

## **Dudley Town Board**

**Board meeting no.3 - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology  
Zoological Drive, Dudley, DY1 4AL**

### **Attendees:**

Neil Thomas - Dudley College of Technology (Chair)  
Anthony Tagg – Chief Superintendent, Local Policing Area Commander  
Jacquie Carman - Halesowen College  
Hayley Andrews - West Midlands Historic Building Trust  
Adam Bradley - Priory Community Centre  
Traci Dix Williams - Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust  
Paul Crofts - Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust  
Mark Price - Provision House  
Diane Shaw - Dudley Town Centre Partnership  
Cllr Paul Bradley  
Cllr Shaukat Ali  
Sonia Kumar MP  
Cat Eccles MP  
Andy Gray – DCVS (via Teams)

### **Observers:**

Helen Martin, Emma Atkins – DMBC

### **Presenters:**

Adam Westwood – DMBC: Towns Fund  
Lorna Prescott – DCVS: Urban Rooms

### **Apologies**

Gemma Edwards - Black Country Chamber  
Amanda Tomlinson - Black Country Housing  
Angela Edwards - High Oak Youth and Community Centre  
Tom Burton – WMCA (observer) – *noted as leaving WMCA and unlikely to be replaced at this time*  
Jas Dolphin – MHCLG (observer) – *noted change of resourcing and only likely to attend if particular issues are arising*

Agenda item	Key Information	Actions	Timescale
1. Welcome	Neil Thomas welcomed everyone and invited introductions from those present.		
2. Notes and actions from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete and return declarations of interest and biogs</b> to be compliant with Government requirements. Noted that most have been returned by some still outstanding. Need to be returned before the next meeting to retain seat on the board.</li> <li>• <b>Board to be advised when more about LTPfT known</b> – item on the agenda</li> <li>• <b>Engaging with ward Cllrs on LTPfT to share information and support public consultation</b> – Ward Cllrs updated on position 29<sup>th</sup> Oct which was prior to budget announcement. Information post budget announcement to be shared and continue as part of regular briefings and engagement.</li> <li>• <b>Circulate papers from the last meeting</b> complete</li> <li>• <b>Board members to provide comments on the investment plan papers</b> – none received</li> </ul>	EA to email those with declarations and biogs missing directly for return.	Prior to next Board meeting
3. Headlines from the Budget / Update on Long Term Plan for Towns	<p>EA presented a summary of the email confirming LTPfT is to be repackaged and continue and other budget headlines.</p> <p>Board agreed announcement was positive and reaffirmed their commitment to public engagement and grassroots activity, and their role in facilitating this.</p> <p>Questions regarding UKSPF funding – values, contracts and programme continuation. Noted continuation funding announced but at a reduced level, further information to follow as detail not yet known.</p>		

<p>4. Towns Fund overview and monitoring return</p>	<p>Adam Westwood attended for this item and presented an overview of the Towns Fund project and the current draft monitoring return.</p> <p>The Board raised and discussed questions relating to finances, outputs and availability of placements for students.</p> <p>In relation to the monitoring return there was discussion about the operating costs which were confirmed as being the College's responsibility and outside the monitoring return. Request to better understand these at a future opportunity.</p> <p>Board supported the Chair signing the monitoring return.</p>		
<p>5. Urban Rooms presentation</p>	<p>Lorna Prescott attended for this item and provided a background to her work and the current Urban Rooms collective learning enquiry.</p> <p>The relationship with the community engagement focus of LTPfT was noted and the Chair encouraged board members to promote and support the Urban Room project.</p>	<p>Lorna to share social media content which can be shared and promoted by the Board.</p>	<p>Following the meeting</p>
<p>6. Dudley Town Centre project highlight report</p>	<p>EA presented the paper by exception noting that the position re: LTPfT has changed since it was circulated.</p> <p>The Board showed particular interest in understanding the Eton/Star Academies project in the context of the funding review / availability and understanding of demand for the college.</p>	<p>Eton/Star academies project to be a future agenda item.</p> <p>Dudley Market and Interchange were noted as projects there was interest in taking a deeper dive into on future agendas.</p>	<p>Future meeting</p>

7. Governance update	EA presented a brief overview of refreshed governance in the context of the Economic Regeneration Strategy and Place Based Strategy which highlighted the role of Town Boards and a new Placemaking Board. Further information to follow.		
8. AOB	Diane Shaw drew the Board's attention to the Christmas market to be held in the town on 14/12 and opportunities for involvement/sponsorship. Details to be circulated.		