**

DISCOVER ASHFIELD BOARD MEETING**

**Friday 13th October**

**9am – 11am**

**Hybrid – Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Urban Road & Microsoft Teams**

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| **AGENDA** | **Page** |

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| 1.
 | **Welcome / Introductions / Apologies - Martin Rigley**  |  |

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| 1.
 | **Reflections of Previous Meeting - Martin Rigley**  |  |

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| * 1.
 | **Meeting Minutes**  |  |

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| **b**  | **Action Log**  |  |

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| 1.
 | **New Declarations of Interest - ALL**  |  |
| **4.** | **Major Projects & Funding Update – Sarah Daniel**  |  |

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| **5.**  | **Theme Lead Reports – Theme Leads**  |  |
|  | **a Succeed in Ashfield – Martin Rigley**  |  |
|  | **b Love Where You Live – Liz Barrett**  |  |
|  | **c More to Discover – Darron Ellis**  |  |
|  | **d Be Healthy, Be Happy – Pete Edwards**  |  |

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| **6.**  | **Discover Ashfield Project Officer Update – Hollie Maxwell-Smith**  |  |

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| **7.**  | **Board Member Updates – All**  |  |
| **8.** | **Any Other Business – All**  |  |
| **9.** | **Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th November 2023**  |  |

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| ATTENDEES  |
| Name | Position on Board | Position/Organisation | Present  |
| Martin Rigley MBE | Chair / Theme Lead – Succeed in Ashfield | Innovation Engineer, ECS Engineering | √ |
| Louise Knott | Vice Chair | Vice Principal, West Nottinghamshire College – joined the meeting at 9.50am | √ |
| Darron Ellis | Theme Lead – More to Discover | Historian, Sutton Living Memory Group |  |
| Liz Barrett OBE | Theme Lead – Love Where You Live | Principal, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) | √ |
| Pete Edwards | Theme Lead – Be Happy, Be Healthy | Chair, Ashfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership |  |
| Callum Parr MYP | Board Member | UK Youth Parliament Steering Group Representative for the East Midlands |  |
| Claire Ward | Board Member | Chair of Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust |  |
| Clare Hitchings  | Substitute for Tim Hepke  | Communications Lead, ITP Aero  |  |
| Christopher Baron | Substitute for Lee Anderson, MP | Office Manager, Ashfield & Eastwood MP’s Office  | √ |
| Cllr Helen-Ann Smith | Board Member | Deputy Council Leader, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Cllr Julie Gregory  | Board Member  | Scrutiny Representative, Ashfield District Council  | √ |
| Cllr Matthew Relf | Board Member | Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning, Ashfield District Council | √ |
| Cllr Keith Girling | Notts County Council Representative  | Economic Development and Asset Management, Notts County Council |  |
| David Ainsworth | Board Member | Director of Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust  |  |
| David Williams | Substitute for Jean Sharpe  | Partnerships Manager North Nottinghamshire DWP |  |
| Edward Johnstone | Board Member | Assistant Principal (Development), Portland College |  |
| Fiona Johnson  | Board Member  | Associative Director, Civic Engagement, Nottingham Trent University (NTU) | √ |
| Gary Jordan MBE | Board Member | Executive Coach / GMJ Solutions  |  |
| Ian Bond | Substitute for Peter Graw | Director of Learning, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries  |  |
| Jean Sharpe  | Board Member  | Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland Progression Champion for In-Work Progression  |  |
| Julia Terry | Board Member | Development Worker, Transforming Notts Together |  |
| Kathryn Stacey | Board Member | Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Ashfield |  |
| Lee Anderson, MP | Board Member | MP for Ashfield and Eastwood |  |
| Mark Spencer, MP | Board Member | MP for Sherwood |  |
| Mark Yates | Substitute  | PCN Development Managers, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB  |  |
| Melanie Phythian | Observer | Towns Fund Policy Advisor, Cities & Local Growth Unit | √ |
| Peter Gaw | Board Member | Chief Executive Officer, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries  |  |
| Sarah Kirk  | Substitute for Pete Edwards  | Activity & Wellbeing Manager, Everyone Active  | √ |
| Simon Martin | Board Member | Vice Principal, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) | √ |
| Teresa Jackson | Board Member | Chief Officer, Ashfield Voluntary Action |  |
| Tim Hepke | Board Member | UK Head of Maintenance and Group Property, ITP Aero  |  |
| Theresa Hodgkinson | Board Member | Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council | √ |
| Will Morlidge  | Board Member  | Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP |  |
| Andrea Stone | Supporting Officer | Health and Wellbeing Manager, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Alastair Blunkett | Supporting Officer  | Service Manager for Neighbourhoods and Environment  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Chris Stephenson | Supporting Officer | Communications Manager, Ashfield District Council  | √ |
| Christine Sarris | Supporting Officer | Assistant Director – Planning and Regulatory Services  |  |
| Hollie Maxwell-Smith | Supporting Officer | Project Officer Discover Ashfield, Ashfield District Council  | √ |
| Jas Hundal  | Supporting Officer  | Programme Director – Place, Ashfield District Council  | √ |
| Joelle Davies  | Supporting Officer | Group Manager for Growth, Infrastructure and Development  | √ |
| John Bennett  | Supporting Officer  | Executive Director, Place, Ashfield District Council  | √ |
| Melanie Wheelwright  | Supporting Officer | Forward Planning & Economic Growth Team Manager  | √ |
| Nathan McNicholas | Supporting Officer | Senior Economic Development Officer, Ashfield District Council  |  |
| Paul Crawford | Supporting Officer | Investment Manager – Regeneration, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Sarah Daniel | Supporting Officer | Assistant Director - Regeneration, Ashfield District Council | √ |
| Trevor Middleton | Supporting Officer | Town Centres and Markets Manager, Ashfield District Council | √ |

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| **Agenda Item** |  |
| **1** | **Welcome / Introductions / Apologies** |
|  | * Apologies were given for Cllr Girling, Jean Sharpe, Tim Hepke, Kathryn Stacey, Darron Ellis, Pete Edwards, Gary Jordan, David Ainsworth, Edward Johnstone, Ian Bond, Christine Sarris, Paul Crawford and Alastair Blunkett.
 |
|  | * Introductions were made for John Bennett, Executive Director of Place at Ashfield District Council.
 |
| **2** | **Review of Previous Meeting – Martin Rigley**  |
| **a** | **Board Meeting Minutes**  |
|  | * All minutes agreed.
 |
| **b** | Action Log (these include actions from the below minutes)  |
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| * Hollie to add Kirkby Towns Board discussion to the Delivery Group agenda.
 |

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| **3** | **New Declarations of Interest – ALL**  |
|  | * Fiona Johnson explained there may be a declaration of interest in NTU’s work with the recent funding opportunity for Kirkby in Ashfield.
 |
| **4** | **Major Projects & Funding Update – Sarah Daniel**  |
|  | * Sarah Daniel ran through the overview of the Future High Streets Funding, and the progress report for these
 |
|  | * Sarah noted that RIBA stage 3 has been completed and reviewed and the procurement strategy is being progressed for the theatret. The risk remains elevated because the project programme has slipped without the ability to bring forward the completion.
 |
|  | * 14 Low Street has been completed and is now let.
* 9 – 11 Low Street – the contract has been awarded and the council is progressing the contract agreement and mobilisation.
 |
|  | * High Pavement remains on track to complete in November. Makerspace committee is growing and now leading on promotion of the new facilities and developing the fit out of the space. Business unit promotion is progressing alongside the UKSPF business grant scheme.
 |
|  | * Sarah then highlighted the Towns Fund Finance table for the projects (this can be found in the agenda pack).
 |
|  | * Sarah then discussed the finance review and explained a review of the programme finance has been undertaken to address the ongoing challenges of inflation, market trends and project constraints.
* She reiterated that the board has delegated authority to approve the movement of funds between projects up to £500,000, without a project change request needing to be approved by DLUHC.
 |
|  | * She then explained the proposed reduction and increase in some project budgets:
* Kingsway Sports Hub has an increase of £500,000 due to inflationary budget risk. The project requires an increase in budget to enable the Towns Fund outputs and Football Foundation objectives to be met.
* North Kirkby Gateway has a reduction in cost of £1,300,000 as the project is progressing in partnership with developers which is likely to mean the partners share the financial risk. A lower project contribution / budget is therefore considered suitable.
* Portland Square Refurbishment has an increase of £500,000 as the value engineering has reduced the required budget envelope to £1.9 – 2.1 million. The budget requires increasing by £500k.
* Sutton Lawn Sports Hub has in inflationary budget risk and the project requires £800,000 to enable the Towns Fund outputs and Football Foundation objectives to be met.
* West Kirkby Gateway has £2.458 million allocated to Wyvern Club and the train station improvements. Balance leaves £2 million TF funding and £800k borrowing.
 |
|  | * Chris Baron asked Sarah if there would be funding for security of Sutton Lawn to prevent travellers from setting up on the Lawn.
 |
|  | * Sarah explained this was not part of the project but is aware there had been work previously done putting in bollards to prevent this along the access road. She used Lammas Car Park as an example of how the barrier was broken and the Council do what they can however it can be challenging.
 |
|  | * Chris continued that it is positive having funding spent on sports facilities at Sutton however there is the potential these can get vandalised and damaged. He commented that Lee Anderson had proposed using large blocks or stones in the roads to prevent vehicles accessing the site.
 |
|  | * Sarah agreed this is an option for some sites however there does need to be access to other sites for vehicles continually.
 |
|  | * Theresa Hodgkinson offered to speak to Chris outside of the board meeting to discuss this as this is a concern however it is an Ashfield District Council issue and not for the project board.
 |
|  | * The Board were asked to approve the following:

a. Reduce budget TF11 North Kirkby Gateway: £1,300,000 b. Reduce budget TF17 West Kirkby Gateway: £500,000 Page 21c. Increase budget TF09 Kingsway Sports Hub: £500,000 d. Increase budget TF12 Portland Square: £500,000 e. Increase budget TF15 Sutton Lawn Sports Hub £800,000* It was noted that changes above £500k will need to be submitted to DLUHC or approval.
 |
|  | * Lousie Knott proposed the decision and Simon Martin seconded.
 |
|  | * Sarah referenced the Projects Highlight Report (included in the agenda pack) and explained that there is a mini tender being prepared for the Cycling and Walking routes.
* Visitor Digital – the website has been built and is planned to be launched in a few weeks’ time.
* Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium - the groundbreaking event was well attended and work is continuing on the site currently and still on target for completion.
* Kings Mill Reservoir – Contract work is completed for the car park and demolition of the former club house.
 |
|  | * Chris Baron mentioned that some constituents have raised questions about some of the projects, such as Portland Square and asked Sarah if the agenda pack is a public document and if this can be shared.
 |
|  | * Sarah confirmed that the agenda pack is a public document and can be found on the Discover Ashfield website, along with all meeting minutes, and these can be downloaded and shared.
 |
|  | * Theresa added that the governance for the projects also goes through cabinet meetings, and these documents can also be found on the internet on the Ashfield District Council website.
 |
|  | * Sarah continued that Heads of Terms have been agreed for the purchase of the preferred site and legals are being processed for the ADMC (Automated Distribution Manufacturing Centre) project.
* Construction Centre – Vision West Notts College (VWNC) have proposed to deliver the scheme and have worked up a cost plan from delivery within the budget envelope.
* Ashfield Civil Engineering Centre – VWNC are progressing further detailed surveys of the project site to inform ecological site constraints. Further site assembly options are being explored and there should be a full update at the next board meeting.
* Enterprising Ashfield – figures for outputs to date have been included in the report. The risk is elevated as numbers are currently down on the expected numbers for this point in the project delivery. Sarah explained they were unsure if individuals benefitting from multiple courses could be double counted Melanie Phythian confirmed that learners for the Enterprising Ashfield project can only be counted once, even if they do multiple courses.
* Library Innovation Centres – Kirkby is open, and Peter Gaw has reported that the new centre is more popular than expected and there is a revised timeframe for the Sutton project.
 |
|  |  |
|  | * Martin asked if this affected the numbers in the report.
 |
|  | * Sarah confirmed the report is based on learners being counted just once.
 |
|  | * Green Ashfield – The project has been delayed, mainly as the team at MACE have been working on a public sector decarbonisation scheme for Hucknall and the Council offices which has taken resources away from this project. A workshop is due to be held shortly which will refocus this work.
* High Street Property Fund – Development phase for the Moor Market flats is progressing. The property market is being monitored for new opportunities.
 |
|  | * Sarah moved onto the Monitoring and Evaluation. The preparation for the next monitoring and evaluation return period has commenced and will be submitted at the end of November, subject to board approval. DLUHC have been testing an online system to be adopted although this has not been approved in time for this reporting period. The Discover Ashfield board meetings don’t align to the DLUHC reporting and accountable body sign off period andapproval was sought to delegate the review and approval process for the monitoring to the Board’s Funding Subgroup.
* Sarah added that there have been individuals leave the board since the Funding Subgroup was set up so there is a need for new people board members are asked to volunteer to join the Funding Subgroup.
 |
|  | * The board were asked to approve the proposal to delegate the review and approval process for the funding monitoring to the Board’s Funding Subgroup.
 |
|  | * Cllr Relf proposed, and Fiona Johnson seconded.
 |
|  | * Martin added that if anyone does want to join the Funding Subgroup to let Hollie know andthat he attends as an observer so he can impartially bring the information back to the board meetings.
 |
|  | * Sarah continued with the report, commenting that the risk registers were attached as appendices to the report.
* The Towns Deal and Future High Streets programmes have the following changes in risk:
* Council is still awaiting Future High Streets project adjustments.
* Delays in the delivery of some projects put pressure on the delivery of the programme’s outputs and outcomes.
* Review the impact on projects where there are changes made that differ from the original business case.
* Ensure the Social Value from each contract is being delivered.
 |
|  | * Sarah moved onto the UK Shared Prosperity Fund project highlight report.
* Hucknall Town Centre – High Street Property Improvement Fund – The uptake has been low with only 4 enquiries. Officers are reviewing both the funding and the eligibility criteria. Risk increased due to lack of take up.
* Selston Country Park – The play area project is on the capital programme and being procured.
* Visitor Economy – The budget has been reprofiled and a consultant is being appointed to undertake a review and provide recommendations. The board will be approached regarding this.
* Arts Council Bid – The Expression of Interest (EOI) was submitted, and the Arts Council feedback has been received and some clarifications are being provided.
* Community Vertical Farming – Risk has been increased as this is behind programme. Other sites are being looked at for this, such as Sutton Lawn instead of Kings Mill Reservoir, due to utility access.
 |
|  | * Martin asked if the Community Vertical Farming was still in partnership with Mansfield Council.
 |
|  | * Sarah confirmed it is, and this is partly why the delay happened as Mansfield had to take the project through an approval process.
 |
|  | * Martin asked if Mansfield were happy with the new proposal of site as Kings Mill Reservoir was initially chosen as it was on the border of the two districts.
 |
|  | * Sarah explained there are discussions ongoing surrounding this.
 |
|  | * Digital Support for Local Communities – ATTFE has been awarded the contract. They have put in place promotion and marketing materials, launched the programme and are preparing to start delivery.
* Supporting Local Business – Most of the programme is being delivered by East Midlands Chamber of Commerce through the Nottinghamshire Joint procurement.
* People and Skills – This joint procurement for supporting economically inactive people has been awarded to Futures. The potential start date is imminent. The council is undertaking procurement for Basic and Lifestyle skills with five bids received.
 |
|  | * Sarah moved onto the Cycling and Walking project.
* Ridewise have secured funding to run a monthly session at Sutton Lawn from October 2023 – March 2024. This will follow the same format currently at Hucknall.
* The Council would like to build from this initial session and provide a weekly activity at Sutton Lawn from February 2024 – July 2024 and delivery a Volunteer Ride Leader Course in Sutton towards the end of this period.
* The sessions would also provide an opportunity to cycle to Kings Mill Reservoir to encourage residents to utilise the facilities at this site also.
* The total cost of this would be £12,000 of which £2,000 would be brought forward from year 3 into year 2.
 |
|  | * Cycling / Scooting in Kirkby – would like to pilot a project to engage young people in biking / scooting activity on Holidays Hill Park (Coxmoor) and Kingsway Park (Kirkby), working with Asylum Skatepark based in Sutton.
* Weekly sessions would be provided with two qualified coaches who would support young people to develop their skills and confidence, as well as provide positive activity.
* This project would start in February and run for 6 months as a pilot. The total cost of this project would be £6,000, with £3,000 utilised from year 3 funding.
 |
|  | * Walking across Ashfield – It has been recognised that there are many voluntary and community organisations across Ashfield, who with a little funding, could enhance their offer to include short, localised friendly walks.
* The proposal is to create a fund for these organisations which could cover the cost of walk leader training, hire of a venue as a meeting place, refreshments for the walk, purchase of walk aids and / or footwear etc.
* £15,000 would be allocated for this from year 3. The fund would open in January 2024. Although difficult to predict, we would look to start 15 new walks in the district.
 |
|  | * The total funding requested to be brought forward to Year 2 is £20,000, which would leave £39,857 remaining for Year 3.
* The board is asked to approve the project proposal outlined.
 |
|  | * Cllr Relf approved, and Fiona Johnson seconded.
 |
|  | * Sarah explained the Kirkby ‘Plan for Towns’ Programme.
* A £20m allocation of government funding has been announced for Kirkby as part of a national ‘Plan for Towns’ programme. Kirkby is one of 55 towns to receive the allocation, to be paid over a period of 10 years, to invest in local people’s priorities.
* The endowment-style fund will be split 25% resource, 75% capital.
* The long-term ‘Plan for Towns’ will empower communities to take control of their future with long term decisions, setting out the town’s vision and priorities for investment and regeneration, aligned to the themes of:
* Safety and security.
* High streets, heritage and regeneration.
* Transport and connectivity.
 |
|  | * Sarah explained this will be run similar to Towns Fund and will require a Towns Board. This group will oversee the fund and plan and should be chaired by a local business or community leader and include:
* Community partners – groups, faith groups, local charities, infrastructure organisations.
* Local businesses and social enterprises, key local employers and investors.
* Key cultural, arts, heritage and sporting organisations.
* Public sector agencies e.g., schools, police etc.
* MP, district council, parish council, Mayoral and Upper Tier Authority.
 |
|  | * Where the town already has a Town Deal Board, they will be able to repurpose the Board to make sure they have the right people to drive forward their priorities.
 |
|  | * Ashfield District Council are to bring local partners together to form a Town Board / expand existing Town Deal Board by April 2024.
* Begin to set out a vision, formulate investment priorities and engage with local communities prior to Spring 2024.
* Capacity funding released to support the development of investment plans, including additional community engagement activities by Spring 2024.
* Submission of Long-Term Plans and release of year one funding – subject to assessment of the Plan by DLUHC from Summer 2024.
 |
|  | * Sarah suggested having a Kirkby Board, which would report into the Discover Ashfield Board.
 |
|  | * Martin finds a Kirkby Board the logical solution but commented there may be issues with recruitment for this.
 |
|  | * Fiona Johnson commented that the proposal seems sensible. She asked if Sarah had any more information in regard to match funding.
 |
|  | * Sarah explained she believes there isn’t a need for match funding, and it is more a resource based funding as there are references to Councils having buildings or assets being used rather than a match funding.
* Also, as it is an allocation rather than a competitive funding.
 |
|  | * Fiona agrees that setting up a subgroup of this group to focus on Kirkby is a good idea.
 |
|  | * Melanie Phythian reflected on what Sarah had said, and agreed the documents refer to in kind contributions in both time and / or land and buildings. There is also a mention of philanthropy and promoting this.
* She believes it will follow the model of Town Deals and there will be no expectation of cash match funding. She doesn’t believe there will be percentage requirements of this.
* There will be a Towns Task Force which is going to be established to answer the questions from Local Government.
* She agreed a Town Board would be beneficial but recommended not losing sight of the strength of the Discover Ashfield Board and keep this as an oversight of the portfolio.
 |
|  | * Martin offered to meet Sarah to discuss this further and potential people to have on the Kirkby Towns Board.
 |
|  | * Sarah asked Hollie to add this to the Delivery Group agenda for the following week.
 |
| **6** | **Theme Lead Reports – Theme Leads**  |
| **a** | **Succeed in Ashfield – Martin Rigley**  |
|  | * Martin attended the secondary schools’ forum to report on the work he is doing on a structure for work experience for Ashfield.
* It is being looked to launch for the next academic year.
 |
|  | * Martin attended the groundbreaking event at Science Discovery Centre which was a great event and great to see this progressing.
 |
|  | * He has continued involvement with the ADMC Project Advisory Group. Positive to have the land deal approved.
 |
|  | * Martin met with Louise Knott to discuss the idea of getting a welding boot camp project up and running so they can get people within Ashfield interested in welding.
 |
| **b** | **Love Where You Live – Liz Barrett**  |
|  | * Liz commented that Love Where You Live came into play in the Observatory breaking ground, not only because of what it represents for Ashfield but for all involved too.
 |
|  | * The Remembrance events are coming up in November, with plans for poppies on railing in the towns, talking to primary schools and getting residents involved in events across the district.
 |
|  | * The Christmas Light Switch Ons are coming up in Hucknall, Sutton and Kirkby and these events bring people together and celebrate where we live with these free events.
 |
|  | * The Primary Network is continuing to be strong with a good group of primary contacts who share initiatives, and it is a way to share free resources to take back to the schools and make a difference to families.
 |
| **c** | **More to Discover – Darron Ellis**  |
|  | * There was no update from Darron.
 |
| **d** | **Be Healthy, Be Happy – Pete Edwards**  |
|  | * Sarah Kirk gave an update on Be Healthy, Be Happy on behalf of Pete Edwards.
 |
|  | * There had been a restructure in the groups within Health & Wellbeing which amalgamated some groups within Ashfield, this group now being the Ashfield Wellbeing Network.
* Ashfield Wellbeing Network was launched on 26th September with 66 people from health, local authorities, community and voluntary sector and leisure attending.
* Funding has been secured through Your Health Notts for a part time worker to focus on work with young people in Coxmoor.
* A Local Area Co-Ordinator (LAC) will be starting in Leamington and Sutton Central shortly, funded through Notts County Council.
* Collectively Mid and South Notts Placed Based Partnership have secured £1.6m HIIIF Funding through the NHS to focus on integrated neighbourhood working. There will be updates in the coming weeks.
* Two Ashfield Wellbeing Community Network events have taken place in Selston and Leamington, with a further to be delivered on 26th October on Kirkby Plaza.
 |
|  | * Cllr Gregory attended the Selston event and commented it was a fantastic event. She spoke to the residents and has had feedback following this that there was a lack of advertisement prior to the event and many residents didn’t know about the event.
 |
|  | * Liz agreed that marketing is always an issue and we do need to ensure the community is involved in everything on offer. She welcomes any ideas on how to advertise events.
 |
|  | * Cllr Gregory agreed and explained many of the older residents don’t use social media or have smart phones so it would be great to find alternative ways of marketing for this.
 |
| **7** | **Discover Ashfield Project Officer Update – Hollie Maxwell-Smith**  |
|  | * Hollie followed on from the marketing conversation and said she will take this feedback back to the officers who delivered the event. She acknowledged that social media isn’t the most appropriate way to advertise for many events, and herself and Trevor have been visiting businesses to promote the Discover Ashfield Awards and talking to them..
 |
|  | * She updated the board that there have been some great quality nominations so far and there is still half a month left so asked the board to continue pushing as there are still lots of groups or individuals doing brilliant work who we can recognise.
 |
|  | * There is a Champions Evening on Tuesday 17th October with a Visitor theme as it will be held at Teversal Visitors Centre with local heritage and visitor groups presenting.
 |
|  | * Hollie attended the Careers Fair on 6th October and used this to interact with the schools which were invited, asking young people what kind of jobs they would love to have in Ashfield.
* Hollie will share this with board members.
 |
|  | * The Made in Ashfield brief is with students at VWNC, they will be working on this until the term ends.
* Hollie has been invited to visit the students closer to Christmas so they can present their ideas and gain feedback. Hollie invited board members to attend this with her.
 |
|  | * Cllr Relf is interested in visiting the students with Hollie to view the work the students have done.
 |
|  | * Martin is also keen to attend this.
 |
| **8** | **Board Member Updates – All**  |
|  | * Fiona Johnson explained that Nottingham Trent University (NTU) have worked with stakeholders over the last few years on a European Challenge. This is where Mansfield and Ashfield students are recruited to work alongside local councils to find out topical challenges, then working with councils to showcase the challenges. The students then visit European cities to learn and return to present their learnings to local councils.
* Discussions for the European Challenge 2024 are at an early stage and Fiona’s colleague Stephen Williams (Director of NTU Global) is in discussions with individuals for a date for a briefing session.
* The potential topic for the 2024 Challenge is Inclusive Communities.
* Fiona asked the board if they had any thoughts on what they would like the students to learn about prior to their European visit.
 |
|  | * Cllr Relf expressed how brilliant the programme is, particularly the link with Lille in France as their challenges and the place is a mirror image of our local area. The French take a different approach to many things we have with shared heritage.
* He also commented that this link NTU have also emphasises the link Ashfield has with being twinned with Ronchin, which is a town which forms part of the city of Lille.
* Cllr Relf has met the Twinning Committee in Ronchin and has strong links with them.
* He commented that Brexit has made school trips to France and vice versa difficult as students now need a passport, as opposed to the previous ID card.
* Cllr Relf’s father has an Art Club here in Ashfield and he will be looking to see if they can be connected to a similar group in Ronchin.
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|  | * Louise Knott added that she is working with partners to have an apprenticeship programme in France so students can travel, however they are working through visa issues at the moment. This may be something which could link in with Cllr Relf’s work.
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|  | * Simon Martin commented that there is a rich shared industrial heritage in Ronchin and Ashfield, and many aspects such as literature are something that students could learn about.
 |
|  | * Simon also gave an update on the Digital Skills project which ATTFE are delivering on behalf of ADC.
* This will be delivered in six locations across the district in in Sutton, Kirkby, Hucknall and Selston.
* They will be working out of community locations such as primary schools, community centres, Idlewells and Moor Market.
* It will be to improve digital life skills. Examples are, grandparents downloading apps for their grandchildren, downloading job applications, uploading CVs, safe internet, online social media usage, and health awareness online.
* They will also be delivering this in the digital zone at Ashfield District Council Offices.
* After the half term the next steps will be to extend to places such as Brierley Forest Primary School and Summerhouse Childrens Centre in Leamington to engage parents. They are also working in partnership with Musketeers CIC to see how repurposed laptops and tablets can be distributed to residents.
* Simon will give periodic updates over the 18 months of this project running.
 |
|  | * Fiona discussed the proposed stakeholder conference in Mansfield and Ashfield for 2024. She has met with John Bennett and Louise Knott to discuss proposed dates.
* The University and stakeholders have been on a journey for many years with investment and change. Fiona would like to bring stakeholders together in Spring 2024 to set out a renewed sense of vision for the area and to consider how we scale the work up and ensure it is sustainable when funding comes to an end.
* She proposed that NTU would organise this and put in the capacity for this however they would only want to do this if all partners could take part in this and be involved.
* The date discussed was for April 2024, due to the venue being at Vision West Notts College and the NTU Hub there, so they would need to use the school holidays to ensure the students aren’t affected.
* The date discussed does clash with purdah, so Fiona was asking if this would alter people’s commitment to being able to attend the conference.
* Fiona wanted to raise this to the board to give them a notice, to see if there is an appetite for such a conference, and if the discussions around scale ups and sustainability would be the right themes.
 |
|  | * Martin expressed that he would welcome an event like this after the amount of work that has been done in the last few years and get everyone back around a table.
* He agrees that sustainability should be discussed but also added that digital access should also be added to the agenda.
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|  | * Cllr Relf also agreed the conference would be well received and having the opportunity to come together with partners to have discussions is where the best ideas come from.
* On the timing, Cllr Relf expressed that this conference would be a great opportunity for the Mayor of the Combined Authority to attend and highlight to this person the strength of partnership and need of regeneration in this area as this role will take over from D2N2.
* He recommended that perhaps it would be best to push this back for after elections so the Mayor of the Combined Authority could attend in their new role or potentially go ahead with the discussed date and do a follow up event the following year with them in attendance.
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|  | * Fiona asked Cllr Relf what Purdah means to elected members and how it affects their participation in events such as this.
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|  | * Cllr Relf explained that Purdah means there can be no public relations or advantage given to any particular candidate.
* Purdah is also the time they are the most active campaigning so this period is where their calendars will be very busy.
 |
|  | * Fiona thanked Cllr Relf and said they will look at the date in more detail.
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| **9** | **Any Other Business - All** |
|  | * Melanie Wheelwright thanked everyone who attended the Careers Fair, and that Business Support had some brilliant support from partners.
* There was a focus to get schools and students through the doors and the team feel this was successful,she will provide a full update from the event to the board when this has been collated.
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| **10** | **Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th November**  |