

City of Preston Town Fund Board

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18 January 2023

Present: Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; Mrs R Connor, Vice Chair; Councillor M Brown, Councillor Borrow, Ms A Parkinson, Mr P Thomas, M Close and Mr R Binns

Also in attendance:

Mr C Hayward	– Director of Development and Housing
Mr C Blackburn	– Assistant Director (Head of City Growth and Regeneration)
Mr L Hurst	– Assistant Director (Head of Financial Services)
Mr M Cowburn	– Cowburn Watson
Ms N Billington	– Head of Policy and External Relations
Ms Palmer	– Regeneration Manager
Mr M Gregory	- Limitless PR
MS C Stephenson	– Limitless PR
Mr M Fleming	– TIG
Mrs C Alldrick	– Secretary

Apologies: Ms J Anthony, Ms K Illingworth - Turner and Sir M Hendrick, MP, Mr A Phillips and Ms J Wilding

CD53 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

CD54 Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

The Board wished to give it's thanks to Beckie Joyce for all her hard work in helping to progress the programme so far. Beckie will still be involved in the programme, but Matthew Cowburn will now attend the Board meetings going forward.

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CD55 Implementation Report

Mr M Cowburn provided the monitoring report for Phase 3a/b Towns Fund projects and a general update on the Towns Fund work programme. The report was more concise than previous months due to the Christmas break.

The following matters were discussed:-

- Animate – There have been some local press articles about there being no electric vehicle charging points in the car park. The Board were advised that due to the parking being within a building, a fire safety certification could not be obtained. Nationally, the fire service has had a number of fires in underground car parks started by electric charging points. The scheme will however contain the infrastructure and conduit for these bays to be available at such a time they can be achieved within fire safety regulations. Discussions are taking place with LCC regarding the possible installation of electric charging points in other city centre car parks.
- Amounderness House - Press release will be issued soon regarding the appointment of W_rkspace as the management company.
- Educate Preston - The unit lease in the Guildhall Arcade is now subject to a review towards end March. No other units are available within the Harris Quarter so pressing on with the online offer ahead of the physical presence.
- Youth Zone - The Board would like to ascertain if any additional improvement works are planned to Preston Bus Station to improve user experience, including access to the Youth Zone and wider Harris Quarter. Peter Thomas to pick up with LCC.

Mr C Cowburn confirmed the Monitoring and Evaluation submission was submitted to central government on 16 December. He presented a snapshot of the level of detail to be included in future Board reports.

The Board approved the Monitoring and Evaluation format for future board reports but suggested the inclusion of any slippage.

Resolved – That the Board

- (i) Noted the December Monitoring Updates;
- (ii) Approved the updated Terms of Reference for the refreshed TIG/M&E meeting; format clear and concise.

CD56 Towns Fund Assurance update

Mr M Cowburn provided a report on the Harris Quarter. The Board were informed that City Of Preston Towns Fund Board is overseeing the implementation of the £200m Harris Quarter Towns Fund Investment Programme.

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The City Council as Accountable Body is recommended to approve the additions to the Towns Fund Assurance Framework at Full Council and the Board is requested to do the same.

Resolved – That the Board

- (i) Approve the updates to the Assurance Framework set out in 2.6 (i) to (iv) of the report.
- (ii) Consider the supplementary guidance from DLUHC as highlighted in 2.6 (v) of the report for discussion at the next Board meeting.

CD57 Presentation of the comms plan for year 1

Mr M Gregory gave a presentation on the year 1 plan of the Harris Quarter.

The Board made the following observations and comments:-

- Inclusion of economic output, what this project is delivering and the inclusion of any case studies;
- Engagement with Preston's diverse communities;
- Unique cultural offer for the City. There was a suggestion that whilst the Harris building is closed there is the potential to use live mobile events going out into communities and getting live engagement with the public.
- Ambition and where Preston is going. Trajectory looking forward.
- Suggestion that the Board be briefed prior to any press releases.
- It was noted that the BBC interviewed the BID before Christmas about Preston but there was no mention of Animate. Need to ensure partners are aware of what's happening with clear consistent messaging.
- Harris team have a series of workshops both internal and external with different cultures and backgrounds. Diary of events to be shared with Board when finalised.

Resolved - That the Board noted the presentation.