

Long Term Plan for Towns (LTPft).

Unlocking Our Potential - Town Board Update No. 2 - 07 July 2024

The board continues to work towards its aims regardless of the outcome of the general election and change of government last week. Whilst we do not yet know what the implications of our new government will be with regards the £20m funding, we will work closely with our new Liberal Democratic MP Josh Babarinde to lobby for its delivery. I know Josh is supporter of the funding and what it can bring to our Town in terms of investment, social change and economic growth.

Following our inaugural meeting at the end of May, we divided up into working groups in order to be able to deal with specific actions in smaller more effective clusters. There is a graphic attached which shows the 4 working groups and actions/ aims from July through to October. We will be updating this timeline and whilst this is a big ask for a group only formed less than 6 weeks ago, our determination to deliver the investment plan is unwavering.

The Strategy, Engagement and Communications working groups have all met, either online or face to face, and the leads provided a summary feedback to the full board on 28th June. Minutes and actions of this board meeting are available on this webpage for you to look at. The principal focus is on engagement and communications and we hope to have a social media presence over the next few weeks, once we are confident the funding is secured from the new Labour Government.

We continue to engage directly with a number of people and organisations and I have been able to connect, meet and discuss our plans in more detail with the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Eastbourne Foodbank, Citizens Advice, GP Surgeries, Eastbourne Borough FC and a number of local business leaders. I have also arranged to meet with the respective Chairs of the Hastings and Bexhill on-Sea Town Boards so that we can share updates, ideas, learning and possible cross borough investment, particularly when it comes to safety and security and transport and connectivity.

The board will support the Council's Seafront Strategy engagement programme, due to begin this month.

Our next steps will include welcoming our new MP and bringing them up to speed with our work. In addition, we shall aim to have an engagement programme that will provide us with further ideas and evidence for investment in the intervention themes.

A reminder of the interventions across 3 Investment Themes:

- Theme 1: Safety and Security
- Theme 2: High streets, heritage and regeneration
- Theme 3: Transport and Connectivity

Please continue to support your Town Board and let us know your thoughts through the email address provided.

Richard

Chair, Eastbourne Town Board