

# Margate Town Deal Board Minutes



**Date:** 25 May, 2021 at 16:00pm

**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), Sam Causer (SC), Richard Ash (RA), Stephen Darrer (SD), Victoria Pomery OBE (VP),

**In attendance:** Louise Askew (LA), Natalie Glover (NG), Katie Brewer (KB).

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Adam Bryan.

## 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. Updates

LA updated the board on the following points:

- An extension to the submission of the prioritised project list and accompanying information has been requested. Iain McNab had indicated that a two week extension would be fine, but it was hoped that this would be completed sooner.
- It is not known how long it will take to get a response from the government after submission of the final project list
- Board meetings will soon be arranged until the end of the year, on a bi-monthly basis.
- The agenda until summer will cover the nomination of a Chair and governance of the board, due diligence requirements, and setting out the Business Cases for projects/interventions.
- One to one meetings were planned with stakeholders who are either delivering or heavily involved in projects. These will take place from w/c 21 June.
- An update was also given on the Creative Land Trust commission which has had two proposals submitted through the procurement portal.

## 4. East Kent College Skills Project Proposal

LA facilitated a discussion on this item and presented information provided by EKC on behalf

of Graham Razey.

During discussion it was noted that:

- The concept of creating an educational provision in Margate had been around for a while.
- It was felt that the Skills Project would address the challenges facing young people around improving their aspirations.
- It was felt that opportunities for young people could be created through the ability to link this project with a wide range of creative industries.
- The education element of the Town Investment Plan was key and ought to remain the focus. It was stated that this project seemed to have the 'golden thread' that was important in the bid.
- It was felt that there was scope for this project to attract other organisations who wish to engage with this type of skills delivery and could also benefit from inward investment as a result.
- The question was raised as to why this project was not brought to the Board sooner. In response, the following points were made:
  - The first conversation on this specific project had taken place after the Chair had resigned, to see if it was worthwhile to come forward with a proposal.
  - There had been discussions of a similar concept in a different part of town a number of years ago, but it wasn't feasible at that time.
  - Provision of skills training had been raised during a board meeting earlier in the process and EKC was noted as one of the only providers in the area.
- Support was expressed for involving Margate School and for the project being located in the centre of Margate.
- It was suggested that the board may not support funding this in its entirety, but that funds from The Creative Land Trust may be able to be set aside for this.
- In order for a college to access funding from the government they need to own a site/have a long lease and this was not suggested within the proposal.
- The M&S building could not be put forward by TDC as financial support because Homes England also owns it as a joint venture. The Council is talking to them about the opportunity of this project.
- It was felt important that the offer was properly embedded in the town, to give it longevity.
- If EKC didn't get all the funding they said they needed from the Margate Town Deal and The Creative Land Trust, there would need to be further discussions about any other funding possibilities. There was a desire for TDC to think creatively around possible funding ideas.
- It was acknowledged that the proposed timescale for this project is tight, and even more so if it is to require funding from various streams. Despite this, the feeling of the board was that it was preferable to aim for an ambitious timescale and adjust as needed.
- The board stated that they wanted to see more clearly in the Creative Land Trust (CLT) allocation for skills provision and the potential buildings in Margate that could form part of the Land Trust. It is important that they can understand the impact this proposal would have on the success of the CLT.

Meeting concluded: 17:30

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Update on discussions with Homes England and further information from the College to be brought to the next meeting.	Louise Askew
The TIP 2's will be circulated.	Louise Askew
The letter prepared for sending to the government will be shared with the board prior to submission for information.	Louise Askew