



Todmorden Town Deal Board

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 11th December 2025

Todmorden Community Learning Hub

Attendees

Pam Warhurst (Chair)
Councillor Denis Skelton
Councillor Silvia Dacre
Councillor Helen Brundell
Josh Fenton-Glynn MP
Amna Nisah
Tony Lawson

Others in attendance

Councillor Sarah Courtney
Kate McNicholas
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome to the meeting

a. Apologies

Apologies received from: Keith Brealey, Kerry Wheelwright-Lee, Esther Ferry-Kennington and Gareth Marshall.

b. Confirmation of quorum

Meeting was declared quorate.

c. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 18th November 2025

a. Matters arising

The Chair enquired about the Football Foundation, and KMN reported that the project is ongoing against Football Foundation timescales.

The action from the previous meeting regarding communications for the Public Places project was discussed. A banner is being investigated including FAQ link, and RS will meet with Frankie Mullen (Comms) to discuss this further.

BT has been contacted regarding the phone box, and the issue has been resolved. BT will install a new door on the existing phone box.

Cllr SC reported that EA staff were asked about the blocks. These were placed to support the construction of a wall. It was suggested that contacting the relevant team would be worthwhile.

The Disability Access Forum will submit a formal complaint to the EA regarding accessibility issues. The Chair noted that we need to consider how to approach this matter.

Action: KMN will identify a contact point in the EA.

A paper will be brought to the next meeting on options for areas of focus for the town board.

Action: RS / PW to draft paper on options.

The police have been informed about the issue of “zombie shops.”

3. Programme Update

Programme Progress Overview

RS confirmed that monitoring visits have been completed, and progress is up to date. The bulk of projects are expected to finish by June 2026. With additional match funding the programme is now at £18.5 million in capital investment. Other projects are also applying for bids.

Financial Update

In Q2, £9 million has been spent from Town Deal funding. Outputs have exceeded expectations and will be fully delivered between June and September next year.

Active Todmorden

Work has started outside the school. The Tipside element of the project was highlighted. Ella King (Project Manager) has secured £40,000 in match funding, and the Programme Board is considering providing £30,000, with an in principle approval while final paperwork is completed. Communication plans were discussed, including entry points at the Walsden end of the canal.

Action: RS to finalise Programme Board information and notify Town Board members when approved.

Centre Vale Park

Additional costs on the bandstand have been identified as a result of more structural problems than previously anticipated. The Programme Board have approved in principle to reserve funds if these costs cannot be met by project level contingencies.

Action: RS to finalise Programme Board information.

The project also highlighted an opportunity for a seating area costing £20,00 which was noted for consideration as the programme progresses.

Todmorden Town Hall

The Town Board has already been notified about the issues with the contractor. Project Managers have identified alternative contractors already working on the project, ensuring a seamless transition. This has caused a slight delay, but the project remains on track for completion.

The Chair suggested that it is important to inform the public about key milestones.

Action: KMN to speak to Project Managers working on Todmorden Town Hall about communications, and consider options for programme level communications.

Todmorden Community Learning Hub

Outputs are complete. A request for £100,000 has been submitted for additional works, which at this point has not been approved and will be considered as the programme progresses.

The Town Board will have an input into considerations for future funding allocations across the programme.

Public Places

The project has gone out to tender with returns by 28 January, and a start date of May 2026. As per previous discussions, communication will be key.

Hippodrome

A revised grant agreement has been issued. Another bid has been submitted for external funding. The Board praised the Christmas lighting on the building.

Enterprise Centre

Board members can visit the site. Good progress is being made, and the project is on target to finish in June 2026. The Chair highlighted that the Enterprise Centre contractors have done brilliant work. KMN added that the social benefit is significant.

MHCLG has introduced a new point of contact for KMN and RS, who is keen on identifying key moments for potential ministerial visits.

Requested information on Riverside has been provided and is being reviewed in advance of final settlement. Concern was expressed about the programme sign remaining in place. £120,000 has been secured by Empowered People: revenue funding for new vans, showers, and bikes.

Action: KMN to review approach to removing the sign.

Cllr DS asked where contractor issues should be raised. RS replied that concerns must first be addressed with the organisation.

It was suggested that projects should be encouraged to submit for awards where appropriate to raise the profile of the work and programme.

4. Risk Log

RS updated the Board on the risk log. A review of the financial strength of contractors has been completed. RS noted that lessons learned will need to be reviewed going forward to understand how similar issues can be avoided in the future.

Cllr DS raised concerns regarding delays on a licencing application related to the park.

Action: Cllr SD to follow up.

5. Mobility Hubs

KMN updated that while there has been a review of regional capital spend, it looks likely that the funds will remain in place for the mobility hubs, based on the allocation of revenue funding.

Cllr SC reported contacting the Combined Authority and received a reply stating that detailed designs are nearly complete. The aim is for construction to begin in summer 2026, although this is not guaranteed.

AN requested a timeline of all activities happening in Todmorden, colour-coded to show what is taking place in the town. The Chair replied there is something similar already available but it is a great suggestion.

Action: RS to progress with support from FM.

The Chair asked about the Wayfinding Strategy. KMN confirmed that it will start with Brighouse and Halifax first then move onto other towns.

6. Conservation Area Plan

RS has had conversations about updating the conservation area plan. The Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan and Design Guide are considerable assets.

Historic England will be visiting in January. There is a benefit to connecting to heritage groups in Todmorden.

Action: Conservation officers to attend a future Board meeting to give an update on the conservation area plan.

7. AOB

The Chair expressed her concern that there have been delays enacting the commitment from Northern Rail.

Action: JFG to write to Northern Rail.

8. Date of Next Meeting

12th February 2025, Todmorden College