

MAKING MANSFIELD PLACE BOARD

Agenda Item 6

Subject:	Place Board Forward Plan
Presenting authority / representative:	Mansfield District Council Geoff George Regeneration Programmes and Projects Manager
Report author and contact details:	Geoff George ggeorge@mansfield.gov.uk
Value of decision: n/a	
Partners affected: All	Date of consultation: 6th April 2022
Purpose This report offers insight from Place Board members on the initial check and challenge review and proposes a way forward and associated timescale.	
Background At the January meeting, the Board agreed to develop an approach to establish its purpose and ambitions, and to commence discussions on a forward plan. As a first part of this process, all Board members were sent a paper seeking members' views on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What actions should the Board take to develop and inspire its actions, its member organisations and Board members' participation?• Beyond the Town Deal, how well are our respective strategies aligned, and how are they supportive of the wider ambitions for our district?	
Feedback Summary From the responses received to date, the following points may be offered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overall, the majority consider the Board has operated well and as a whole, should recognise its achievements, notably the positive focus on the immediate responsibilities.- In recognising that, the opportunity to re-focus and review its more medium and longer term ambitions together, alongside its operating structures was welcomed.- The impact of Covid-19 on developing deeper, more effective joint working and on relationship building should not be underplayed. The challenges and pressures on all organisations and Board representatives were noted, impacting the ability to participate as fully as might have been expected.- Most responders challenged the focus, composition and responsibilities of the sub-groups, questioning whether the Board had established an overall clarity of responsibility and purpose for each of them. This includes responses from those leading on a number of the sub-groups, openly reflecting on capacity issues.- Related, the scale and composition of the Board was seen by some as too large for detailed working, pointing to a required clarity on sub-group and reporting arrangements.- The involvement and co-ordination of the Chair was recognised by many as a particular strength of the Board.- The role of the Board in informing each other of progress on projects and the potential for joint working was strongly valued.- The opportunity to regularly review the Board's actions, its composition and its forward plan was seen as sensible and practical.	

Observations

The responses to this first stage are welcome and Place Board partners and members who have yet to respond are encouraged to do so. In tying these responses to the two expectations of this opening exercise, the following observations may be made:

- The development of a forward plan is welcome, recognising the inherent value of joint working when capacity is limited but with a need to develop a strong coherent voice for Mansfield.
- This should be pragmatic, reflecting a defined set of priorities with an action-focus given emerging opportunities and potential structural change.
- Members and their representative organisations should be encouraged to participate and demonstrate how their work and strategies will impact positively on Mansfield.
- The sub-groups are not well understood and may require a re-focus, redefined against the priorities and being defined as task and finish groups. How this can be managed given capacity issues requires thought.
- An evidence-based approach has to date offered real opportunities for challenging members and this should remain at the heart of our actions, supported by a greater understanding of projects being developed across the area.
- The Board could look to better vest its ambitions with existing (theme) partnerships active across Mansfield.
- New events and opportunities should be recognised as inevitable and the governance, task and finish groups and the Terms of Reference of the Board should be flexible and reviewed regularly as circumstances change

Board members' views are welcome.

Next Steps

In the light of the above and the overall positive welcome to the development of a forward plan, it is proposed that:

- The board should make time at its meetings in April and July 2022 begin to explore how it might proactively drive activity in support of the Mansfield 2030 strategy
- An experienced and local facilitator be brought in to support the Board in mapping out the next steps, with a brief shaped around the responses and observations to date;
- If agreed, two or three volunteers from the Board are requested to help oversee this process with the Chair and the Regeneration and Programmes Manager;
- A report be brought back to the Board at its meeting in September 2022.

Exempt information:

None

Recommendation(s): It is recommended that the Board:

- **Notes the summary of the initial feedback from its members and offers comments;**
- **Encourages those partners who have yet to respond to do so within the next few weeks;**
- **Notes the proposal to appoint a facilitator to take the Board over the next steps of a programme, supported by a number of Board volunteers;**
- **Agrees to review the position on a Forward Plan at its meeting in September 2022.**

1 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

N/A

2 **BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

N/A

3 **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

N/A

4 **DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

N/A