

KING'S LYNN TOWN DEAL BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Date	22 May 2020	Location	Remotely via Microsoft Teams
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Attendees	Apologies
Michelle Drewery, Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds, Mart Ost, Andrew Stevenson, Andy Walker, Robin Hanley, Alistair Cox, David Pomfret, Hannah Grimes, Thomas Humphries, Sharon Edwards, Lynn Collison, Steven Kilham, Vicky Etheridge, Vince Muspratt, Carly West-Burnham, Brendan Le Grove, Emma Taylor, Mary Scales, Tony Calladine, Simon Morris, Graham Purkins, Lorraine Gore, Jemma Curtis, Duncan Hall, Eleanor Smith	Cllr Brian Long

Minutes	Actions
<p>Aim of the session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Covid-19 recovery planning and proposal to reshape the Town Investment Plan to include recovery and renewal Take stock of work done so far and emerging Town Investment and Renewal Plan content Have short workshop sessions to consider different parts of the plan Agree next steps 	
<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graham Purkins, Chair of the Town Deal Board welcomed everyone and highlighted the impact of Covid-19 would become a prominent feature of the Town Investment Plan. 	
<p>Update on Covid-19 economic response – Lorraine Gore and Emma Taylor, New Anglia LEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorraine outlined the Borough Council's position on Covid-19 economic response. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King's Lynn will want to use funding in the best way to enable recovery – what does this mean for our Towns Fund projects? The council are considering what the easing of lockdown means for West Norfolk's economy Emma reassured Town Board members that the LEP is working closely with businesses and feeding this intelligence to the government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEP is still in 'crisis response' mode, they are looking at recovery plans and the next stage will be moving into the recovery stage. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Efforts will be directed to support businesses back into action, signposting funding and support programmes across the area. This includes recognising gaps in funding and initiatives. o Staff at the LEP receive daily update scripts, this means they operate and offer support in accordance with the most up-to-date intelligence. o Sector councils feed sector-specific thoughts and intelligence to government • Emma reminded the Town Deal Board that this government funding is remains a huge opportunity for King's Lynn. • Patrick reminded members that today's meeting is part of the early stages - local councils are still in response mode, not recovery. 	
<p>Update on Town Investment Plan, including Covid-19 recovery / emerging actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timetable for delivering a Town Investment Plan to government has been revised to reflect impacts of Covid-19. Government have not released any additional information or guidelines, but at present, the King's Lynn Town Deal Board expect to submit a Town Investment Plan by September 2020. • Patrick gave a brief summary on 'what has changed?' as a result of a government-imposed freezing of the economy. This forecast (which is changing daily) offers insight to the scale of economic impact but says little about the 'practicalities of unfreezing' the economy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The government job retention scheme has been extended until October 2020, a significant number of furloughed workers without job security may account for hidden unemployment figures • Patrick provided the headlines of King's Lynn's economic context before discussing the potential immediate impact and possible prolonged impact of Covid-19 on the local economy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This included looking at the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) projections about the impact on sectors in the second quarter of Q2 in terms of King's Lynn and West Norfolk's sectors, their size in Gross Value Added (GVA) terms and GVA growth and the amount of employment, the ability to work from home by sector and occupation. • The board was reminded of the King's Lynn vision and priorities which were shaped during the first board meeting in January 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This still feels like the right direction for King's Lynn and the Town Deal Board, but Covid-19 has meant it's got harder to get there. o A reshaped vision needs to reflect a new reality - reopening, restarting, unemployment, new trends / changed reality, business failures and a different investment appetite. 	
<p>Future High Street Fund link to Town Deal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jemma provided the Town Deal Board with an update on the Future High Street Fund status. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Future High Streets Fund was set up to renew and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that improves experience, drives growth, and ensures future sustainability. The focus of the fund is on helping areas develop long-term strategies to secure their high streets and town centre. o Government has not asked for any additional requirement in light of Covid-19, however applications have been extended, to allow a Covid-19 response. o Government has asked for deliverable projects, which can be completed by 2024. • <u>The Town Deal Board were updated on the FHSF submission</u> • Lorraine invited board members to comment on the FHSF briefing paper (circulated ahead of the meeting) and provide rationale/feedback, as this will inform the council's work. • The Chair asked the Board to confirm their endorsement to the submission. All agreed. 	
<p>Discussion and break-out discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing strategy – short-term action of reintroducing people into the town centre, use of vacant buildings. Ensure a good mix of spaces/uses • Working with retailers to provide a space they can operate from – Can we learn from what's happening elsewhere? e.g. Norwich Castle Mall and The Lanes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Supporting the development of online business models. Improving the opportunity to buy direct from retailers, as lockdown as brought consumer and producer together. • Well-designed response- Vince commented that our response needs to avoid setting up funds which chase the same people. If unemployment schemes are overseen nationally, a focus for local resources must be directed towards reskilling and upskilling the workforce. • An opportunity to reshape when 'reopening' the town centre – habits and expectations of our local economy have changed as a result of the virus, this may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Supporting 'local' – an increased or new willingness to support local, independent businesses. o Quality of life – greater emphasis on the live/work balance, including a focus on building communities, importance of integrating green and blue space into towns, and the experience of the town centre. o Build on King's Lynn's offer. Not restricting this to daytime retail, but extending to living, eating, access to the natural environment, and a cultural offer. (Indoor market suggested) • Digital connectivity – Covid-19 has highlighted the importance of good digital connectivity, for business use and keeping in touch • Changing demand for space – Possible reduction in demand of office space, likely preference for flexible working spaces and flexible terms. Exploring outdoor eating areas, which comply with social distancing measures. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support reopening businesses – the following examples are already being explored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Webinars, Q&A from retail businesses, online resources and training – only as good as the digital connectivity • Active travel – what steps would employers need to take to encourage cycling to work, especially for longer journeys? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Local cycling and walking infrastructure (being produced by Borough Council) • Mobilising the VCS - Their role will be integral to the delivery of a number of health, skills & wellbeing support for the recovery phase but may not have the financial capacity to do so post Covid. 	
<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work responses from today’s breakout sessions and upcoming consultation into a draft Town Investment Plan  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar invite for next board meeting to be sent out 	

