

City of Preston Town Fund Board

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15 May 2023

Present: Mr J Chesworth in the Chair; R Connor, Vice Chair; Councillors Brown and Borrow, Ms A Parkinson, Ms J Anthony, Mr P Evans, Mr P Thomas, M Close and Mr A Phillips

Also in attendance: Councillor

Mr M Flemming	–	TIG
Mr M Cowburn	–	
Mr C Blackburn	–	Assistant Director (Head of City Growth and Regeneration)
Ms Palmer	–	Regeneration Manager
Mr Z Bapu	–	Senior Member Services Officer

Apologies: Councillor Mr R Binns

CD62 Chairs Announcements

The Chair reported that Anne-Marie Parkinson had left the Board in her capacity as the LEP representative however he had asked her to continue on the Board in her new role which she has agreed to do.

CD63 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

CD64 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting was confirmed as an accurate record.

CD65 Towns Fund Board Implementation Report and Communications Update

Mr M Cowburn provided an update on Implementation of the Towns Fund projects and a general update on the Towns Fund work programme. Updates were provided in respect of the current status of projects and forthcoming milestones. Mr Cowburn informed the Board that all projects were progressing well there were no concerns to report. The Amounderness House although slightly delayed in terms of Planning application process there were no concerns as the time would be made up

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during construction phase. In relation to the Educate Preston project it was reported that the mobile option had been progressed and the digital platform had been agreed. It was anticipated that the project will be launched in July. The option to have a base in the city centre was explored however to get the proposed units to EPC standard it would not be viable to run the project. The mobile option allowed a calendar appropriate scheduling of venues to maximise usage.

Communication Update

Jane provided the Board with an update on Communications relating to the Towns Fund Board. The Board was informed about a communications exercise undertaken with young people between October 2021 and March 2022. Discussion sessions were held monthly in collaboration with Uclan, Cardinal Newman College and Preston's College. The Harris Quarter projects that were most relevant to young people were used for the basis of the discussions. The young people who attended were picked by their tutors or careers advisors for promoting civic engagement. Overview of the outcomes of the discussions were shared with the Board.

The Board made the following comments and observations: -

- Disappointment was expressed in respect of the Educate Preston project not having a central location in the City.
- It was suggested that a co-ordinated strategic approach should be taken to the views of young people.
- The Youth Zone project had already started some of the dialogue needed which had been picked up in the Preston's Youth Voice discussions.
- It was acknowledged that the concerns raised in relation to safety was an issue for everyone not just young people and Lancashire Constabulary were looking at this.
- Impressed with the progress made in relation to Communications.
- There was a request for the outcomes of the Preston's Youth Voice discussions to be shared with colleagues at Uclan.
- The Communications work was welcomed by the Board.

Resolved – That the Board agreed to

- (i) Noted the April Monitoring Updates;
- (ii) Approved the introduction of the LUF M&E Board merging with the Towns Fund TIG and M&E Board
- (iii) Approved the M&E Submission for June.