

Glastonbury Town Deal 'Interim Board'

Minutes of the Project Board meeting held on Friday 31st January 2020 Glastonbury Town Hall Council Chamber

Present:

James Heapey (JH) – Member of Parliament
Heidi Coombe (HC) – Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Lucy Martin (LM) – Department of Work and Pensions
Jill Barker (JB) – Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce
David Byford (DB) – Strode College
Cllr Peter Goater (PG) – Mendip District Council
Cllr Ian Tucker (IT) – Glastonbury Town Council
Darryl Mitchard (DM) – Melhuish and Saunders
Janet Bell (JB) – Glastonbury Abbey
Jacqueline Cross (JC) – NHS CCG

In attendance:

Cllr Liz Leyshon – Somerset County Council
Gerard Tucker – Glastonbury Town Council
Paul Hickson – Somerset County Council
Jenny Pitcher – Mendip District Council
Julie Reader-Sullivan – Mendip District Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

James Heapey MP took the chair and following introductions informed that the Town Deal is a once in a generation opportunity to attract significant strategic funding in support of Glastonbury. JH emphasised that compelling evidence has to be gathered to demonstrate value for money, and noted the additional challenge of ensuring that any portfolio of projects must conform to the requirements of the prospectus.

2. Setting the Scene: Towns Fund

Jenny Pitcher – Senior Economic Development Officer for Mendip District Council 'Set the Scene' with the use of a visual presentation. Confirmed receipt of £140,000 of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to be used to research, consult and present a robust Town Investment Plan and a full business case for securing additional income. There are three opportunities to present the completed Town Investment Plan, May, August or Oct/Nov 2020, following which there will be an additional twelve months to complete and submit a detailed and costed full business case to the Government. Whilst May was considered too soon to have a completed Investment Plan ready to submit, it was widely acknowledged that the Board should aim for August 2020.

Glastonbury has been included in the Town Deal opportunity due to the levels of multiple deprivation in the community, particularly within parts of St Benedict's Ward.

A request to slightly enlarge the boundary of the Town Deal area has been submitted to MHCLG, mainly to incorporate land and the commercial area around the Morlands Industrial Estate. This does not indicate any reference to the Local Plan or set any expectations for development.

3. Governance and Draft Terms of Reference

Whilst it is widely acknowledged that the Town Deal provides an enormous opportunity to regenerate buildings, improve employment income and retain young people in the area, adopting a framework of good governance is key. Understanding the objectives of the opportunity and developing a strong business case are important if we are to succeed. Declaring any conflicts of interest will be required from the outset.

A draft Terms of Reference was circulated and whilst members require additional time to absorb the content, broadly accepted them. Guidance from Government is that the Chair of the Town Deal Board will be from the private sector.

Action: HC to provide a copy of Torquay's conflict of interest policy

4. Board Members

The draft Terms of Reference inform that there are to be between 12 and 15 members of the Board. These will consist of representatives from the LEP, County, District and Town Councils. Vacancies for representatives from business, the community and a youth perspective will be advertised shortly. Other sectors represented include health and education. Maintaining a balance between the private and public sector is considered important and will influence Board Membership.

a. Roles and Responsibilities

The Town Deal Board will shape the vision for the town as well as defining the strategy and steps that need to be taken to achieve that vision. There is an expectation that they will develop and agree an evidenced based Town Investment Plan. Identifying priorities supported with realistic project delivery timeframes.

The Chair is to be from the private sector and will need to be a suitably skilled individual with a sound knowledge and understanding of Glastonbury. They should also have the experience and profile to navigate a role with potential national exposure. Expenses for the Chair will be met as there is an expectation that occasional attendance at government briefings/conferences in London will be a requirement. As Board meetings will be held during the day on a Friday, availability will be vital.

b. Advertising and Selection

Advertising to attract potential Board Members, particularly with the skills in areas considered vital to the outcomes (e.g. education, business, community, youth) will commence immediately.

Following discussion, it was agreed that, as sensitive and commercial matters could form a significant part of the discussion throughout Board meetings, it was more appropriate for these to be conducted without public invitation but with the minutes being published on the Mendip District Council website.

A link will be added to the Glastonbury Town Council website, where information on the meetings, compilation of the Board, consultation and how to get involved will be displayed.

5. Consultation and Visioning

Engaging and consulting with the various sectors who live and work in Glastonbury will be key when creating a robust Town Investment Plan. The wider community, businesses, landowners and special interest groups are all considered vitally important to help understand the requirements for:

Skills and Education

Business and visitors

Climate Change

Health and Wellbeing

Connectivity

Communities and Place

Other suggestions included Youth, Homelessness, Travellers and Food Banks.

6. Towards a Town Investment Plan

It was widely accepted that there is a need to start immediately with the compilation of evidence. There are some reports recently completed which inform of the housing requirements for Glastonbury, also the Heritage and Character both prepared by AECOM and considered relevant as they are less than two years old. A study of the requirements and aspirations of the travelling community has been commissioned and the Community Council for Somerset will have a detailed completed report before the end of February 2020. Glastonbury Town Council has budgeted for a full-time Regeneration Officer, whose immediate appointment would help considerably with the process of consultation. The Glastonbury Town Clerk has proven skills in the area of community and business engagement and consultation and can provide support, although some work would need to be 'back filled'. It was **AGREED** that the Glastonbury Town Clerk and Mendip DC Officers will meet shortly to discuss the consultation delivery framework.

7. Next Steps

- i. The scoping for the consultation and engagement process will start immediately, and there are some opportunities to align with events already planned. E.g. the Glastonbury Tourism Symposium planned for mid-March.
- ii. Board members are to familiarise themselves with existing economic strategies, including, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).
- iii. Links to the online asset registers for Town, District and County to be shared.
- iv. Consult on the challenges and opportunities for addressing health issues, e.g. loneliness, drugs, homelessness and explore exemplars that may be shared with other communities.
- v. Environmental issues and climate change also present opportunities as well as challenges, and could provide future jobs and career opportunities. Suggestions included a national 'Catapult' for sustainable living, internet assisted healthy communities, and opportunities to attract 'clean tech' investment to the town.
- vi. Glastonbury's reputation as a creative and cultural hub, with particular links to music and the arts and its importance as a national and international visitor destination is also a key opportunity for the town.

Any Other Business

JH agreed to stand as the vice-chair of the group, proposed by HC, seconded by IT.

The date of the next meeting is **Friday 6th March, 2.00pm** at Glastonbury Town Hall.