

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
DARLINGTON TOWN DEAL BOARD

Date: 27 January 2020

Present:

Councillor Heather Scott
Paul Wildsmith
Ian Williams
Kate Roe
Alison Fellows
Michael Houghton
Julie Wallin
Sarah Hackett
Adrian Green
Yvonne Richardson

Apologies:

Peter Gibson MP
Jake Tompkins

Officer Completing Log: Ian Williams

No: DISCUSSION/AGREED OUTCOMES

1. Councillor Scott opened the meeting by thanking everyone for agreeing to be on the Board and for their contribution to the preparation of the bid to the Government is Town Fund.
2. Councillor Scott invited Paul Wildsmith to chair the inaugural meeting.
3. Terms of Reference that were previously circulated were discussed and agreed. It was anticipated that as key workstreams progress, email exchanges, and where appropriate, additional meetings would take place, but that the full board would meet, circa three times a year initially to oversee and agree bid, then agree execution thereafter.
4. Ian Williams then delivered a PowerPoint presentation (circulated to all members later) in which he ran through:-
 - i) Objectives of the Town Fund, and key facts
 - ii) Likely programme and timeframe
 - iii) Early thoughts on possible elements to include in the Bid
5. The meeting heard that Darlington has been identified by Government as one of 100 Towns to benefit from up to £25m from the £3.6bn Towns Fund Programme. Three more objectives were considered to be:-
 - i) Urban regeneration
 - ii) Skills and enterprise
 - iii) Connectivity

No: DISCUSSION/AGREED OUTCOMES

The Town Board would be responsible for guiding and overseeing the preparation of a Town Investment Plan and be evidenced based and act as a catalyst for other private and public spending.

6. Ian Williams outlined some key issues that faced Darlington and areas that were in line for regeneration and public investment including key initiatives effecting the Town Centre, Bank Top and North Road area.

Some early thoughts of how the Towns Fund would be deployed were discussed including stimulating regeneration in some key gateways that would complement planned investments in Bank Top, North Road, Head of Steam and the Town Centre.

The plans for Bank Top and Head of Steam were highlighted along with some examples to consider on the main arterial roads.

7. Several photographs of the area were highlighted and there was general consensus that the focus of the Bid should be Bank Top, Town Centre and North Road; wards that were in the more deprived lists.
8. Discussion by Board members followed including consideration of community cohesion and capacity building, skills development and infrastructure improvements such as 5g.
9. It was agreed that Board members would reflect on the presentation and respond with any further thoughts. In the meantime, the Council would look to bring in some additional officer capacity to help scope up the bid and also to consider how best to energise the next stage of work.
10. You will be notified of the future meeting schedule in due course.