

## **DUMFRIES TOWN BOARD**

Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
4pm @ SPEN Offices Dumfries

### **PRESENT**

Richie Nicholl – Town Board Chair  
Kenny Bowie – Chamber of Commerce  
Rachael Milligan - Covetrus  
Anne-Marie Coulter – Summerhill Community Centre  
Billy Currie – D&G College (Via teams)  
John Dowson  
Lisa Callander Bone – Include Us  
Councillor Maureen Johnstone  
Duncan Cameron – Police Scotland  
Councillor David Slater (via Teams)

### **Council Officers**

Stuart McMillan – Strategic Economic Investment Manager

### **Observers/Guests**

None

#### **1 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed members to the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dumfries Town Board.

#### **2 Apologies**

Tom McAuchtrie – Town Board Vice Chair  
John Caskie – Guid Nychburris  
Jamie Milligan – The Swan  
Campbell Young – SOSE  
Supt Nicola Robison – Police Scotland.

#### **3 Minute of meeting 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

The minute of the previous meeting was agreed.

#### **4 Matters arising**

No matters arising and all actions from the previous meeting will be updated during this meeting.

## 5 DTB Report

### Update

The D&G Town Board Report was submitted on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. We await an update from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government responsible for the Levelling Up Fund and will then plan around this. Expected after Autumn statement.

The Leader of Dumfries & Galloway Council has also written to both Angela Rayner MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Ian Murray MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, no response to date.

Delegation for TB to arrange a meeting with the Council Leader to understand support going forward from D&G Council.

**Action: RN/SMcM**

### Engagement Report & Publication Agreement

Our internal report detailing responses gained along with our data gathering was concluded and circulated via social media and on a presentation at the Town Board premises. In addition to look at other venues within the town centre where we can share

**Action: KB**

## 6 Finances

DG Chamber still progressing their grant from D&G Council for community engagement and survey (£25k) and Secretariat services (£20k). Further costs incurred to date relating to the website of £6k have been incurred.

The Board agreed to allocate and formally commit the full allowance for community engagement finds (£200k) as follows: -

- Secretariat Services £20k
- Engagement & Survey £25k
- Website and Email Support £15k
- Ongoing Engagement £140k (Staff costs, Community Groups)

**Action: KB/SMcM**

## 7 Complaints Process

The Draft complaints process was circulated prior to the meeting and discussed. A number of iterations discussed and the updated Process including arrangements on reporting etc will be circulated.

**Action: SMcM/RM**

Volunteers required from the Board to set up a panel of four to review any complaints.

**Action: RN/RM**

## 8 Secretariat

A healthy response to our advert has been received with 25 applications. Interviews have commenced and will complete on the 11<sup>th</sup> October. Will advise following then of the successful candidate and will begin the process of onboarding.

**Action RM/KB**

## 9 Town Centre Premises

Our lease on the premises at 109 High St have now concluded, the board would formally thank the Midsteeples Quarter for their support during their time using their premises.

### The Hub

Further discussion on the practical ways that the Hub premises could potentially work for the Town Board continued. Town Board representatives to meet with the existing Hub trustees to discuss.

**Action RN/KB/AMcC**

Operating arrangements that the Town Board could operate to were also discussed - three Town Board Members would need to be identified to take over as trustees to facilitate the transfer. Legal advice on this matter is required and SMcM will seek guidance on this from the Council's legal team.

**Action SMcM**

## 10 Web and Email Update

Dumfries Town Board Website is now live and is currently being populated with information and news from the Board.

Three emails addresses are now available to ease communication to/from the Board -

[Chair@dumfriestownboard.co.uk](mailto:Chair@dumfriestownboard.co.uk)

[Info@Dumfriestownboard.co.uk](mailto:Info@Dumfriestownboard.co.uk)

[Contact@dumfriestownboard.co.uk](mailto:Contact@dumfriestownboard.co.uk)

Email and passwords to be held with the Chair and then secretariat once appointed.

**Action LCB**

## 11 College Town Works/ Heat Feasibility Study

The local college run a lot of training programmes and apprenticeships relating to civil works. TB working in partnership with the college could look to use students practise these practical skills i.e. painting etc. Something to be investigated further. SMcM offered to advise, from his experience of similar schemes elsewhere, on how this could be organised and structured.

**Action BC/SMcM**

The following updates were noted.

- Heat Feasibility Study – SOSE leading a review with key partners regarding the heat network studies for town centres using the existing “Aquafor”
- DPAG working with Loreburn Community Council has redrafted their engagement linking in the Local Place Plan
- SSSA are supporting the Burns Quarter Project and have provided an update on where the project is.

## **12 Next steps**

### **Agreed next steps and action points (for note)**

- Await Feedback from UK Gov regarding next steps.
- Further work to clean up the document and create a presentation that can be shared.
- Find other locations around the Town Centre to share the presentation.
- Progress with discussions and operating arrangements for The Hub.

## **13 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 4pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at SPEN Offices, Leafield Road and online via MS Teams.