

## Glastonbury Town Deal Board Information Sheet October 2024

The Glastonbury Town Deal Board is sharing this information sheet to answer questions that are being raised by Glastonbury residents. We hope you find this helpful.

### **What is the role of Glastonbury Town Deal Board?**

The Glastonbury Town Deal Board is an advisory and communication body with an oversight role sitting alongside that of Somerset Council. Somerset Council is the Accountable Body, ultimately responsible for the use of funds and the delivery of all the projects. The board recommends, challenges and holds to account to ensure that projects deliver against agreed vision and outputs. At each board meeting Somerset Council Officers bring a comprehensive situational report for the board's consideration and advice.

The board's initial purpose, in partnership with Somerset Council, was to generate a vision for the Town Deal investment plan, to submit this to government and to secure a Towns Fund grant from national government to invest into the town. Funds are for capital projects.

All the Glastonbury Town projects were initiated by residents of the town through consultation.

In 2021 an accelerator fund of £500k was secured, which successfully delivered 5 projects. Then a £23.6 million fund was secured to deliver the current projects of the Glastonbury Town Deal.

All projects should be completed by March 2026. Some will complete before that date.

Terms of reference of the board can be found on the website <https://glastonburytowndeal.co.uk/>

### **Who sits on the Glastonbury Town Deal Board?**

There are 15 board members and several observers from key agencies. Membership is determined by national government. The Glastonbury MP is a member, as are Glastonbury Town Council, business and community representatives, and Somerset Council. The board is chaired by Dr Lynne Sedgmore CBE, the Vice Chair is Dr Michael White. Membership of the board, with photographs and individual profiles, can be found on the website. The board meets at least 4 times a year depending on requirements. It met more frequently during planning and permissions phases, then less often as projects began to govern and lead themselves.

### **Do the Glastonbury Town Deal Board members receive financial remuneration?**

No, they don't. Being a Glastonbury Town Deal Board member is a voluntary role that does not involve any form of financial remuneration or payment for the many hours of time, expertise and skills contributed over several years. Travel expenses can be claimed.

### **How are any Conflicts of Interest managed?**

Before every board meeting a declaration of interests form is sent out so that any potential Conflicts of Interest can be noted. At the start of every board meeting, everyone is asked to declare verbally any Conflicts of Interest for relevant items on the agenda. Board members with any form of conflict can only speak on the relevant item if invited, and cannot vote on that agenda item.

### **Are minutes of the Glastonbury Town Deal Board made public?**

Yes, the Minutes of each board meeting are put onto the website as soon as they are formally agreed by all board members. Confidential and highly sensitive commercial content is not made public.

### **How are Glastonbury Town Deal board members appointed?**

Every Board member has been interviewed before joining the board. The board was initially set up by Somerset Council through an open appointment process in 2019. In 2022/3 four appointments were interviewed and agreed by the full board. Any new vacancies will be advertised publicly.

### **Why is there a shortfall in some of the Glastonbury Town Deal project budgets?**

We have known most projects needed to secure match funding when the Glastonbury Town Deal Board and Somerset Council had to prepare a HM Treasury 5-case Business Case, in 2022, to secure the Towns Fund grant. Since the Glastonbury Town Deal Investment Plan was submitted to national government in January 2021, construction costs have risen massively, in some cases by 30% or 50% due to inflation and wider impacts of the Covid pandemic on the supply of materials. As no additional funds were available from national government, this has inevitably led to a greater shortfall fall against some of the original estimates of costs. As a result, projects have had to either reduce or phase their builds or secure grants from other funders.

These increases and shortfalls apply to every Town Deal across the country, not just Glastonbury.

### **How does Project management work?**

Each project, as a grant recipient, is directly responsible for delivering their project, including the governance, management and financial probity of the funds allocated to them directly via Somerset Council. Each project has a business plan and is working to the outcomes and timescales as articulated within it.

Each organisation running a project has a Grant Funding Agreement and this requires them to have the necessary resources and expertise to deliver the project, to be compliant with the relevant legislation and codes, and to effectively manage their finances, risks and procurement.

Six projects are managed by community organisations who are Charities, Trusts, Community Benefit Societies and Community Interest Companies. Four projects are managed by Glastonbury Town Council and Somerset Council.

No Towns Fund monies have gone to individuals. Towns Fund monies have gone to organisations running the projects in accordance with a Grant Funding Agreement which includes rules on procurement which require open tender for large contracts and at least three quotes for smaller contracts. Local contractors have been used wherever possible.

### **Where can I find key information on Glastonbury Town Deal?**

Regular updates are posted on the website at <https://glastonburytowndeal.co.uk/>

Social media links are:

- Facebook at Glastonbury Town Deal <https://www.facebook.com/GlastonburyTownDeal>
- Instagram at @glastonburytowndeal <https://www.instagram.com/glastonburytowndeal/>
- Twitter/X at @GlastonburyTown Deal <https://x.com/GlastonburyTD>
- Linked-in at Glastonbury Town Deal <https://www.linkedin.com/company/glastonburytowndeal>

Open Days are held annually and projects also hold their own events to engage, seek feedback and to inform residents. Information is also shared through our website, social media, newspaper articles, local radio interviews, and catch-up videos with individual projects.

For 2025 a general open day is planned in March, as are individual project site visits and individual project open days to share progress on the buildings.

The official email contact is [glastonburytowndeal@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:glastonburytowndeal@somerset.gov.uk)