

Todmorden Town Deal Board: Informal programme update

3 February 2025

Notes from the meeting

Attendees: Pam Warhurst, Cllr Silvia Dacre, Cllr Helen Brundell, Cllr Denis Skelton, Gareth Marshall, Kerry Wheelwright-Lee, Tony Lawson. Amna Nisah, Keith Brealey

In attendance: Cllr Sarah Courtney, Kate McNicholas, Rob Shipway, Zak Ali, Cllr Susan Press, Frankie Mullen

Pam Warhurst (PW) confirmed the purpose of the informal briefing session, presenting an opportunity to ask questions rather than a space for decisions, with the formal board meeting taking place on 13 February.

Active Todmorden

Kate McNicholas (KM) presented information on the work progressed within the walking and wheeling approved option.

- Tipside – has been designed and expecting costs soon, resurfacing the full length.
- Todmorden C of E school pavement widening and new formal signalised crossing- designs underway, expecting costings soon.
- Centre Vale Park lighting – quotes for works received.
- Station access – working through approach to ensure health and safety is addressed.
- Canal to market cycle way – working up appropriate approach in context of output delivery.

Cllr Silvia Dacre expressed her enthusiasm and noted there are now lights on in Centre Vale Park, but recognised this may be existing lighting.

Gareth Marshall asked about dependencies with work at the station – no issues reported at this stage.

PW asked if signage improvements were still in scope – **action** to confirm.

Riverside

KM presented information on Riverside.

- Originally two projects, the Riverside and All ability cycle project were brought together.
- Total project cost £1.3m, Towns Fund £1.1m
- Outputs and impact: upgraded sports facility, visitor accommodation, community space and modernised pavilion, new site manager's cabin, educational facilities, access improvements and cycle track and one job.
- Projected costs exceeding available funds by £500k reported to Town Board in December 2024.

- Assurance Framework requires changes below 20% to be reviewed by the Programme Board, and changes above 20% to be reviewed by Town Board, with an updated business case and independent assessment, as well as MHCLG notification.
- Programme Board met 13 December, projected costs reported to exceed available funds by £340k. Confirmed request to exclude visitor accommodation, site manager's cabin and one job. Follow up meeting 19 December clarified approach to value engineering and requested update and revised plan. Programme Board met 30 January and confirmed that a revised project with value engineering and reduced scope of project could address the funding shortfall (with some caveats). However, this potentially creates an impact on outputs.
- Outline revised project shows a variance in the balance of funds across the various elements. Further excluded elements: site lighting and new disabled parking spaces.
- Next steps: site visit 18 February to confirm outputs and deliverables assessment. Programme Board 20 February and additional Town Board 27 February.

PW confirmed that if the proposed project revisions are beyond 20% it will be reviewed by the Town Board. Further information will be gathered for the Town Board's consideration.

Tony Lawson asked about the reason for the shortfall. Rob Shipway (RS) explained the match funding anticipated has not been achieved and costs have increased. Will be checking on size of the cycle track as costs have reduced on that element. KM explained some of the costs previously associated with the all ability cycle track project are picked up in the disabled facilities now within the pavilion cost header.

A question was asked about the Environment Agency's perspective. UCVR have done a flood risk assessment that has been submitted to the EA. EA views may change if there is no sleeping planned on site with the visitor accommodation being proposed to be removed.

Other projects

RS gave a brief update on other projects:

- Hippodrome – seeking a loan of £300k to complete the total project.
- Enterprise Centre – access licences in place. Will be reviewing sustainability elements as deliver, with contingencies in place.