



Halifax Town Development Board Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held 21st November 2025
Meeting held at Halifax Town Hall

Attendees

Councillor Sarah Courtney (Chair)
Councillor Joe Thompson
Councillor Kelly Thornham
Councillor Paul Bellinger
Lee Robertshaw
Jason Gregg
Tracey Harvey
Claire Bradshaw

Others in attendance

Natalie Shaw
Damien Wilkins
Mohammed Shah
Kate McNicholas
Diana Greenwood
Rachel Conway
Alex Swithenbank
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1. Introductions & Apologies

Apologies were received from: Councillor Swift, Councillor Blagbrough, Rev. Hilary Barber, Nicky Chance Thompson and Lee Kenny.

a. Declarations of Quorum

The meeting was declared quorate.

b. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared by Board members.

2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting held 15th July 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.

a. Matters arising

Action: Tom Jones will provide an update on the wayfinding strategy at a future meeting.

3. Supporting Town Centre Businesses

Galliford Try provided an update on A629 Phase 2.

Western Corridor: At Bull Green Junction, new traffic signals have been installed and the roundabout removed. The public car park reopened on 27th September, with minor works still outstanding. This reopening generated 133,000 views on a Peter Kay-style video, showing strong public interest.

Cow Green Junction: The footpath is now open to the public, and the right turn from George Street is operational. This junction is also referred to as Pellon Lane Junction. The subway has been closed, and works are ongoing.

Commercial Street (outside the theatre): Bollards have been installed, tree pits are being prepared, and a cycle lane is being constructed to separate vehicles.

Cross Hill/Northgate: Traffic signal ducting is underway, with surfacing works scheduled for November. Engagement with businesses in this area has been very positive, with businesses becoming champions of the project, demonstrating the impact of good communications.

Winding Road: Works outside the bus station are progressing, and the footpath is currently closed.

DG is exploring communication options to inform the public, including a business newsletter and the BID newsletter. Calderdale Reels and an industry newsletter are also being used to promote the town. Plans are underway for an event in the new year to present what has been completed and what is happening next. 80% of highways work is below ground and not visible, but people are now starting to see the positive impact.

Action: MS will circulate communication information to the Board.

On the right turn at the bottom of Bull Green MS is monitoring the situation and has adjusted signal timings to improve traffic flow which should improve when temporary traffic management is removed.

Regarding the return of bus services to George Square. A petition is being delivered on Friday. Cllr JT is checking if this has been raised at the WY Bus Alliance and whether there is scope for WYCA to fund a shuttle bus.

Regarding the removed left turn at Prescott Street, MS explained that accommodating a left turn would require two lanes and would compromise pedestrian crossing safety.

DG shared some information on recent footfall patterns. Counters are located at Eureka, The Piece Hall, and Woolshops. She also observed that Woolshops remained busy despite increased parking charges.

JG shared updates from the BIDs plans for events and activities in the lead up to Christmas. QR codes will be placed around town for digital engagement. A campaign involving 20 influencers will promote the Halifax Gift Card. Suggestions were made to incorporate QR codes into tickets (e.g., Cuff & Taylor) to offer discounts.

Action: JG to send business survey results.

A BID street ranger has joined the team, focusing on cleaning bins and planters. Positive feedback has been received from businesses. The role is being developed in collaboration with the Highways Team at Calderdale Council to cover areas not currently serviced by the Council. A mechanism for feedback on grot spots is being explored, now there is someone walking the town regularly.

The BID are in discussions with DWP regarding work experience opportunities once the street ranger gains more experience.

The BID ballot requires 50% of businesses to vote in favour for it to continue. Renewal ballot scheduled for October 2026.

The BID's online learning platform, Seedl, offers training in key skills. 133 users have registered, with 180 courses completed to date. Visibility of the platform remains an issue, despite its value for business development.

At The Piece Hall, Christmas Markets will feature daytime entertainment open from 10am across six weekends, with entertainment throughout the day and a fairground continuing into the New Year. Summer gigs attracted 185,000 attendees, with 44% being first-time visitors to The Piece Hall. DG highlighted the need to maintain contact with first-time visitors to The Piece Hall.

It was suggested that Halifax has ample parking but requires clearer structure and signage, especially for visitors. Woolshops car park is nearly full on a Sunday due to its location, cleanliness, safety, and accessibility. Social media complaints mainly focus on parking. However, surveys conducted around car parks and parades showed no complaints. O&C owns 3–4 car parks, operating at over 90% capacity.

TH praised Cllr JT for his support of local businesses and efforts to welcome people back after 18 months. TH emphasised the importance of encouraging local shopping during Christmas. The reopening of the Lloyds building is a further opportunity to support local businesses. Harvey's has gift card promotions underway to encourage local spending.

Action: KM to share information on business support with Cllr JT.

Action: KM / Cllr SC to signpost Cllr JT regarding a discussion on charging for lost parking income during events. Cllr Courtney noted that the Events Team has a comprehensive checklist for event planning.

4. Halifax Vision

Kate McNicholas presented the Halifax Vision update to the Town Board.

KMN reported that the team is progressing towards a strong draft of the Halifax Vision. The aim is to position Halifax for future investment and development, while capturing the essence of the town.

The draft, which is still a work in progress, focuses on strategic location, policy alignment, and key strategic drivers. The vision contains six clusters of projects that address the vision objectives, referred to as the "big moves":

- A smart, sustainable and inclusive economy
- Grow and connect social infrastructure
- Connecting our assets
- Activating and adapting the retail core
- Gateway neighbourhoods
- The Hebble Valley Arc

The approach is not to produce detailed business cases, but rather to set out a clear vision across short, medium, and long-term horizons. The document includes current delivery, proposed initiatives, and future aspirations. A public launch is being considered for the New Year.

Cllr KT expressed her support for the vision, noting that it plays to Halifax's strengths. She raised the importance of the Station Gateway and asked for it to be prioritised.

The Board confirmed Dean Clough's important role and the need for good connections both in physical terms and in other forms such as wayfinding.

A question was raised regarding the timeframe, with the vision looking ahead to 2045. With this timeframe in mind, the vision will be apolitical, one which provides flexibility and can secure buy-in from a wide range of stakeholders yet be practical too, with clear short-, medium-, and long-term proposals. Noted the importance of the document providing a long-term framework to secure any emerging investment opportunities, be they private or public sector funds. Cllr SC emphasised that although funding is not currently available, it is important to lay the groundwork now so that the town is prepared when opportunities arise.

Halifax's strong voluntary sector and community organisations was highlighted. It was noted that it is important the document recognises the strong role the third sector plays in the town, whether that be in the form of a capital, physical presence, or via networks.

It was agreed there should be a recognition of the importance of leisure as an asset and opportunity and though it is in the current document, will look to draw this out more.

The importance of connections to Beacon Hill was emphasised.

Action: KM to share the full document prior to submission to Cabinet.

5. Any Other Business

Cllr JT informed Board members about a campaign for markets, you can vote once per day.

6. Date of the Next Meeting

TBC