

Margate Town Deal Board Minutes



Date: 13 April, 2021 at 16:00pm

Venue: Virtually, via Google Meet

Present: David Smith CBE (DS) - Interim Chair, Cllr Ruth Duckworth (RD), Madeline Homer (MH), Sir Roger Gale MP (RG), Eddie Kemsley (EK), Sam Causer (SC), Stephen Darrer (SD) and Trish Nichols (TN).

In attendance: Louise Askew (LA), Katie Brewer (KB), Chris Paddock (CP), Theodora Beckett (TB).

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Lesley Game (LG), Victoria Pomery OBE (VP) and Jesse Tomlinson (JT).

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Approval of stakeholder engagement and Creative Land Trust budget allocations

Louise Askew (LA), reminded the board of the proposal to allocate budgets of £60,000 to set up the Creative Land Trust and £10,000 for further stakeholder and community engagement.

There were no objections to the proposal and the board gave authority to proceed.

4. Prioritisation Framework for scoring projects - feedback and discussion

Chris Paddock (CP) facilitated discussion on the proposed framework for scoring projects, which had been shared with board members in advance of the meeting.

During consideration of the item it was noted that:

- The scoring was an aid to help the board through the prioritisation process, not definitive.
- The consultancy team have given provisional weighting according to what is important to the town as well as the government priorities: set at 60% on the Towns Fund and 40% Green Book.
- Comments were raised that a greater weight should be placed on the economy, the leverage that the funding can generate and, in general, the Green Book priorities.
- There was debate around the importance put on the scoring process and the specific weighting of scores. It was commented that, although a degree of common sense will be

applied throughout the process, it is important to start from a clear and rigorous structure that can be easily scrutinised.

- There was a reminder that the decision that was needed was about the weighting which individual projects would be scored against, not a discussion about the projects.
- Due diligence was a key part of the process to ensure projects are achievable, but would happen further down the line.
- The high weighting on the visitor economy was true for the town of Margate, however, it was important to keep in mind that the scale ought to be measuring the improvements that can be made to this economy by each project.
- There was some opportunity noted for match funding with KCC highways to support the sustainable travel section.
- Key challenges to the process were commented on, including public space improvements having associated maintenance costs and the fact that the impact of projects in terms of economic growth and jobs is often unknown or hard to quantify.
- Concern was raised that smaller projects may lose out if they are not given the management assistance they need. It was noted that this was something the team, and Board would need to keep in mind.
- Reassurance was given that there is plenty of opportunity for scrutiny in the process and that if projects do not benefit from this funding there may be other options to take them forward.

5. Formal approval and adoption of the Framework

After debate it was agreed that:

- The Green Book and Town Investment Priorities would be split 50/50, with the majority of the Green Book increase going into the two economic columns.
- Later in the process, the technical Green Book priorities (fundability, deliverability and governance) will be re-assessed using a pass/fail approach. Those which fail on any measure will be removed from the process.
- The board would proceed on the following basis:
 - The Towns Fund Investment Priorities would remain at 15%
 - The Town Investment Plan Priorities would be reduced from 45% to 35%
 - The Economic Priorities (Green Book) would increase from 20% to 27%
 - The Technical Priorities (Green Book) would increase from 20% to 23%
- A revised spreadsheet with the more detailed breakdown would be shared with the board.

Meeting concluded: 17:00pm

Actions	Responsibility
Circulate the revised Framework with updated percentages/weightings to the board.	CP
Add draft scores for each project to the spreadsheet in time for the next meeting of the Margate Town Deal Board so they can be discussed	CP