

## **Newhaven Town Deal Board**

### **Minutes of Board Meeting**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

3.00 – 4.00pm via MS Teams

#### **Attendees**

- **Chair:** Chris Ketley (CK), Knill James LLP
  - **Towns Coordinator for Newhaven:**
    - Rebecca Collings (RCol), Nichols Group
  - **Lewes District Council:**
    - Cllr James MacCleary (JM), Leader of the Council
    - Rob Cottrill (RCot), Chief Executive
    - Peter Sharp (PSha), Head of Regeneration
  - **East Sussex County Council:**
    - James Harris (JH), Assistant Director – Economy
  - **Newhaven Town Council:**
    - Cllr Graham Amy (GA), Mayor of Newhaven
  - **Members of Houses of Parliament and Lords:**
    - Maria Caulfield MP (MC)
    - Baroness Janet Whitaker (JW)
  - **Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy:**
    - Nigel Stewardson (NS), Cities and Local Growth Unit
  - **Local Enterprise Partnerships:**
    - Graham Peters (GP), Chair, Team East Sussex (SELEP)
  - **Newhaven Enterprise Zone:**
    - Corinne Day (CD), Programme Director
  - **Community and Business Representatives:**
    - Dan Shelley (DShe), East Sussex College Group
    - Duncan Kerr (DK), Wave Leisure
    - Penny Shimmin (PS), Sussex Community Development Association
    - Dick Shone (DS), Boutique Modern
    - Captain Dave Collins-Williams (DCW), Newhaven Port & Properties
    - Patrick Warner (PW), Brighton & Hove Buses
    - Chris Rasmussen (CR), Jasfic Ltd
- Secretariat (provided by Lewes District Council):**
- Lisa Rawlinson (LR), Strategy & Partnerships Lead for Growth & Prosperity
  - Guy McQueen (GM), Regeneration Project Manager

#### **Apologies**

- Cllr Zoe Nicholson, Lewes District Council
- Ian Fitzpatrick, Lewes District Council
- Adam Bryan, SELEP
- Susie Mullins, Newhaven Town Council
- Max Woodford, Greater Brighton Economic Board

- Trevor Beattie, South Downs National Park Authority
- James Morton, NHS East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group
- Martin Harris, Brighton & Hove Buses
- Mike Shorer, Newhaven Chamber of Commerce

<b>Agenda item</b>		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CK welcomed all to the meeting which focused on the new funding opportunities announced as part of the recent Budget.</li> <li>● CK had previously shared details of an initiative led by the Towns Fund Delivery Partner entitled ‘The Panel of Brilliant People’. Members had been encouraged to share details with eligible contacts and staff.</li> <li>➤ GM has successfully applied to join the panel and explained that there would be regular meetings and work in between to produce an action plan for presentation to Central Government in October. GM will keep the Board informed of progress and provide further details as they are received.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b></p> <p>The previous minutes were agreed.</p>	
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Towns Fund Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PSha explained that although MHCLG had hoped to announce the result of our bid in April, officers have now been made aware the announcement has been postponed in order to avoid purdah. NS added that this is the case for all towns still awaiting a decision. MHCLG are preparing to announce in May. MC confirmed this was the understanding among MPs.</li> <li>● PSha announced that LDC’s application for additional capacity funding, designed to support business case development for the Towns Fund, had been successful. LDC are due to receive £70k which NS confirmed to be the highest figure made available to Towns. MC highlighted the importance of working up business cases in advance which this funding will help to enable.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Levelling Up Fund</b>	

- PSha provided an overview of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF):
  - *The fund is designed to “invest in local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities. This includes a range of high value local investment priorities, including local transport schemes, urban regeneration projects and cultural assets.”*
  - Three core themes are:
    1. Local Transport
    2. Urban regeneration and town centre
    3. Cultural Investment
  - Detailed guidance was to be provided 30/03/21. However, it is already known that bids of up to £20m are permitted; up to £50m for transport schemes by exception which would need to be endorsed and led by ESCC.
  - Bids can cross local authority boundaries with LAs combining to form a larger, joint bid.
  - Timescales present a challenge with a need to demonstrate that site work can start on site in 21/22.
  - LDC has been named as a Priority 1 Area (highest need) with deprivation in our coastal communities a driving factor. Deprivation in terms of connectivity can also be considered which may apply to rural parts of the district.
  - LDC will receive £125k of capacity funding to support their bid but this will not be received until after Round 1.
  - Round 1 of LUF: A detailed, Green Book-compliant business case needs to be submitted by 18/06/21 with robust evidence of benefits and deliverability by March 2024 including:
    - ✓ Full risk register.
    - ✓ Demonstrating that all consents have been obtained and there is landowner support.
    - ✓ Clear and evidenced outputs that can be monetised.
- Next steps:
  - Further analysis of options to be undertaken - the Board will be presented with a shortlist of projects at a future meeting.
  - LDC officers are working closely with JM, MC and key stakeholders to identify the best chance of success which may or may not be Newhaven focused.
- MC highlighted the fact that, unlike the Towns Fund, the LUF is a competitive process. Ministers have been advised that there is a particular need for projects to provide a measurable change, even if a transport initiative. Both visually and in terms of clear outputs e.g. jobs, bringing inward investment, increasing visitor numbers. Combined bids for areas in high

	<p>priority groups are possible but agreeing a joint project may be difficult, especially given short timescales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ PW suggested some potential bus schemes for Newhaven for LUF consideration and shared detail of Government’s new Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme, for which B&amp;H Buses are looking to submit a bid. PW was unsure whether any Towns Fund award (for bus schemes) could be used as match funding for ZEBRA and is seeking clarification.</li> <li>➤ JW agreed that poor transport infrastructure was a barrier to commercial development and that bus services could play a significant role in ‘levelling-up’ for rural areas of the district (particularly along the C7) and the coast road. JW also suggested the pedestrian/cycle bridge considered for the Towns Fund is worthy of reconsideration for LUF but that bus schemes would be me a more impactful transport scheme.</li> <li>➤ GP and PS discussed other Priority 1 areas, listing Lewes, Hastings, Eastbourne and Rother. Wealden is a Priority 2 area, Brighton is Priority 3.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: PS &amp; NS to check whether Towns Fund can be used as match funding for ZEBRA</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>UK Community Renewal Fund 21/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH provided an overview of another newly announced fund which ESCC will be leading on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The UK Community Renewal Fund 21/22 is effectively a precursor to the Shared Prosperity Fund which is designed to replace the outgoing EU funds. The Renewal Fund is designed to help inform design through pilots which will trial new approaches and innovative ideas at the local level.</li> <li>○ The funding is only for 2021/22 so must be spent within this financial year.</li> <li>○ Unlike many recent funds, this is revenue based (90% revenue, 10% capital).</li> <li>○ The fund is supposed to benefit communities in greatest need i.e. ex-industrial communities, coastal communities, rural areas and deprived towns, and for people most in need of additional support.</li> <li>○ 100 areas have been identified as a priority, including Lewes and Hastings, but bids can be submitted for other areas – priority does not guarantee funding.</li> <li>○ Broad criteria – must align with one, or deliver across several, of the following investment priorities: skills, local business, communities and place, supporting people into employment.</li> <li>○ Net Zero and carbon reductions schemes are encouraged.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Next steps:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invite bids from a range of project applicants and undertake constructive engagement with local partners.</li> <li>○ Collaborate with other lead authorities or partners across the UK where relevant.</li> <li>○ Appraise and prioritise a shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3million per 'place' (e.g. Lewes District) with a range of projects in size and scale across the four investment priorities expected to exceed £500k.</li> <li>○ Submit shortlisted projects to Government for assessment by 18/06/21 with funding to be announced by end of July.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DS welcomed collaboration and highlighted the importance of linking and adding value to existing programmes, avoiding duplication or conflict.</li> <li>➤ PS pointed to the need for those disadvantaged in the labour market to be supported, after the loss of EU monies and for the response to be fairly rapid and to utilise the knowledge and experience available through partners.</li> <li>➤ JH acknowledged the logic of using existing successful programmes as a basis and will work closely with partners to consider this and to tackle the short timescales in place.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Railway Quay Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PSha provided an update on work underway at Railway Quay:</li> <li>○ Site activity commenced on 01/03/21 with a target for all works completed 12/05/21 but with certain aspects of the scheme completed sooner. The shipping containers are now on site.</li> <li>○ The Café is being prioritised for completion and will be operated by Newhaven Coffee House, an independent business which will continue to trade on Newhaven High Street.</li> <li>○ LDC are working with SCDA and Newhaven Gig Rowing Club on the other elements of the site including the proposed Active Travel Hub and facilities for the rowing club.</li> <li>○ PSha also shared some images and video footage of the site, putting the work in context. The project manager's details were shared with the Board for any questions or queries.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CD added that she has been in discussions over the branding of the site to promote placemaking, including some super graphics and coverings for containers to promote key assets and projects e.g. Tidemills.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	

	Board agreed to schedule next meeting 21/05/2021 at 3.00pm.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PSha acknowledged ongoing FHSF discussions and that LDC are still awaiting agreement of their revised proposals.</li><li>• DS lead praise for PSha and his teams' efforts and acknowledged the considerable workload with both Lewes and Eastbourne the subject of bid proposals.</li><li>• CK brought the meeting to a close and thanked all for their continued input.</li></ul>	