



Spennymoor Town Board

Date Wednesday 10 July 2024
Time 3.00 pm
Venue Livin', Farrell House, A2 Arlington Way, Spennymoor,
DL16 6NL - Meeting Room

Business

- 1 Chair's Welcome / Introductions
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 5 June 2024 (Pages 3 - 8)
- 5 Update from the Visioning Workshop Session held on 1 July 2024
- 6 Programme Update: (Pages 9 - 16)
 - a) Vision / Logic Chain
 - b) Submission Requirements
 - c) Feedback from Working Groups
 - d) Project Longlist / Prioritisation Process
 - e) Investment Plan Profile
- 7 Any Other Business
- 8 Date of Next Meeting - suggest additional Teams meeting prior to submission

Helen Bradley
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
3 July 2024

To: **The Members of the Spennymoor Town Board:**

J Allen, A Boddy (Chair), D Davison, I Geldard, B Graham, A Harhoff,
L Maddison, D Ranyard, E Scott, D Stone and Revd Canon M Tarling

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Spennymoor Town Board** held at Whitworth Park Academy, Whitworth Lane, Spennymoor on **Wednesday 05 June 2024 at 3.30 pm**

Present:

A Boddy, Chief Executive Livin' (Chair)

Board Members:

J Allen	County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner
Councillor E Scott	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships, DCC
Councillor L Maddison	Local Member, DCC
Councillor D Ranyard	Spennymoor Town Council
I Geldard	Spennymoor Town FC
D Stone	Whitworth Park Academy
B Graham	Community Representative

Officers:

G Wood	Economic Development Manager, DCC
J Anson	Community Economic Development Manager, DCC
K Monaghan	Project Manager, DCC
S Oliver	Urban Foresight (Consultant)

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from D Davison, A Harhoff, A Kerr and Revd Canon M Tarling.

1 **Chair Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second Spennymoor Town Board meeting and introductions were made.

Prior to the meeting commencing the Chair thanked the Economic Development Manager and his team for all the support and hard work they had undertaken to establish the Spennymoor Town Board.

The Chair mentioned that he had been invited to Downing Street to meet with the Minister Jacob Young for an update on the government's Long-Term Plan for Towns. At the meeting Adam Hawksbee, the Government's appointed Town Tsar had suggested that the Spennymoor Town Board should be renamed as it was too officious and there was a need to identify across the whole town to emphasis working together. It was suggested that Board Members think of any suitable names. The Community Economic Development Manager agreed to take this forward.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

It was noted that all declaration of interest forms had been completed.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising

The Economic Development Manager updated the Board that a more definitive map of Spennymoor requested by Councillor L Maddison would be circulated when the graphics had been checked.

The Economic Development Manager confirmed that a definitive response was being awaited from the Deputy Monitoring Officer in relation to the circulation of information. He would ensure that the Town Council Clerk was copied into any papers for the Spennymoor Town Board. The Board were required to sign the Terms of Reference to ensure a single message was portrayed across the town. He agreed that the decision note would be circulated with any actions that were needed to be closed off following the meeting.

5 Programme Update

The Board considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration Economy and Growth which provided a progress update of the consultation period for the Long-Term Plan for Towns Programme (LTPT) and set out the activities initiated and consultation feedback to ensure a Town vision and accompanying 3 Year investment plan could be submitted to Government by 1 August 2024 (for copy see file of minutes).

The County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner mentioned that she was also a member of the Darlington Town Board which may be helpful for information sharing. The Chair revealed that a survey had been carried out by Zen City across different towns. The results were expected to be published on 20 June 2024 and may be useful for the Spennymoor Town Board's consultation programme.

The Economic Development Manager provided a detailed presentation which focused on the governance structure for the Spennymoor Town Board for when the submission was made on 1st August 2024, how the money would be spent and how to identify future investment. He highlighted that there would be three working groups:

- i) Transport and Connectivity;
- ii) High Street, Heritage and Regeneration; and
- iii) Safety and Security

The working groups would pull together ideas that would feed into the investment plan. They would run a month in advance of, and feed into board meetings. The Project Manager would sit on all three working groups and the DCC Technical Officer Group would consider any issues arising from the three working groups. The working groups aimed to identify projects to link together to distinguish what other people did to establish what could be improved for quick wins before the submission deadline. The importance of obtaining feedback from the working groups to show what was being done and respond to what had been raised by people in the town was noted.

The County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner mentioned that the next police and crime panel would look at heritage and cultural crime. The office dealt with issues that included off road bikes, road safety, and drink driving campaigns. They were also involved in a national campaign that dealt with drug abuse by drivers which led to offenders having their licenses confiscated and vehicles seized. This linked into ongoing work around young people who used nitro oxide (laughing gas) and the risk of vapes that had been adulterated with synthetic drugs and naloxone for drug overdoses. They wanted more involvement with children and young people and funded a Friday night club to divert young people away from negative activity.

The Chair suggested that a scoping exercise be carried out to create a stakeholder map of activities, who had similar interests, what influence they had and any decision makers identified to share information. The Community Economic Development Manager commented that this work had already commenced and agreed to link in with the County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to seek working group representation from the police for the working groups. It was also suggested that a subgroup be established for young people to share their views that could be incorporated into the business statement to provide for a holistic view on regeneration.

The Economic Development Manager added that further programme guidance for the LTPT had been published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in May 2024 in relation to the submission on 1 August 2024 reaffirmed a co design alignment along with a ten year vision and three year investment plan.

There was still no template available for the investment plan and DLUHC had encouraged the use of diagrams, graphs, logic chains and a summary in the submission rather than words. There was clarity on the way the government would sign off on the programme for spending the money that needed to be demonstrated with evidence.

The Chair advocated for a clear vision to be established that could be used to look at how the town could be changed to encourage other businesses to set up in Spennymoor to provide a more diverse shopping offer. There was a requirement to reduce the vacancy rate as low as possible and support established businesses to increase sustainability. There was a need to change the perception of Spennymoor's reputation to be a great place to visit, building on the family fun day that had been a huge success in bringing people into the town. It was suggested that specialist markets and events could be introduced which could become a legacy like Bishop Auckland Food Festival. It was proposed that potential subsidies could be given to the private sector to make it financially viable to encourage further investment to increase money for the town.

Resolved:

That the progress with consultation and engagement events to underpin the LTPT programme submission be noted.

6 Communications

The Economic Development Manager acknowledged that the Board was limited as to what could be communicated due to the upcoming elections in July 2024. However consultation events to establish public engagement had already taken place. These included a family fun day, on street engagement, engagement with children from the primary school and Whitworth Park Academy, business drop ins and various community engagement events in community venues and the leisure centre and online surveys.

7 Forward Plan Dates / Focus for Board and Working Group Meetings

The Economic Development Manager gave details of future working group meetings dates and it was agreed to invite police representatives on to each of the working groups. He added that the working groups were open to anyone who could provide further support.

8 Feedback from Consultation and Co Design Sessions - A Vision for Spennymoor 2034

The Urban Foresight Consultant gave a detailed presentation that highlighted feedback from the consultation exercises and Co design sessions. He gave a summary of the results of the engagement activity carried out with businesses, the community, youths and the primary school.

It was suggested that the consultant engaged with members of the Spennymoor Town Council Facebook group as this voiced concerns and issues of the community that set the perception of Spennymoor. There were negative comments, however, it was noted that if issues were not reported then no action could be taken. Engagement was vital in terms of showing the community that their views were being listened to.

Discussion took place around the activities referred to in the youth engagement. It was highlighted that leisure centres, 3G football pitches, various sports and youth clubs were already on offer. It was observed that these offers were not being accessed to their full potential due to financial constraints for families in areas of high deprivation, lack of awareness or the lack of confidence in either the young person or parent to sign up to activities. It was mentioned that people were unaware that there was a train station within the town centre that provided transport links to larger towns and cities. It was agreed that sign posting was very important and both young people and the elderly community should be included. It was suggested that all activities should be mapped out of where people could go.

The Board agreed that work was required around people's perception of safety to help them feel safer in the town centre. The County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner noted that work was ongoing with Durham County Council around CCTV to address anti-social behaviour issues in the town centre which impacted on the perception of the town. Cameras were more advanced to allow Inspectors to log into them on their mobile phones. All incidents were required to be reported for the police to identify hotspots and direct the relevant resources. She added that there was to be a soft launch of a new reporting mechanism to help residents report crime that allowed them to download video footage. Once the system was tested it would be rolled out. This would generate more intelligence to be acted upon. It was suggested that local newspapers like the Spennymoor News could be used to distribute information.

The Urban Foresight Consultant stated that a full report on the survey was due with a full analysis that included a SWOT analysis along with recommendations as to where investment could be made.

9 Visioning Workshop

This item was not discussed due to time constraints of the meeting but it was agreed that the Urban Foresight Consultant would develop a suggested vision statement to be discussed at the visioning workshop.

10 Any Other Business

There was no further business discussed.

11 Date of Next Meeting

10 July 2024 at 3.00 pm.

Spennymoor Town Board10th July 2024**Programme Update****Report of****Amy Harhoff Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth****Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The Purpose of this report is to
 - (a) provide Board members with a progress update of the initial project submission following the consultation period for the Long-Term Plan for Towns Programme and
 - (b) to confirm the vision statement to accompany the 3 Year investment plan due for submission to Government by 1 August 2024
 - (c) to confirm the project prioritisation tool for project interventions within the Spennymoor Town Board

Background

- 2 The Long-Term Plan for Towns was announced as an endowment-style approach. This means that funding, of approximately £20million, will be released against a profile to the Accountable body and the Board has the flexibility to spend it over 10 years.
- 3 The Fund will be a mixture of capital and revenue, including capacity funding to support the set-up and ongoing management of the fund by the council, as well as support provided centrally from Government.
- 4 To access their allocation, each Town is being asked to submit a Long-Term Plan to Government, for approval. This will comprise of a 10-year vision and 3-year investment plan required by 1 August 2024. The Programme update report to June's Board meeting identified the section headings for the vision document. To date a pro-forma template for setting out the investment plan breakdown has not been received.
- 5 The consultation period ended 31st May 2024 and via the consultation results and working group meetings several initial projects have been identified and will go through a project prioritisation process.

To assist with the submission a town vision has been discussed in recent workshops. This is *“Spennymoor will unlock its full potential as a premier destination to live, work, and visit. It will become a vibrant and inclusive town, boasting a thriving economy, a strong sense of community, and an exceptional quality of life for all residents”*

- 6 It is proposed this vision statement will be incorporated into a logic chain model demonstrating the link between key data outlining issues across Spennymoor and how the vision and associated mission statements for each of the thematic programme areas will help deliver change and the necessary outcomes.

Governance - structures

- 7 Technical officer and working group meetings have continued to take place in line with programme guidance to identify and align current and planned activity across the LTPT area.
- 8 The funding is directed at three investment themes, and in line with previous Board discussions, working groups have continued to identify issues to assist in creating a resilient town for people and investment attached as well as identifying potential projects across the three themes.
- 9 High Street, Heritage and Regeneration , Safety and Security and Transport and Connectivity working groups have been drawing upon available data, consultation feedback and local knowledge to design/develop interventions in support of the emerging vision.
- 10 Working groups have highlighted issues within their specialist areas to make Spennymoor and vibrant and inclusive as it can be in line with the vision statement and also of the consultation summary.
- 11 The final element of Board recruitment – Business representatives, was paused once we entered the Pre Election Period. This will now recommence with interested parties to be invited to discuss their participation / potential contributions with the Chair and secretariat.

Submission

- 12 Urban Foresight have collated the consultation feedback and provided a consultation report to provide further clarity provided for the 1st August submission.
- 13 There is no formal template for submission, however the document is expected to follow the structure set out in guidance. Towns are being encouraged to make use of diagrams, maps, and charts to support the narrative and may make use of relevant sub-headings where required.

- 14 From an analysis of all available town data, including that provided by the DLUHC, and from the results of the community engagement work, a SWOT analysis has been undertaken to help the Town Board inform the long-term town plan for Spennymoor
- 15 The Guidance builds on previous documentation setting out in more detail the 'on menu interventions (set out in Appendix 2) already tested and accepted by DLUHC as providing good value for money. Investment plans containing Interventions from the on-menu list will receive more rapid assessment.
- 16 From an analysis of all available town data, including that provided by the DLUHC, and from the results of the community engagement work, a SWOT analysis has been undertaken to help the Town Board inform the long-term town plan for Spennymoor.
- 17 Investment will then be prioritised across the three Themes and Intervention Categories which will be included in the investment Plan based on the feedback results of community engagement. To assist with this a project prioritisation tool has been implemented to assist with projects to be brought forward. The tool utilises costs, geography, vision strategy, "on menu and timescales amongst other scoring criteria in order to see whether or not they come forward as an intervention and if so the year in which this occurs
- 18 To assist with the submission a project prioritisation tool will be implemented as well as a Spennymoor Town logic chain .

Face To Face Consultation Feedback Programme

- 19 Commencing 6th July officers will be available across several community venues in the town to discuss the LTPT consultation programme results and advise where potential interventions may be explored.
- 20 Co Design Consultants, Urban Foresight were appointed to enhance the engagement and development of priority interventions. A further programme of community and Stakeholder feedback sessions are to be held at:
 - Spennymoor Gala , Jubilee Park ,Saturday 6th July 1:00pm- 3:00 pm
 - Spennymoor Brass Festival ,Spennymoor Market Place ,6:00pm – 8:00pm
 - Spennymoor Youth Fest , Saturday 20th July , Spennymoor youth and community centre , 11:00am – 3:00pm

- 21 The programme of community venue face to face opportunities will be supplemented by attendance at other community venues in the town as well as attendance at Spennymoor Park Run.
- 22 Urban Foresight will also be holding consultation events at the local schools to demonstrate how pupils' opinions have been taken into consideration. This schools based programme may provide further opportunities to identify and progress recruitment of a Youth Council representative to the Board

Next Steps and Ongoing Activity

- 23 Further background data is currently being collected to support the vision statement and investment plan. This includes:
- Town Centre survey – annual vacancy assessment scheduled with Spennymoor prioritised to fit submission timelines.
 - Retail and Leisure Gaps and Capacity Study has been commissioned and a report will be available by early July.
 - A series of car park surveys have been commissioned to assess car park usage across the town which will take place 9th -11th July. Aldi have confirmed they will share data on their car park usage
 - Asset & investment mapping – identifying public assets and known planned investments to support the vision submission
- 24 Pre arranged Spennymoor Town Board meeting is Wednesday 21st August , 3-5pm at Livin offices.

Recommendation(s)

- 25 Board is recommended to:
- i. Note the progress with consultation and consultation feedback events to underpin the LTPT programme submission.
 - ii. Approve the Spennymoor Town Board Vision.

Author(s)

Graham Wood, Economic Development Manager

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None associated with this report.

Finance

Government have confirmed the ability of local areas to carry forward unspent allocations in line with their Investment Plans.

An initial £50,000 Capacity funding allocation was received in 2023/4 with a further £200,000 released in April, linked to commencing Board meetings and confirming initial governance requirements are in place. It is understood Spennymoor was one of the first Town Boards to pass the governance checks and receive this further funding.

Consultation

The LTPT programme has co design and extensive consultation at its core. Co-design programme being delivered by sector specialists with feedback sessions booked in for July

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

As a publicly funded programme activities in developing and delivering this programme are required to support the public Sector Equality Duties

Climate Change

None associated with this report.

Human Rights

None associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

None associated with this report. Safety and Security are a core theme for the programme and the subsequent investment plan.

Risk

None associated with this report.

Procurement

Specialist Co-design capacity has been procured following the Council's established procurement methodology

Appendix 2: 'On Menu' interventions

Safety and security interventions

- S1: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
- S2: Engage with Police Force and together consider interventions to focus on visible crime prevention in defined areas places.
- S3: Measures to prevent anti-social behaviour, crime and reduce reoffending.
- S4: Measures to reduce repeat burglary.

High streets, heritage and regeneration interventions

- H1: Funding for place-based regeneration and town centre and high street improvements.
- H2: Funding for new or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects and assets including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding, and support for decarbonisation of facilities, energy efficiency audits, and installation of energy efficiency and renewable measures in community buildings.
- H3: Creation of, and improvement to, local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments.
- H4: Enhanced support for arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, projects and facilities and historic institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.
- H5: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- H6: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
- H7: Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects.
- H8: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues.

- H9: Investment in capacity building, resilience (which could include climate change resilience) and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- H10: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.
- H11: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wraparound support for small businesses.
- H12: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
- H13: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors.

Transport and connectivity interventions

- T1: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.
- T2: Funding for bus infrastructure and connections to speed up journeys.
- T3: England and Scotland Only: Additional revenue funding added to the Bus Service Improvement Programme Plus (BSIP+) funding model from June 2024.
- T4: Funding for new, or improvements to road networks to improve access within and to the town.
- T5: Funding to improve rail connectivity and access.
- T6: Reducing vehicle emissions.
- T7: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.

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