

Minutes of the Chesterfield Long Term Plan for Towns Board

Thursday 6th June 2024, 5:00pm, Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chesterfield

| Board Members: | |
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| Dominic Staniforth, Chair | Barber Harrison and Platt |
| Cllr Amanda Serjeant | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Nicolle Ndiweni | Police and Crime Commissioner |
| Simon Wright | Banner Jones |
| Andrew Kelly | Parkside School |
| Angela Stansfield | Job Centre Plus |
| Juliet Rose | North Derbyshire Voluntary Action |
| Mahmud Nawaz | Chesterfield Royal Hospital Foundation Trust |
| Laura-Jo Owen | Adorn Jewellers |
| Emily Bowman | Junction Arts |
| Officers in support: | |
| Karl Apps | Derbyshire County Council |
| Huw Bowen | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Neil Johnson | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Lynda Sharp | Chesterfield Borough Council |
| Michael Rich | Interim Project Support |
| John Till | Thinking Place |
| Daniel Hall | Police and Crime Commissioner Support Officer |
| Apologies: | |
| Cllr Carolyn Renwick | Derbyshire County Council |
| John Croot | Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust |
| Toby Perkins | MP for Chesterfield |
| Kath Mitchell | University of Derby |
| Jacqui Willis | Derbyshire Voluntary Action |
| Brad E Banks | DHLUC |
| Adam Holmes | DHLUC |
| Julie Richards | Chesterfield College Group |
| Simon Davidson | Cheese Factor |
| Cannon Patrick Coleman | Chesterfield Parish Church |
| Hannah and Matthew Grainger | Bottle and Thyme |
| Liz Wigley | DHLUC |

| Item No | Item | Action (by whom) |
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| 1. | <p>Welcome, apologies and introductions</p> <p>Dominic Staniforth (DS) welcomed all to the meeting. As this is the first meeting some Board members have been able to attend, DS asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Lynda Sharp (LS) updated the Board on apologies received. DS noted that a number of apologies had been received from those representing Government because of the pre-election period.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Minutes of the previous meeting (29.04/24) and matters arising</p> <p>DS asked the Board to confirm that the minutes shared of the Board meeting on 29th April 2024, were a true and accurate record. This was agreed.</p> <p>Actions from the Board meeting on the 29th April 2024 were reviewed. All actions have been delivered and there were no matters arising.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>DS asked the Board to advise of any known conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Emily Bowman (EB) and Juliet Rose (JR) both confirmed that they are working with Thinking Place to deliver some of the engagement activity to support the development of the Vision.</p> <p>DS advised that almost all of the Declarations of Interest forms circulated to the Board following the last meeting had been completed and returned to Lynda Sharp for retention in line with the governance arrangements for the Board. Some are still outstanding. Those Board Members are asked to return forms as soon as possible.</p> | |

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| | <p>Action 1 Outstanding Declaration of Interest forms to be forwarded to Lynda Sharp.</p> | All |
| 4. | <p>Context for Investment</p> <p>Huw Bowen (HB) presented to the Board. He advised that he wanted to share with the Board details of what is already happening in Chesterfield in terms of regeneration and investment, alongside highlighting the key challenges and opportunities, as he sees them, within the Town. He hopes that providing the wider context that the Board will be better informed when it comes to making decisions on how to invest the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding (LTPT).</p> <p>Following the presentation, DS invited comments and questions from the Board:</p> <p>Karl Apps (KA) advised that the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMCCA) has appointed a Commissioner for Active Travel. KA suggested that it might be appropriate to invite the Commissioner to a future meeting.</p> <p>DS queried the type of challenges that would prevent buildings like the Victoria Centre being redeveloped. HB advised that the owners had undertaken some improvement works to the historic facades. Key challenges for properties within the town include the viability of redevelopment given relatively low values and the large footprint of many units that are much less attractive now to potential occupiers.</p> <p>Angela Stansfield (AS) asked whether we are able as a Board to select the amount of spend allocated to the LTPT themes. For example, if a lot of funding is already allocated to improving transport and connectivity by partners through initiatives like the Bus Service Improvement Plan, should we focus funds on the other priorities, where the funding could have greater impact.</p> | |

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| | <p>HB confirmed that it would be up to the Board to determine how funding is spent. However, he felt sure Government would like to see some spend against all of the priorities. It wouldn't have to be equal and would be better if balanced against what the Board thinks Chesterfield needs. HB also suggested where there is spend from other sources to support the priorities of LTPT, funding could be used to enhance and add value. For example, on community safety, what would be the "extra" to take us beyond the level core funding could deliver.</p> <p>Action2 Slides from presentation to be shared following the meeting.</p> | LS |
| 5. | <p>Developing a Vision: Update</p> <p>John Till (JT) from Thinking Place presented an update on the engagement activity they have been commissioned to deliver. He advised that good progress is being made with a number of one-to-one meetings held, others scheduled, and engagement planned with wider stakeholder groups.</p> <p>JT advised that an online survey was live and will be promoted. It has been live for a day and already over 100 responses received. Board Members are asked to share the details of the survey within their own networks.</p> <p>Action 3 Board Members to share the survey within their networks.</p> <p>Action 4 Slides from presentation to be shared following the meeting.</p> <p>Following the presentation, DS invited the Board to ask questions/engage in further discussion:</p> | ALL LS |

Laura Jo Owen (LJO), asked whether younger people have been engaged as part of the process? JT responded that this was being planned with Parkside School, but the plans were yet to be finalised. Andrew Kelly (AK) advised that this has progressed but he is awaiting diary confirmation from Thinking Place. He reiterated the importance of engaging young people. EB offered to support any engagement planned via Junction Arts.

KA commented that when we get to developing the vision that we need to be clear that we can be considered uniquely Chesterfield – differentiated from other places. JT noted this comment and confirmed that this was what Thinking Place were working towards.

DS confirmed if the results of the online engagement would be available for the next Board meeting? JT confirmed that this was the plan. The consultation closes at the end of June to allow analysis prior to the next Board meeting.

Nicolle Ndwieni (NN) asked what inward investment sectors Chesterfield was targeting. HB advised that this activity is picked up by Destination Chesterfield, but that Chesterfield seeks to target visitor economy businesses, green growth, advanced manufacturing and rail. The Town also has a strong health sector.

NN asked about heritage buildings within the Town and queried if any were vacant. She highlighted that £20 million isn't a great deal of money and that there might be alternative funding available to tackle some of the empty heritage assets. HB confirmed that there is a mix of heritage assets/non heritage assets that are empty. These properties sit in various ownerships with plans for some to be improved, others not. HB advised that the issue is also the end use of such buildings. If there is capital funding available to fund the investment the end-use needs to be sustainable from an operational perspective.

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| | <p>Neil Johnson (NJ) advised that in addition to sectors, Chesterfield needs to focus efforts on securing more quality/higher paid jobs in the Borough. NJ added that we also need to attract more people to visit the Town Centre. He stated that currently an average of 9% of the catchment area visits the Town Centre regularly. This could be improved to 13% of catchment (in line with the average for similar places). In addition, we should be targeted at attracting a wider demographic.</p> <p>Juliet Grace (JC) reiterated the importance of engaging young people in the development of the vision, highlighting that in her view, the Long-Term Plan for Towns Board is creating a space for their future.</p> <p>Mahmud Nawaz (NW) queried whether research had been undertaken on what the barriers are for people coming into the Town Centre. He advised that people often state car parking to be a barrier. In addition, he highlighted the opportunities around the recent football success and encouraging linked trips for visitors to the Town.</p> <p>HB noted that work has been done on barriers and challenges. Recent events such as the 1940s market show that when there is an attractive offer, high levels of visitors can be generated and issues such as parking do not appear to be preventing this.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Documents for submission:</p> <p>A draft vision outline document was shared with the Board for information purposes. This was noted by the Board.</p> <p>A paper outlining Investment Plan principles was shared. DS asked that the Board approves this document and of note, the principles listed in Section 5. This was agreed.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Approach to communications:</p> <p>HB advised that the pre- election period limits the type of communication we would normally seek to do for a</p> | |

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| | <p>programme of this type at this stage. When we get beyond the pre-election period, we will seek to engage in wider comms activity. A communications plan will be developed for consideration of the Board. In addition, a website has been developed for the Long Term for Towns that is being hosted via the Chesterfield Borough Council website. DS enquired whether the website could be hosted externally. HB advised that this was being hosted by CBC temporarily and it could be separated if the Board wish to do so. He shared the experience of Staveley Town Deal Board and advised that the creation of a Communications and Engagement Subgroup had proved to be effective. He advised that the Staveley Town Deal Board has its own logo, and this was helpful at differentiating the Board from the Council.</p> <p>DS asked AK if Parkside School would be able to ask children to develop a logo. AK confirmed that they would be able to assist and that the children would enjoy this.</p> <p>Action: Parkside School to work with CBC to engage in a logo design competition</p> <p>MN advised that he had queried within NHS whether he could share the online survey with staff at the hospital. He had been advised that he was unable to do so because of the pre-election period. Whilst disappointing, as residents some may independently pick up the survey. Long term, MN offered the support of the Hospital PR and Comms team in delivering engagement and comms.</p> <p>LJO enquired whether engagement would include seeking views of groups such as Chesterfield LGBT groups. LS confirmed that a session had been set up by Thinking Place targeting equalities groups.</p> | LS |
| 8. | <p>Any other business:</p> <p>No business was raised.</p> | |