

## **DUMFRIES TOWN BOARD**

Meeting of 27 March 2024  
at 4 pm on MS Teams

### **PRESENT**

Richie Nicholl – (Chair)  
Daniel Armstrong – QOS Trust/FC  
Kenny Bowie – Chamber of Commerce  
Ch/Supt John Cairns – Police Scotland  
Lisa Callander Bone – Include Us  
John Caskie – Guid Nychbarris  
Anne-Marie Coulter – Summerhill Community Centre  
Billy Currie – D&G College  
John Dowson  
Dale Graham  
Councillor Maureen Johnstone  
Tom McAuchtrie  
Jamie Mulligan  
Councillor David Slater  
Laura Thomas – Rosefield Mills Gallery

### **Council Officers**

Stuart McMillan – Strategic Economic Investment Manager  
Nick Evans – Democratic Services Manager

#### **1 Apologies**

Alister Jack MP.

#### **2 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the Dumfries Town Board. He shared how impressed he had been by how quickly such a diverse Board had been pulled together in the face of a challenging timescale and thanked members for their positive engagement and enthusiasm in embracing the opportunity to deliver exciting benefits for Dumfries.

Each of the members of the Board introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of their experience, background and hopes for the project.

#### **3 Presentation: Introduction to Long-Term Plan for Towns**

The Board considered a presentation from Stuart McMillan, Strategic Economic Investment Manager, Dumfries and Galloway Council which set out the background to the creation of 75 Town boards across the UK as part of the 'levelling up' agenda of the UK Government and explored the

requirements of the Department for Housing, Levelling Up and Communities (DLUHC) set out in their guidance document [DLUHC Guidance for Local Authorities and Town Boards](#).

The Board discussed the array of projects and plans (town plans, place plans etc) they were aware of in progress across Dumfries and were keen to ensure there was no conflict/duplication with any projects the Town Board decided to develop/support. In this regard Stuart's team would undertake a mapping exercise to establish the pipeline of projects to assist the Board in focussing their priorities. In addition to the officer support to be provided by the Council DLUHC would also be offering support through their Towns Unit and Towns Taskforce and would also provide funding for the procurement of specialist advice. Members welcomed confirmation that there would be opportunities to liaise with other Town Boards and share learning.

**ACTION: SMC**

#### **4 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND GOVERNANCE**

The Board considered the interim draft terms of reference and guidance document agreeing to adopt them temporarily whilst they considered the governance arrangements generally and invited expressions of interest from suitable organisations wishing to be considered to support the Board in terms of administration and governance advice.

**ACTION: Chair**

#### **5 VIEW ON BOUNDARY OF TOWN AS DEFINED BY UK GOVERNMENT**

The Board reviewed the maps provided by DLUHC based on ONS Localities data to define the boundaries of the town and thereby the area to covered by the Town Board. With a variety of views being expressed, some in favour of a larger more inclusive footprint for the town and others keen to maximise the impact of the funding on a more focussed area. it was:

**AGREED** to go back to DLUHC following the next meeting of the Board with revised proposals. To facilitate this some alternative maps would be produced for consideration by the Board at their next meeting.

**ACTION:SMC**

#### **6 NEXT STEPS**

The Board discussed the next steps in preparation for the next meeting which was to be hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Board Members were keen to get the public involved with a series of events, 'meet the Town Board' etc, to quickly establish a presence on the High Street, develop a social media presence to help engagement and liaison with the local media.

**AGREED** Next meeting to be in person 17 April at 4pm.

**ACTION:Chair/SMC**