



DISCOVER ASHFIELD BOARD MEETING

**Friday 7th March 2025
9am – 10:30am**

Hybrid – Sherwood Observatory & Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Name	Position on Board	Position/Organisation	Present
Martin Rigley OBE	Chair / Theme Lead – Succeed in Ashfield	Director, Gordian Consulting	✓
Louise Knott	Vice Chair	Vice Principal, West Nottinghamshire College MA2020 Representation	✓
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	✓
Claire Hinchley	Board Member	Acting Director Strategy and Partnerships Sherwood Forest Hospitals	
Clare Hitchings	Substitute for Tim Hepke	Communications Lead, ITP Aero	
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 MA2020 Representation	✓
Cllr Keith Girling	Notts County Council Representative	Economic Development and Asset Management, Notts County Council	
David Williams	Substitute for Jean Sharpe	Partnerships Manager North Nottinghamshire DWP	✓
Edward Johnstone	Board Member	Assistant Principal (Development), Portland College	✓
Gary Jordan MBE	Board Member	Community Engagement and Learning Lead, ATTFE	✓
Graham Ward	Board Member	Chair of Board of Directors, Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust	
Holly Shuttleworth	Substitute for Paula Longden	Strategies and Partnership Lead, Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust	✓
Ian Bond	Substitute for Peter Graw	Director of Learning, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries	✓
Jackie Insley	Board Member	Chief Executive Officer Citizens Advice Central Nottinghamshire	✓
Kieran Percival	Observer	Gardens of Giving	✓
Kirsty Blyth	Substitute for Peter Gaw	Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries	
Leanne Monger	Board Member	Interim Programme Director, Mid Notts PBP	
Lee Anderson, MP	Board Member	MP for Ashfield and Eastwood	
Mayor Andy Abraham	Observer	Executive Mayor of Mansfield	
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	
Paula Longden	Substitute for Claire Hinchley	Associate Director of Strategy and Partnerships Sherwood Forest Hospitals	✓
Peter Gaw	Board Member	Chief Executive Officer, inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries	
Sarah Speight	Observer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost, NTU	
Sarah Mayfield	Substitute for Sarah Speight	Director of Mansfield Hub and UK College and Civic Partnerships, NTU	

Sam Howlett	Substitute for Lee Anderson, MP	Office Manager, Ashfield & Eastwood MP's Office	✓
Simon Cartwright	Board Member	Chief Officer Transforming Notts	
Simon Martin	Board Member	Vice Principal, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE)	✓
Shola Olawole	Board Member	North & East Midlands Group Performance Lead, DWP	
Tim Hepke	Board Member	UK Head of Maintenance and Group Property, ITP Aero	✓
Theresa Hodgkinson	Board Member	Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council	✓
Una Key	Board Member	Chief Officer, Ashfield Voluntary Action	✓
Andrea Stone	Supporting Officer	Wellbeing Manager, Ashfield District Council	
Charles Edwards	Supporting Officer	Executive Director – Operations, Ashfield District Council	
Christine Sarris	Supporting Officer	Assistant Director – Planning and Regulatory Services, Ashfield District Council	
Hollie Maxwell-Smith	Supporting Officer	Discover Ashfield Lead, Ashfield District Council	✓
Joelle Davies	Supporting Officer	Group Manager for Growth, Infrastructure and Development	✓
John Bennett	Supporting Officer	Executive Director, Place, Ashfield District Council	
Kate Porter	Supporting Officer	Towns Centre Manager, Ashfield District Council	
Melanie Wheelwright	Supporting Officer	Forward Planning & Economic Growth Team Manager Ashfield District Council	✓
Millie Connell	Supporting Officer	Communities Graduate, Ashfield District Council	✓
Paul Crawford	Supporting Officer	Investment Manager – Regeneration, Ashfield District Council	
Sarah Curtiss	Supporting Officer	Service Manager for Communications and Events, Ashfield District Council	
Sarah Daniel	Supporting Officer	Assistant Director - Regeneration, Ashfield District Council	✓

Agenda Item	
1	Welcome / Introductions / Apologies – Martin Rigley
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies were made for Darron Ellis, Cllr Gregory, Cllr Girling, Leanne Harwood, Leanne Monger, Melanie Phythian, Peter Gaw, Sarah Speight, Shoal Olawole, Simon Cartwright, Christine Sarris, Kate Porter, Paul Crawford.
2	Review of Previous Meeting – Martin Rigley
a	Board Meeting Minutes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All minutes were agreed.
b	Action Log (these include actions from the below minutes)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members to let Hollie know if they would like to join the funding subgroup. Information to follow board meeting – Actioned. • There were no new actions from the meeting.
3	New Declarations of Interest – ALL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no new declarations of interest.
4.	Regeneration Programmes Update – Sarah Daniel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah went through the programmes update, starting with Succeed in Ashfield (included in the agenda pack).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie Wheelwright updated on Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah continued with the report, from More to Discover (page 26 of the agenda pack).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Edwards asked if St. Mary Magdalene’s Church were looking into grants to make the site more accessible as he’s aware there is funding available. • Sarah will raise this with the team at the Church, as she believed it had previously included access in a project they had delivered a few years ago
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah continued with the report. • Item 1.3 Monitoring and Evaluation. • Preparation has started for the next monitoring and evaluation submission covering the reporting period October 2024 – March 2025. A consultant has been appointed to support the process and coordinate the data required for the submission. • The annual assurance statement has been submitted by the Council’s S151 officer. • Item 1.7 Proposals • Cost pressures remain across the Towns Fund programme as projects progress through the RIBA stages and the delivery stage is de-risked. • The ADMC project has seen an increase in costs associated with the S278 (highways) works and inflation which was managed through value engineering and reallocation of funding. • The Council is seeking through full Council, approval to bring forward a contribution towards these S278 development costs which will benefit the wider site. This would free up £1.75 million from the ADMC budget to manage cost risk across the Towns Fund programme. • Kingsway Park Sports Hub - Undertake value engineering to reduce cost by 150k. Secure 600k balance from ADMC reallocation detailed above.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Kirkby Gateway - Develop overall project to stage 4 detailed design and secure planning. Explore capital funding options for phase 2 block through Kirkby Long-term Plan for Towns programme/ capital receipts and borrowing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board were asked to approve the cost mitigation options set out and to allocate funds where identified.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Relf proposed, and Tim Hepke seconded.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.0 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) The funding allocation for Ashfield for 2025-26 has been confirmed by EMCCA as £1,305,17 (Capital - £571,831, Revenue - £733,346). 39 bids were received from partners with requests for funding of over £2.88m. The Funding Subgroup met on 26th February to discuss the process for allocating funds and consultants have been appointed to undertake a scoring process based on criteria including alignment to UKSPF interventions, response to identified local challenges, links to Ashfield strategies and action plans, local opportunities, additionality, transformative potential, deliverability and risk assessment / experience of delivery. The funding subgroup will reconvene to review the scoring and to agree recommendations to the board. There is currently a review taking place of the 2022-2025 UKSPF underspend. This will be on the next Board meeting agenda.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joelle added that EMCCA had held back funding for regional projects. This largely covers business support such as start-up support. There are also three other aspects in their pilot stage. These topic areas are exports, workshops and training and scale up business support. They have also approved further funding to support the visitor economy and inward investment activity in the region. There is work ongoing to commission Marketing Nottingham to provide this work.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.0 Kirkby Long-term Plan for Towns The national programme has now been renamed Plan for Neighbourhoods. The guidance has recently been released, and Sarah is in the process of writing a briefing paper on this. It looks to be relatively unchanged in many areas, with the governance still the same. The list of interventions is broader giving more scope. The Kirkby Town Board will meet to discuss these changes. The subgroups have continued to meet.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 Hucknall Levelling Up Fund Government has confirmed the withdrawal of the Levelling Up Fund grant of £9.2m from Hucknall. Council officers are working with partners to review opportunities to take the projects forward through other funding sources.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Williams thanked the Board for their support on their social values project to help locally unemployed people.
5	Theme Lead Reports – Theme Leads
a	Succeed in Ashfield – Martin Rigley
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin met with Jo Blundell from Place Matters who organised the joint Mansfield & Ashfield event last summer, to discuss recommendations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He met recently with Kieran and Hollie to discuss the Board.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He visited Nottingham University to speak about innovation and engineering in practice.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visited the opening of the construction centre at the NTU Mansfield Hub. He recommended a visit to Board members.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Friday attended the Discover Ashfield Awards, seeing many fantastic people within the community and businesses locally.
b	Love Where You Live – Liz Barrett
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no update from Liz.
c	More to Discover – Darron Ellis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sherwood Observatory, which has exceeded expectations, is literally a shining star. It really is a wonderful place. It is encouraging to see so many positive reviews from visitors from many areas of the country. I noted that a number of the “Days out” sites across the country on social media have lots of interest regarding the Observatory.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The visitor centres across Ashfield are attracting a large volume of visitors. The trails network and quality of the offerings are to be commended. Where once, they were just there to provide facilities for tea and coffee, toilet stops etc, they now offer so much more including Teversal Visitor Centre, Brierley Forest Park and Mill Waters, and others.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindley’s Windmill in Sutton will be open on a more regular basis. Having spoken to Hollie and Sarah, there is scope for updating the offering to include school visits, walking and community group visits, and much more. A number of these groups have already expressed a great interest in visiting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a thriving live music scene within Ashfield, spearheaded by the Diamond in Sutton. This national award-winning venue really is attracting people from all over the country.
d	Be Healthy, Be Happy – Pete Edwards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management group has been held. Organisations were given the opportunity to share what activities they have been doing and what funding is needed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health services discussed what services were available in Ashfield.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PlayZones are progressing with submission to the Football Foundation by 20th March.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next Ashfield Wellbeing Network is being planned for May.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pete attended the South Notts Place Based Partnership development session which was around the building blocks of health.
6	Discover Ashfield Project Lead Update – Hollie Maxwell-Smith
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hollie thanked Board members for attending and those who presented at the Discover Ashfield Awards.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin wanted to note on the minutes thanks to the Ashfield District Council team who put the event on.
7.	Board Member Updates - All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louise Knott made the Board aware that EMCCA are launching an interim report on 17th March 12-2.30pm at the NTU Mansfield Hub. Claire Ward as Mayor will be there and it will be a great opportunity to hear the current direction of travel and what this means for Ashfield. Places are limited but if you do want to reserve a spot can you contact Louise at West Notts College.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa Hodgkinson updated the board on the Local Government Reorganisation. • As 9 local councils they are progressing plans and met recently with local Leaders and Chief Executives. All will be taking the proposals to Council meetings for endorsement on options. • This will go to debate at Ashfield Council on 17th March. This report will be published shortly. • Theresa will keep the Board updated on this.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Relf added that, whilst this decision is in the future, the Discover Ashfield Board should continue it's work well into the future.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa added that keeping residents at the heart of the decision making was essential. • She also added thanks to the team and board members for the Awards ceremony.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Una Key explained that communities, organisations and residents are being affected by the change and the unknown of coming changes and decisions. She felt it is important for the Board to reiterate that Ashfield will continue to be stable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin agreed with the points raised and reiterated it was important to continue the Board for the future.
7.	Any Other Business – All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no other business raised.
8.	Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 9th April

The Board then took a 15-minute break before reconvening for the Annual General Meeting.