

Long Term Plan for Towns (LTPfT)

A Better Eastbourne - Town Board Update No. 1 - 7 June 2024

Welcome to our first update. As chair it was a privilege to lead the inaugural meeting of your Town Board on 31st May. Together with the statutory board members, being our MP, P&CC, leader of Eastbourne Council and leader of ESCC, 11 local people have been appointed to the board to steer and provide oversight on behalf of our Town. Everyone appointed has a passion for Eastbourne and we aim to champion our Town at every opportunity.

This meeting enabled us to complete the governance requirements for DLUHC in order that an additional £200,000 capacity funding can be released. With the election process in full swing this money will be delayed until a new Government is formed.

Whilst we await the outcome of the election as a board we will continue our work, organising ourselves into working groups in order to focus on and co-ordinate what we need to do and how we will do it. These groups will include Marketing & Communications, Community Engagement, Strategy & Vision, and Governance & Financial Oversight. The board members will bring their considerable mix of skills, experience and insight to the work of these groups and ensure that suitable resources are deployed to deliver for Eastbourne.

Community engagement is at the heart of the board's aim and our 10 year vision and initial 3 year investment plan must be clear how the views, stories, ideas and projects put forward by our communities has shaped and the influenced the prioritised interventions. These interventions will be across 3 Investment Themes:

- Theme 1: Safety and Security
- Theme 2: High streets, heritage and regeneration
- Theme 3: Transport and Connectivity

The vision and initial investment plan must be submitted by 1st November 2024. Between now and then we have to capture the thoughts, feelings and ideas from as many people and groups in the town as possible. This is both exciting and a challenge. Over the course of the next few weeks we will prepare a timetable of engagement activities across all the Town's Wards, the business, community and charitable associations, schools and higher education, and young peoples' groups and clubs. Everyone should be given an opportunity to be heard.

To achieve the outcomes required over the next 4/5 months means we will have to work fast and efficiently. It will be hard work to achieve what we have to achieve as a Town in such a short period of time. However, by the end of this calendar year we hope to be able to move to the intervention phase when the monies will be made available to begin the projects and ideas that will shape our Town.

This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of what we hope will be investments in the people, our communities, the buildings and natural environment of our Town, and leave a legacy of social and environmental impacts. Opportunities to heal, fix and change, to make our Town somewhere people and businesses want to invest and create new jobs, all for a better Eastbourne.

I hope you will support and join us.

Richard

Chair, Eastbourne Town Board