expanding from one to two additional places. Members may recall Frameworks attended originally but could not commit to ongoing attendance. We are suggesting going back to the Federation of Small Businesses and North East Chamber of Commerce in the absence of a Blyth business network/chamber of Trade to ask if they have any local business reps. During 2024-25 there may be an opportunity to ask for reps through the CPP Culture Business Network and Tackling Retail Crime Partnerships when they are established. Young people's rep is an important issue, general feeling this is something to strengthen targeted engagement on and consider how that engagement work can be linked in to the Board.

IF – I welcome the proposals to strengthen the Community representation. For the young people's rep, I would favour a wider group approach as it will involve more people and feel it would be hard for one person to make a contribution on this group given its size, etc.

KN – it would be good to have a young people's rep as its their future, and I agree with IF on the wider group approach.

WT – young people's rep, we certainly need that and within the schools we have school councils, head boy, head girl, student presidents, etc, who we could look to involve. Bede Academy are already involved but we need to also involve Blyth Academy. Community and Culture we need to open this up as this funding is about



	<p>the community at a grassroots approach. What's missing from the CAG and Heart of Blyth is a rep from a sporting organisation. I feel Blyth with it's rich sporting cultural background has to have that rep through this Board or a subgroup. In the absence of local youth clubs, sporting organisations are the only organisations accommodating some young people's needs. Perhaps the opportunity of setting up the small business network will bring the Blyth Sports Council back.</p> <p>AT – I would concur with the suggestions and would be happy to support a youth panel. Blyth Academy's involvement, I can raise it with their new headteacher and reach out. Sporting rep, again happy to take that forward as we have a lot of links with sport and have a network of sporting clubs.</p> <p>IL – agree with WT's comments and would like to add that Eileen Cartie has lots to do with young people at the Buffalo Centre and also Les Welsh at the Empire School of Boxing.</p> <p>RS – we can follow up on the themes and come back to the next meeting regarding youth and sport and perhaps some of the additional reps proposed may have specialisms or knowledge in these areas.</p> <p>RS - Prior to the Board being updated, we will contact Members beforehand so they are aware as when it does change we want to acknowledge contributions if people want to stand down to say thank you as people have given their time voluntarily and we really do appreciate it. AF – I would like to add my thanks for the input everyone has made.</p>	
3c	<p>Membership - RS</p> <p>We have looked at the current members and suggested an approach. Given that we are due to refresh Chaining and Vice Chaining arrangements in September 24 we suggest that we continue with the current arrangements for the Chair and Vice Chairs but bolster them by adding a Community Vice Chair once we have a rep from April 24.</p> <p>Board agreed this was a reasonable approach and would support continuity of what has worked well to date.</p> <p><u>Terms of Reference:</u></p> <p>A lot of this is the same as the current Town Deal Board, there is an additional resource issue in terms of getting the papers out and website updated but we will manage that going forward.</p> <p><u>Nomination Process:</u></p> <p>As we've discussed these will be via networks and partnership groups.</p> <p><u>Proposed Town Board Membership:</u></p> <p>Civic - 5 as mentioned earlier re Cllrs Wearmouth, Plozaj, Taylor, Nisbet and also Ian Levy MP.</p>	

	<p>Private – amend Advance Northumberland from 2 to 1 rep, plus 2 small business and a property/landlord rep as discussed earlier to be nominated from existing or new business networks.</p> <p>Public – consider benefits of adding another school rep, possibly Blyth Academy, so we are representing the whole town, noted that the Board includes reps for different part of the education system and not all providers so it may be better to involve Blyth academy in sub group work. Jobcentre Plus from 2 to 1 rep. New reps – leisure x 1 possibly from the new countywide provider; NEMCA x 1 which is replacing North of Tyne Combined Authority and North East Local Enterprise Partnership; Northumbria Police; Health Sector; NCC – Sarah McMillan replaces RS and Jan Willis is added as the Section 151 Officer. NCC Regeneration staff continue to provide secretariat not as formal members of the Board.</p> <p>Community – new culture rep x 2 and Heart of Blyth reps x 2. WS is currently one of the culture reps, the CAG can take a view on reps going forward.</p> <p>AT – if there were a second school rep it would be secondary heavy, but we do have a larger student body, something to consider.</p> <p>AF – do we need to vote on this? RS – we are not looking to agree the final membership today but if we can agree that the Town Deal Board evolves into the new Town Board we can discuss the final arrangements for membership at the end of March Board meeting.</p> <p>TB – this needs to be a whole town approach not just town centre heavy and I'm not sure where the suggestion from WT regarding sport would fit into this list. My overriding point is that we are looking at a longer time frame and as a Board we have a lot of people whether that's business or the community and we get stuck in a short term view loop and need to have a more longer term strategic view for Board.</p> <p>RS – I will take the advice of Board regarding sport, but we will try to aim for one of the community reps to have a sport angle or if you feel there needs to be a specific sport rep we can consider adding that or theme it alongside the new leisure provider rep, I'm just conscious of the numbers on the Board overall.</p> <p>LB – if we have got a rep from the various sectors we need to be clear on what we can deliver through this programme, what the core themes are and how, for example, can we deliver for sport, and also have an awareness of not spreading too widely as we need to ensure deliverability.</p> <p>RS – perhaps the best way to think of sport is that sport is a vehicle to deal with the outcomes like ASB, etc, but it certainly is an opportunity.</p>	
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	<p>RS - there appears to be agreement to transition to become the Town Board so we need to agree which members want to continue before the end of March then we will come back to the end of March meeting with the final recommendations for membership.</p> <p>The Board agreed that the current Town Deal Board becomes the new Town Board from April 2024, pending final membership of the Board needs to be provided to the next meeting on 28th March noting the comments above.</p>	
3d	<p>Geography - RS</p> <p>The current agreed map in the TIP was designed to capture the economic geography plus one or two key sites on the edge of the town. The map government have proposed is what they refer to as 'built up areas' which is slightly smaller than the current agreed map. Internally the agreement is to stay with the current map as that keeps our options open for other opportunities and funding. The recommendation is that we continue with the current map.</p> <p>AF – is that an option to do that or does it need to be DLUHC's map we use? RS – I understand that we can feedback that we would like to continue with the current arrangements if we have a reasonable basis to do.</p> <p>WT – I am happy to include Bebside but am slightly concerned about Cambois as they would want to see it used to plug gaps on existing projects. Are we not crossing boundaries in relation to MP responsibilities and if we are how would that work? AT – there is an argument around the economic activity which was strong for the previous map however how do we make sure we don't disperse funding to area(s) it was not initially intended for? RS – those are reasonable challenges to the principles but I would flip it to think about the economic value just on the 'border' of the town regarding the official geography or constituency boundaries and think about how can the town benefit from those economic strengths and might there be an opportunity to link to those as we don't want to limit ourselves to make that choice, but I do take on board the comments about being outside the boundaries.</p> <p>RW – how the money is spent will be done through the Board and Board would approve that spend so there is a logical check to that. AF – it is important that Board does have control of spend.</p> <p>TB – if we want to get this to grassroots level and people in the communities around Blyth it will need a lot of development and support to make that happen. People have skills, passion and enthusiasm across the geography but we need to ensure people are in a good position to manage and support if we want to sustain it over the longer term.</p> <p>AT – as I said the map is strong but wonder if we capture RW's point in a paper around how decisions are made if they fall outside DLUHC but within the current map and have something to explain the larger map? RS – that already exists in the TIP and also in the Board ToR/Governance. We have a good track record as</p>	



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|    | <p>£1.5m of £90m was used on Northumberland Energy Park so that demonstrates the focus of the Board on the main settlement of Blyth, as a Board and partnership it's about getting that balance right. If we applied the same percentage to this programme it would not be very big.</p> <p>RS – most people support the map with the caveats mentioned so we will do a note for the next meeting explaining the caveats mentioned further as part of the return to Govt. AF – do Board agree to staying with the existing map? Board agreed.</p> | RS/JH |
| 3e | <p><b>Timeline</b></p> <p>This will be revisited in the meeting at the end of March.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       |
| 4  | <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>None reported.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |       |
| 5  | <p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 28 March 2024 at 2pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |       |



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