Hartlepool Town Deal Board

Wednesday, 4th March 2026 10 am – 12 noon

Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Name	Organisation / Representing
Darren Hankey (DH)	Chair – Hartlepool College of Further Education (HCFE)
Maxine Craig (MC)	Vice Chair - Independent
Jonathan Brash (JB)	Member of Parliament
Denise McGuckin (DMc)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)
Elizabeth Hutchinson (EH)	Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA)
John Waddington (JW)	Northern School of Art
Toni Rhodes (TR)	Education Partnership North East (EPNE)
Sarah Ainslie (SA)	Seymour Civil Engineering
Ian Scott (IS)	Jomast
Paul Taylor (PT)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)
Jo Liddell (JL)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
1.	**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (CHAIR)** The Chair, DH, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. A particular welcome was extended to Ian Scott (IS), attending to provide a verbal update on the Wesley Chapel project on behalf of Jomast, and to John Waddington (JW), attending on behalf of Martin Raby from the Northern School of Art. The Chair also expressed thanks to Jo Liddell (JL) for undertaking secretariat duties in the absence of Lesley Grant (LG).	
2.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies for absence received from: Pamela Hargreaves (PH) Martin Raby (MR) Beverley Bearne (BB) Gary Wright (GW) Adam Hearld (AH) Connor Kerr (KK) Lesley Grant (LG) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** No new declarations of interest were raised.	
3.	**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – December, 10th 2025** The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as an accurate record, subject to a minor amendment: 1) Correction of reference **to** "Pride **in** Place" programme funding (page 3). **Matters Arising / Action Log Update** The matters arising and action log were assessed and recorded as following:	LG

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
	Terms of Reference - Updated to reflect revised end date of programme of 31 March 2028 – Action completed. **Social Value & Engagement** • Update to be provided under relevant agenda item. • Meeting scheduled between SA, JB and PH. This action to be carried forward. **KPIs (Health & Social Care Academy)** • Data update still outstanding. This action to be carried forward. **Steering Group Volunteers** • Reimagining Middleton Grange, Redevelopment of Binns project, steering group volunteer members - No volunteers received to date as the steering group dates have not yet been confirmed. Action to be carried forward. **Communications Update** • Work underway on project updates (see Agenda Item 6). **Risk Register** • Has been updated. • Annual review group to be convened. Action PT.	 SA GW PT PT
4.	**<u>HARTLEPOOL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HDC)</u>** DMc reported that: • Beverley Bearne has left TVCA/HDC. • Pam Hargreaves has been appointed as the new Chair of HDC. • A reset of the Development Corporation is being undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose and aligns with regeneration priorities.	
5. **5a)**	**<u>PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING</u>** **<u>Wesley Chapel (Jomast)</u>** Slides were shared and IS gave a verbal update and reported significant progress, specifically in: • The commercial kitchens have now been installed in both lower and upper ground floors. • The Bridal suite and guest rooms nearing completion. • The Bar and function space fit-out progressing. • 50% of bedrooms are now near completion. • The external plant installation is progressing. With the substation completion expected May. • Commissioning to follow. • The projected completion for the construction of the project is Autumn 2026. • Completion. • Bedroom finishes and fitted furniture are well advanced. **Public Engagement**	

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
	MC asked if the delivery team were planning site tours as this of interest to residents and would present a real opportunity to demonstrate funds had been well spent. The board proposed for public open days prior to opening. IS agreed to put this forward to the project team to explore, when site health and safety conditions permit. PT offered support with logistical support when this happens. The board strongly supported this proposal highlighting that this was a great opportunity to foster community engagement.	
5b)	**<u>Civil Engineering Skills Academy (Seymour)</u>** Slides were shared and SA provided a verbal update of the following: **TVCA Adult Skills Funding** • A new 3-year allocation has been secured (was previously an annual funding). • This offered increased financial stability for planning. • The cost base has been reviewed and adjusted (this was previously static). • Greater flexibility had been introduced, including provision for some 18-year-olds. **Construction Capital Bid** • A Proposal has been submitted to increase learner volumes (via Hartlepool College) to TVCA for: o A welfare cabin and double-stacked classrooms o A Toilet block o Additional training equipment • It was noted that a planning application required if funding approved. **CECA Groundworker Skills Bootcamp** • An employer engagement event had been held in January 26. • The initial cohort completed the bootcamp, 8 were interviewed and job offers have been issued. • 5 learners have started the new cohort. • With three additional cohorts (6 learners each) planned. • With the target of 20 individuals supported into employment will be achieved • PR is planned to promote the scheme • Businesses engaged in programme were acknowledged. **Tree Planting Scheme – Grant Funded** • Two planting days have been completed. • With participation from 25 Hartlepool College SEND students and Seymour staff volunteers. • Project is expected to feature as one of the projects in the England Community Forests' 10 millionth tree milestone. • The scheme provides screening & shelter. And enhances site biodiversity around water area and the local environment. **Exeter Street – Centre of Excellence** • The Fabrication & Welding team has been expanded by an additional member of lecturing staff.	

NO	DETAIL	ACTION

	• The site had participated in High Tunstall schools 'Y9 Women in Industry' event.
	• In January there has been industry engagement from organisations by WB Alloys.
	• The centre had strong involvement in the delivery of Skills Week where L2 full time learners and plating and pipefitting scholars completed weld tests as part of the college activities.
	
	Performance Outputs (since October 2023)
	• 1,908 additional learners enrolled
	• 1,784 achievements
	• Approximately 55% of Exeter Street learners are Hartlepool residents.
	• Seymour (Brenda Road) minimum Hartlepool learner proportion being 24.55% (data limitations noted).
	
	Social Value
	• There had been an estimated £9.5m of social value generated through:
	  o Employment outcomes (700+ at Brenda Road & 77 at Exeter Street)
	  o £3.5m based on achievement of qualifications
	
	Spend Profile
	• Brenda Road:
	  o 62% local (TS postcode)
	  o 89% regional (Northeast/regional)
	• Exeter Street: Schedule of work delivered via UK-based contractor with some works were delivered locally/regionally by subcontractors but no data available.
	
	Funding Summary:
	• All Grant monies have been claimed
	• The contingency request is still pending
	
	The board provided strong praise for the delivery and impact and gave recognition that original ROI projections (originally challenged by MHCLG) have been exceeded, which demonstrated the robustness of the business case projections. All members agreed that social value capture should inform future capital projects.	

5c)	**<u>Health & Social Care Academy (HSCA)</u>** PT provided update (on behalf of GW) Key highlights: • There had been increased marketing and LinkedIn engagement. • Corporate training events had been delivered. • Mental health training had been expanded (e.g., Lloyds Bank). • There was a growing training portfolio including specialist areas. • Career days and T-level engagement is progressing. The board provided feedback and noted that detailed KPI performance data remained outstanding. The good work was acknowledged but it was highlighted the need to also have a greater focus on care sector recruitment support and requested that this needs to be included in the offer. All members agreed that monitoring data must be presented at next Board, to	

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
	demonstrate impact through job outcomes, inspiration metrics, and quantifiable data on Hartlepool and Tees Valley residents' engagement. PT advised that this was also require as part of MHCLG monitoring requirements, which are impending. He agreed to forward the monitoring return to project managers to complete, which would assist in this data capture.	GW PT
5d)	**<u>Reimagining Middleton Grange (HBC)</u>** Slides were shared and PT gave a verbal update **Progress update** • The development management specification and pre-start survey are complete. • The certificate of title legal title review and subsidy control review (end use not specified) are complete. • RIBA2 is complete; and stage 3 underway. • A pre-app submission targeted May. • A planning submission anticipated September • Comms and branding work appointed, installation of external wrap vinyls to development footprint are imminent. **Governance Update** • Discussions are ongoing to transfer the freehold from Development Corporation back to Hartlepool Borough Council. • The objective for this is to avoid delays and mitigate delivery risk. • There is a meeting scheduled with TVCA and MDC to progress transfer. **Major Announcement** An MOU signed with: • Centrica • X Energy • DFE • Hartlepool College • Hartlepool Borough Council • Development Corporation With the end use proposal of the establishment of a Nuclear Skills & Trades Academy in the Binns Building. The board expressed strong support of this and recognition of the strategic opportunity. DMc gave specific thanks to PH and JB for their input in this.	
5e)	**<u>Waterfront Connectivity (HBC)</u>** Slides were shared and PT gave a verbal update and advised that significant acceleration in delivery had been achieved and reported the following: **Slipway & Floating Pontoons** • Design completed. • Fabrication underway. • Installation due end May 26.	

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
	• A minor delay was noted due to an access objection from Jackson's Wharf during the installation of the pontoon, with HBC working through this with complainant. **Museum Plaza** • Planning application was submitted February 26. • Planning notices served on key stakeholders regarding phased work on site. • Re-developed design improves accessibility and deliverable for the allocated £630k budget. • With works anticipated late spring/summer. **Wayfinding Strategy** • Survey work and the Wayfinding Strategy for each zone is finalised and approved. • Planning permission awaited ahead of installation across each zone. • 26 totems and 3 no wall-mounted signs are being finalised with each having consistent appearance but individual imagery to highlight their location. With some installations at different heights to cater for accessibility needs. • Installation scheduled April 26. **Connectivity Works** • Maritime Avenue, Lanyard, and cycle routes commencing. • Completion aligned with Highlight opening. • Spend Profile: £3.77m of £4.12m budget committed. PT explained the next steps in the project: • Start public realm works on Maritime Avenue/Victoria Terrace, the Lanyard/Mecca Bingo route, and the cycle/walkway to the Highlight facility (Feb–Aug 2026). • Begin fabrication of wayfinding totem poles and signage, aiming for installation from 30 April 2026. • Continue contracted fabrication of pontoons and bridge for the Slipway project, due for completion by 31 May 2026. • Submit Museum Plaza planning application (Jan 2026) and Slake Terrace application scheduled for Spring/Summer 2026. • Maintain engagement with key stakeholders, including MMO and Hartlepool Marina Ltd. • Slipway planning application submitted and currently under assessment. • Progress work on the Museum Plaza site and align it with the wider Waterfront Connectivity project. The board noted visible progress and welcomed the acceleration of spend.	
6.	**<u>COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT</u>** The chair highlighted that there has been a lot of work recently on the production of an 'all projects' video, which would be a very positive communications piece to share with the public. **Communications & Engagement**	

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
	• Filming of the promotional video is being completed, showcasing all five projects. Featuring representatives from each project to demonstrate integrated programme impact. • A draft will be circulated to Board prior to publication. PT thanked DH for his contribution to the video content. Slides will be shared post meeting.	PT
7.	**<u>Guidance, Governance, Audit and Risk</u>** MHCLG / Governance Update PT provided verbal update on the governance and reporting position of the programme and advised that: • The annual Statement of Grant Usage (SoGU) which is HBC's assurance statement to MHCLG had been submitted. • We are awaiting new Monitoring & Evaluation framework and guidance from MHCLG and expect this in April. • The new MOU received by HBC from MHCLG confirms funding profile aligned to spend projections. • With all governance requirements currently on track.	
8.	**<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CHAIR)</u>** Denise confirmed this was her final Town Deal Board meeting ahead of her departure on 24 April. The Chair and Board members expressed their thanks for her leadership and contribution to the programme and to Hartlepool.	
	<u>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u> Wednesday 3rd June 2026 10am – 12 noon, on Teams	

Action/Decision Log				
Item	**Description**	**A/D**	**Action/Decision**	**Owner**
3.	**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**	A	*Correction of reference to "Pride and Place" programme funding (page 3*	LG
5b.	**PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING** Civil Engineering Skills Academy	A	*JB and PH requested a site visit to the Centre of Excellence, Exeter Street, noting it as an excellent facility. SA will coordinate to arrange the visit.* *- Action carried forward from last meeting (Meeting scheduled)*	SA
5c.	**PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING** Health & Social Care Academy (HSCA)	A	*KPIs have been achieved early in the programme. GW will provide a comprehensive update at the next Board demonstrating impact through job outcomes, inspiration metrics, and quantifiable data on Hartlepool and Tees Valley residents engaging.* *- Action carried forward from last meeting.*	GW
5.	**PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING** All projects KPI reporting	A	*PT advised that this was also required as part of MHCLG monitoring requirements, which are impending. He agreed to forward the monitoring return to project managers to complete, which would assist in this data capture.*	PT
5d.	**PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING** Reimagining Middleton Grange	A	*MR enquired whether volunteers were required for the Steering Group, and PT confirmed that a request will be circulated to Board members in the New Year.* *- Action carried forward from last meeting as steering group dates have not yet been confirmed.*	PT
6.	**COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**	A	*Draft video will be circulated to Board prior to publication.*	PT
7.	**GUIDANCE, GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND RISK**	A	*PT will liaise with TR to review risks and identify an additional Board member volunteer. Annual review group to be convened.* *- Action carried forward from last meeting.*	PT