

DUMFRIES TOWN BOARD

Meeting of 26 August 2024
4pm @ SPEN Offices Dumfries

PRESENT

Richie Nicholl – Town Board Chair
Tom McAuchtrie – Town Board Vice Chair
Kenny Bowie – Chamber of Commerce
John Caskie – Guid Nychbarris
Anne-Marie Coulter – Summerhill Community Centre
John Dowson
Jamie Milligan – The Swan
Campbell Young – SOSE
Duncan Cameron – Police Scotland
Councillor David Slater

Council Officers

Stuart McMillan – Strategic Economic Investment Manager

Observers/Guests

None

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the 7th meeting of the Dumfries Town Board.

2 Apologies

Billy Currie – D&G College
Supt Nicola Robison – Police Scotland
Lisa Callander Bone – Include Us
Councillor Maureen Johnstone
Julie Langland – The Bust Stop

3 Minute of meeting 16th July 2024

The minute of the previous meeting was agreed.

4 Matters arising

No matters arising and all actions from the previous meeting will be updated during this meeting.

5 DTB Report

DTB Update

The D&G Town Board Report was submitted as per timescale – 1st August 2024. Once further correspondence is received will action as appropriate.

We await an update from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government responsible for the Levelling Up Fund and will then plan around this.

The Leader of Dumfries & Galloway Council has also written to both Angela Rayner MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Ian Murray MP, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Engagement Report & Publication Agreement

Our internal report detailing responses gained along with our data gathering was concluded and circulated. The Board agreed that we would circulate a summary along with an updated statement from the Board in an attempt to keep communications current.

6 Finances

DG Chamber had been sent grant letter from D&G Council for community engagement and survey (£20k) and Secretariat services (£20k). In process of providing supporting information to conclude grant.

Invoices totalling £23,500 had been submitted and paid by DG Chamber to date with a further £1,500 planned for presentation of this data. The Board agreed to increase the projected costs for community and engagement to £25,000 and requested that the grant agreement with DG Chamber be varied for that purpose.

Action: KB/SMcM

7 Complaints Process

The Draft complaints process was circulated prior to the meeting and all board members were reminded the need to follow the process and be mindful when representing the Board.

Action: All

A couple of points raised by JD about positioning of the Board in relation to the document. JD to confirm with SMcM for clarification and further guidance to be provided to the Board.

Action: JD/SMcM

7 Secretariat

The role of secretariat is currently being advertised and there has been a healthy response. It is intended to run the position till mid-September and complete interviews with KB and RM thereafter. Will provide a full update at the next meeting.

Action KB

8 Town Centre Premises

The premises at 109 High St are still a valuable asset for the Town Board. Will keep the premises going till end of September.

Will also make use of the shop to promote the feedback from our data gathering survey for the last few weeks.

Action KB

The Hub

RN/KB/AMcC recently met with the trustees of the Hub to understand and review the facilities that could be available to the town board. The facilities and trust is centred around Business and Public involvement and is closely aligned to the Town Board. The group will review the offering further and report back at the next meeting.

Action RN/KB/AMcC

Operating arrangements that the Town Board could operate to for this or any other premises would need to be determined and assessed. In addition if the Town Board were to sublease would need to understand how this could work

Action SMcM

9 Web and social media Set Up

Every Last Pixel - Contracts have been signed and invoicing organised so due to start work on our web site on 22nd July. Groundwork ongoing till then. TB emails have also been set up.

Action LCB

10 Town Board Office – rota and volunteers

Agreed to keep the Town Board Office available till end of September to allow the Public access to Town Board members to discuss any issues and feedback on the consultation. RM would also arrange a specific date for a drop in session and open up to everyone. Town Board Members are encouraged to volunteer and spend some time during the opening hours 10am till 2pm Wed, Thurs, Fri. Rota to be set up.

Action All

A short presentation detailing the feedback from the consultation should be made available. NMc to be contacted to produce. It would then be shared via the screen in the High St.

Action RN/KB

11 College Town Works

The local college run a lot of training programmes and apprenticeships relating to civil works. TB working in partnership with the college could look to use students practise these practical skills i.e. painting etc. Something to be looked into further. SMcM offered to advise, from his experience of similar schemes elsewhere, on how this could be organised and structured.

Action BC/SMcM

12 Next steps

Agreed next steps and action points (for note)

- Await Feedback from UK Gov regarding next steps
- Further work to clean up the document and create a presentation that can be shared.
- E-mails ready to go live and should be implemented.
- Coordinate with SOSE Youth forum regards input to TB

12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 4pm on Monday 7th October at SPEN Offices, Leafield Road and online via MS Teams.