



**Todmorden Town Deal Board**

**Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Fielden Hall, Todmorden**

**Attendees**

Pam Warhurst (Chair)  
Gareth Marshall (Vice-chair)  
Councillor Silvia Dacre  
Councillor Sarah Courtney  
Esther Ferry Kennington  
Kerry Wheelwright  
Keith Brealey  
Amna Nisah  
Tony Lawson  
Councillor Susan Press

**Others in attendance**

Kate McNicholas  
Rob Shipway  
Rose Wheeler  
Frankie Mullen  
Catherine Bann  
Zakariya Ali

**1. Welcome to Todmorden Town Deal**

The Chair opened the meeting, thanking project partners and members of the civil service who had visited the Town and met prior to the Board.

**a. Apologies**

Apologies were received by Josh Fenton Glynn (MP), Cllr Helen Brundell, Cllr Denis Skelton.

**b. Declaration of quorate**

The meeting was declared quorate.

**c. Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

Meeting minutes were approved as a true record.

**a. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

**3. POD (presentation by Rose Wheeler, POD Calder Valley Car Share)**

RW provided an overview of POD, a community-based car sharing scheme in Todmorden and Hebden Bridge. RW explained that POD is a not for profit, Community Benefit Society, and as such conducts its business for the benefit of the community.

The organisation runs a fleet of five cars and is exploring opportunities to expand both the range of cars and providing other transport options, such as bicycles. POD is also seeking to expand into new areas such as Mytholmroyd, and ensure its services are accessible for all abilities.

Full details of POD can be found at [Home - PodHome - Pod](#)

The Board welcomed the presentation and noted opportunities for working in partnership with Town Deal projects such as the Enterprise Centre and College. RW agreed and highlighted the need for new volunteers at POD, notably for potential Directors based in Todmorden.

**Action: ZA to share contact details for POD and RW with Board members regarding potential involvement with POD.**

**4. Active Todmorden update (Ella King)**

The Board welcomed progress on the revised project, which EK explained now incorporated improvements to the canal towpath from Todmorden to Walsden in two phases. It was noted that the improvements would not at this stage continue beyond Walsden to the Lancashire Greater Manchester border. EK reported that work would be delivered by the Canals and Rivers Trust on behalf of Calderdale,

with close cooperation between the two organisations providing cost and efficiency savings. It was confirmed that improvements are planned for seven weirs—one in Luddenden and six between Hebden Bridge and Todmorden. The passes will be wide enough for cycling with funding provided through the Active Travel programme. Six of the structures will be two metres wide.

Active Todmorden included a new crossing outside Todmorden Church of England School. The design incorporates pencil bollards, a wide pavement, and a safe pedestrian crossing. This is supported by the school and engagement has taken place with the school.

Works currently being carried out on the nearby bridge linking Sackville Street to Tipside are not part of the Active Todmorden project. A quote has been obtained for repair works, and the necessary legal matters have been resolved. AN enquired about the timeline for the bridge repair; EK responded that it would depend on the final quote.

It was confirmed that on 23rd June, new lighting will be installed throughout the park.

At Patmos, the Board noted that a small section (equivalent to two car spaces) will receive double yellow lining. This will not include the area outside the shops.

## **5. Governance review & support (Amy Shephard, Shephard and Moyes Consulting Ltd.)**

RS introduced Amy Shephard, explaining that Shephard and Moyes had been appointed to conduct the planned review of governance of the Town Deal, and opportunities for future development. They have been invited to support the Board in a process of reflection—to review what has been achieved, recognise the Board's role in generating community wealth, and identify learning opportunities.

AS outlined the approach to the study, which would include a mix of workshops, interviews, surveys, and draw on good practice from other areas. First steps will include a board reflection tool, to assess strengths, challenges, and key issues.

The Board welcomed the opportunity to work together to understand options for future governance and continued regeneration of the town. While governance of the Town Deal had seen good progress, particularly building understanding between the voluntary sector, business, and the Council, challenges remain. These include recruiting and retaining new and more diverse volunteers and providing clarity on the role of the board and its democratic legitimacy.

Looking ahead, the Board stressed the need for the study to support further development of the town, to include potential delivery vehicles such as a Community Development Trust, and to ensure the study links to ongoing work around community wealth building. Regarding future project opportunities, RS reported that separate workshops will begin to look at opportunities to develop and prioritise a portfolio of projects to support the town.

## **6. Programme update (Rob Shipway)**

RS highlighted the positive response from MHCLG civil servants following a visit to the town. The progress made on project delivery was now visible and the civil service were impressed by the rate of progress. It was noted that six of the seven Town Deal projects were now underway, with the remaining project – Public realm – undertaking further survey works as part of final design and planning.

Work on Fielden Hall was now complete, as have works on the Park Tennis Courts. Work is now on site for the main contracts for Town Hall (to be completed November 2025); Hippodrome (complete February 2026); Centre Vale Park Bandstand and Pavilion (complete January 2026) and War Memorial (complete summer 2025); Enterprise Centre (complete June 2026); Active Todmorden park lights (complete summer 2025); and College (complete February 2026).

At a programme level, as well as the Town Deal funds, match funding had now passed £3 million, including £1.9 million for new social housing at Ferney Lee (Enterprise Centre). Town Deal investment has now passed £5 million and a further £8 million will be invested in the town in 2025 /26.

## **7. Risk log (Rob Shipway)**

RS presented an updated risk log to the Board.

The Board noted that the Council, as Accountable Body, had agreed with projects that 5% of grant should be retained until satisfactory completion of works and output is confirmed.

The Board agreed to hold a reserve of £150,000 to allow for unforeseen costs arising from project delivery.

## **8. Panels update**

### **a. Events (Esther Ferry Kerrington). Kennington**

The Board noted that a bid to the Arts Council is currently being developed, focusing on complementary cultural activity to highlight completed capital investment and to bring new audiences and participants to our enhanced town. It has prompted valuable discussions around how Todmorden can be positioned, how we bring culture to the fore in our 21st Century Market town and how best to engage with the community. As part of this, there are plans to introduce professional training opportunities.

There is ongoing work on branding Todmorden, with the aim of attracting visitors to the town.

### **b. Environment (Gareth Marshall) Sustainability**

GM reported on meetings with the Hippodrome, exploring whether Todmorden Community Energy could fund the installation of solar panels on the roof.

Opportunities for community energy provision at the market (Public Realm) will be discussed once design work is complete.

**Action: RS to set up a meeting with Rachel and GM once the market designs are complete.**

Regarding the Bowling Pavilion, RS suggested providing costs for solar panels, as the project includes contingencies which if not needed could be used to provide funding for the panels.

### **c. Communications (Frankie Mullen)**

A total of 11 press releases have been issued over the past 8 weeks, receiving good media coverage and generating a positive response on social media. Work is ongoing with EK and the Active Todmorden project has been highlighted in the media.

There is now a shift towards evaluating and highlighting the benefits being delivered by the projects. The communications team will work closely with the events panel to ensure alignment and effective promotion.

PW recommended using Valley Life magazine to distribute information more widely. The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is 6th August, and it will feature a double page spread.

## **9. Any other business**

The Board noted that no clear timeline has been provided yet for the station, though assurances have been given that the project will go ahead.

The Board agreed to hold a workshop with Shephard and Moyes in July.

**Action: ZA to set up a workshop in July before the school holidays and to inform Board members by 18<sup>th</sup> June,**

## **10. Date and venue of next meeting**

24<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Todmorden College