

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
DARLINGTON TOWN DEAL BOARD

Date: 1 July 2020

Present: (Teams Meeting)

Councillor Heather Scott
Paul Wildsmith
Ian Williams
Kate Roe
Alison Fellows
Peter Gibson MP
David Robinson
Yvonne Richardson
Mark Ladyman
Chris Mains

Apologies:

Jake Tompkins
Michael Houghton
Adrian Green
Julie Wallin

Officer Completing Log: Chris Mains

No:	DISCUSSION/AGREED OUTCOMES
1.	Councillor Scott opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for their contribution to the preparation of the bid to the Governments Town Fund.
2.	Paul Wildsmith and Ian Williams provided a brief update on the overall position.
3.	Mark Ladyman and Chris Mains then delivered a PowerPoint presentation, which had been circulated to members in advance. i) Overview of Town Fund. ii) New Towns Fund Guidance issued in June 2020 and proposal to submit the Town Investment Plan on 31 st July 2020, which was agreed. iii) Thoughts on possible elements to include in the Bid.

4.	<p>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.</p> <p>Three objectives were considered to be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Urban regeneration ii) Skills and enterprise iii) Connectivity
5.	<p>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.</p>
6.	<p>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.</p>
7.	<p>Some 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.</p>
8.	<p>The plans for Bank Top and Head of Steam were highlighted along with some examples to consider on the main arterial roads.</p>
9.	<p>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.</p>
10.	<p>Discussion by Board members followed including consideration of community cohesion and capacity building, skills development and infrastructure improvements such as 5G.</p>
11.	<p>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 develop the bid and also to consider how best to energise the next stage of work.</p>
12.	<p>You will be notified of the future meeting schedule in due course.</p>