

Margate Town Deal Board Minutes



Date: 07 April, 2021 at 1:30pm

Venue: Virtually, via Google Meet

Present: David Smith CBE (DS) - Interim Chair, Cllr Ruth Duckworth (RD), Cllr Lesley Game (LG), Madeline Homer (MH), Sir Roger Gale MP (RG), Eddie Kemsley (EK), Victoria Pomery OBE (VP), Sam Causer (SC), Richard Ash (RA), Stephen Darrer (SD).

In attendance: Louise Askew (LA), Natalie Glover (NG), Katie Brewer (KB), Chris Paddock (CP), Theodora Beckett (TB), Iain McNab (IM)

Apologies: Apologies were received by Trish Nichols (TN) and Adam Bryan (AB), for whom Rhiannon Mort (SELEP) was a substitute.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Eddie Kemsley (EK) raised that she has a project included in the TIP which will go through the prioritisation process.

3. Updates and discussion

Louise Askew (LA), Director of Regeneration, gave the Board a brief update on the bid for additional capacity funding.

It was noted that:

- £70,000 was awarded of the £110,000 applied for. This was more than most other submissions.
- The proposal was for £10,000 to be allocated for further stakeholder engagement, including management of the People's Panel, wider community engagement and putting together an Action Plan for engagement within the private sector. This could be awarded directly to Pleydell Smithyman Ltd via a waiver due to a skill set already attained, prior knowledge, specific experience in establishing the People's Panel, and for continuity with the engagement activities.
- The remaining £60,000 would be allocated for the programme of work to set up the Creative Land Trust. This would need to be awarded through a tender process.
- Reassurance was given to the Board that £10,000 would be sufficient for the stakeholder engagement work.

- It was noted that, as well as community discussion being important, there is an expectation from Central Government that the Board continues this engagement in the next stage of the process.

In response to the update, the Board agreed to the allocations in principle, subject to the project Briefs being circulated to the Board so that members could share any comments or questions via the MTD email address by close of business on Monday 12 April 2021.

4. Framework for scoring projects

Chris Paddock (CP) presented the proposed framework for scoring projects to the Board.

During consideration of the item it was noted that:

- This framework could be used as a guide to help the Board decide the best method for re-distributing the funds given, as it was less than the funding bid initially outlined.
- Changes to the funding distribution needed to be made in a clear and understandable way.
- The Board ought to keep in mind the priorities for local people as well as the strategic plan from the Government.
- The business case template was shared, showing five key areas of importance - strategic, economic, commercial, management, and financial factors.
- The two tier assessment is divided as 60% practical/conceptual and 40% Green Book priorities.
- There might be some information that will need to be gathered from project sponsors during this process.
- The Board can either reduce allocations of funding or drop some projects entirely, but they must be transparent about their reasons for either decision.
- Concerns were raised that 'watered down' projects would be likely to fail.
- It was commented that £22.2 million would not go far unless used to lever other investment in projects.
- Queries were raised regarding the allocation of percentages and it was agreed that the slides would be shared for members to review in more detail. A follow-up meeting would also be organised within 10 days to hear feedback from the Board and approve/adopt the framework.
- The proposal to focus the geography of the projects, concentrating on Margate town, was debated.
- It was commented that there is a need to be ruthless with regard to ending unachievable projects, so as not to put at risk other projects that could have been done well.
- The scores from this process would help as a tool to structure discussion around what changes need to be made.
- The need to see sustainability as a bigger element of the process was mentioned. Concerns were raised that the focus was on the visitor economy, without other critical balancing economies for year-round support being outlined. In light of this a suggestion was made to embed sustainability across all projects rather than use it as a scoring criteria.
- There were concerns about timescales of aligning the Towns Fund money with other funding bids (match funding) which could result in greater risk. It was felt important

that private sector contributions needed to be secured. The Board will need to know what the match funding would be.

- The finalised framework will be made available on the MTD website as an example of open and transparent methodology.
- The Board felt they could do with more detail on individual projects and the impact that can be achieved. The annexes to the Town Investment Plan would be shared with members.

Meeting concluded: 14:40pm

Actions	Responsibility
The Briefs for the Capacity funding will be shared with Board members for comments and questions; Engagement (£10k) and Creative Land Trust (£60k)	LA
A copy of the presentation slides will be shared with the Board.	CP
Annexes to TIP would be shared with the Board.	LA