

Minutes

MEETING: Chadderton Town Board (Long-Term Plan for Towns)

DATE: 26 April 2024

VENUE: Chadderton Town Hall, Garforth Street, Chadderton, OL9 6PP

TIME: 13:00

PRESENT	Aldred, Sarah	Director of Customer Experience, First Choice Homes Oldham
	Ashraf, Kashif	Oldham President, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
	Bailey, Abigail	Graduate Management Trainee, Oldham Council
	Barton, Emma	Deputy Chief Executive (Place), Oldham Council
	Catherall, Harry	Chief Executive, Oldham Council
	Clifford, Paul	Director of Economy, Oldham Council
	Cobley, Julian	Senior Account Director, Arcadis
	Consterdine, Neil	Director of Communities, Oldham Council
	Cotton, Maria	Head of Place Making, Oldham Council
	Hawksbee, Adam	Chair, Government Towns Unit
	Heaps, Callum	Area Coordinator for Greater Manchester, North West and Northern Powerhouse, Cities and Local Growth Unit
	Jordan, Simon	Principal and Chief Executive, Oldham College
	Lockwood, Stuart	Chief Executive, Oldham Community Leisure
	McLaren, Colin	Chair, Chadderton Together Community Group
	McMahon, MP Jim	MP, Oldham West and Royton
	Nugent, Martin	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer, Police and Communities, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
	Penn, Jennifer	Town Centre Business Manager, Oldham Council
	Phythian, Kyle	Manager, Office of MP Jim McMahon
	Shah, Councillor Arooj	Leader, Oldham Council
	Shuttleworth, Councillor Graham	West District community lead and councillor for Chadderton South, Oldham Council
	Taylor, Catherine	Oldham Partnership Manager, Department for Work and Pensions
	Tolan, James	Principal Regeneration Officer, Oldham Council
	Wharton, Jake	Communications Officer, Oldham Council
	Windsor-Welsh, Laura (Chair)	Oldham Director, Action Together CIO
APOLOGIES	Mathieson, Estelle	District Commander Oldham, Greater Manchester Police
	Popplewell, Grace	Greater Manchester Deputy Area Lead, Cities and Local Growth Unit
	Richards, Peter	Assistant Director - Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery, Oldham Council
	Taylor, Councillor Elaine	Deputy Leader and councillor for Chadderton Central, Oldham Council

1. Introductions and apologies for absence (Laura Windsor-Welsh)
Introductions were made and apologies noted. Adam Hawksbee introduced the Long-Term Plan for Towns as a long-term programme providing Chadderton and 74 other towns with capital and revenue funding worth £20m each over ten years. This Board must represent a cross-section of the local community and work with local people to develop a 10-year vision and 3-year investment plan for Chadderton and the surrounding area by 1 August. Community engagement and peer-to-peer learning will be critical to success.
2. Welcome (Laura Windsor-Welsh)
Housekeeping matters were covered, and members were welcomed.
3. Establishing the Board (Laura Windsor-Welsh)
i) Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair Laura Windsor-Welsh was appointed as Chair (nominated by Councillor Arooj Shah and seconded by Kashif Ashraf). Laura is the Oldham Director for the Local Infrastructure Organisation and Charity, Action Together. Laura has worked within the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector in Oldham for the last 25 years and has been with Action Together for almost the last 10 years. Laura is driven by social justice and is passionate about tackling inequalities, community wealth building and shifting power and resources into the hands of communities. Laura has spent the morning with several local community groups talking through the work of the Long-Term Plan for Towns Board, and how they can get more involved. Councillor Colin McLaren was appointed as Vice-Chair (nominated by Councillor Arooj Shah and seconded by Kashif Ashraf). He is the Chair of the Chadderton Together Community Group, an organisation formed in 2008 with the aim of bringing together voluntary groups in Chadderton for mutual benefit. ii) Review and adoption of Terms of Reference Board members agreed to review the Terms of Reference and provide comments prior to the document's adoption during the next meeting. The Terms of Reference will be published at oldham.gov.uk and subject to an annual review. ACTION: Paul Clifford to circulate the Terms of Reference for feedback prior to adoption. MP Jim McMahon agreed with the three priorities in the Terms of Reference and suggested that the Board consider taking an overview of planning decisions affecting the delivery area, in the context of Greater Manchester's <i>Places for Everyone</i> (spatial framework). Laura Windsor-Welsh responded that a mapping exercise is essential to determine development opportunities and complement/enhance initial work by Arcadis (agenda item 7). iii) Confirmation of Secretariat Lead The Board agreed for Oldham Council to fulfil the secretariat function for the first twelve months of the programme; Paul Clifford will be the Secretariat Lead until a review of the secretariat

function at the Board's AGM. In the longer-term, the Board may use some of the capacity funding to enable a local group to fulfil the secretariat function. The capacity funding will be key to delivering community engagement on the Long-Term Plan.
4. Notice of any urgent business to be accepted onto the agenda and reasons for that urgency (Laura Windsor-Welsh)
None received.
5. Procedural business and any items accepted as urgent business (Laura Windsor-Welsh)
ACTION: Paul Clifford to circulate and maintain a register for declarations of interest.
6. Overview of Long-Term Plan for Towns (Harry Catherall) The presentation covered the following points: • £20m is available over ten years (approx. £1.4m capital and £0.6m revenue per annum) • The delivery area set by Government covers Chadderton Central, Chadderton North and Chadderton South, plus small parts of Coldhurst, Failsworth East, and Werneth. • Oldham Council will take a light-touch approach as accountable body for the funding. • The Board must be open, transparent and engaging, with an evolving and diverse membership base and lean structure. • The Board should be bold in establishing key investment principles and short- and long-term ambitions. • The funding could be used as a lever to bring in additional funds from other sources. • The Board is encouraged to learn from, and share best practice with, the other 74 towns, particularly those in Greater Manchester. • The vision and the investment plan must be based on insight from community engagement and be co-designed and co-produced with the community. <i>Adam Hawksbee left the meeting.</i> <i>Councillor Arooj Shah left the meeting.</i> ACTION: Paul Clifford to circulate the Oldham Council presentation slides. Kashif Ashraf: the Board should look at extending basic support measures. Harry Catherall and Emma Barton will not be formal members of the Board. The GMCA's role on the Board is as a facilitator. MP Jim McMahon commented that community engagement was important and would need to be timed appropriately. Laura Windsor-Welsh advised the Board that a community engagement approach must be agreed and mobilised very quickly. It will be important to identify the things and places that matter to local people, and to provide resource and expert support to community groups to empower them to co-develop a pipeline of projects.
7. Understanding the Place (Julian Cobley)

i) Overview of the desktop assessment

ii) Key messages and emerging themes

Oldham Council has appointed Arcadis to develop five district growth plans. The draft growth plan for the West District including Chadderton shows opportunities and challenges, underpinned by data and reflecting local and national trends. Key characteristics and headlines are diverse communities, pockets of high unemployment, pockets of deprivation, good connectivity/infrastructure, and areas of industry with potential for growth.

The Urban Room was highlighted as a proven engagement model for engaging different audiences at different times, in different ways. It involves creating a safe space with visual aids to stimulate discussions. Chadderton Library and Wellbeing Centre could be an ideal venue for such pop-up events.

The Arcadis evidence will be a useful starting point for the Board as it develops a comprehensive and inclusive dataset including diversity data and a map of public and private assets. The Board will ultimately present the baseline dataset to the public for challenge and validation; community insight and data are of equal importance in the programme.

The Board will need to manage expectations and be clear about capacity/resource constraints. Community engagement/consultation will commence once the baseline dataset has been established.

The Board will draw upon the “Re-imagining Chadderton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan” commissioned in 2023 by Chadderton Together, and learn from the engagement sessions for a new neighbourhood plan that have so far engaged 60-70 people (delivered by the Chadderton Youth Partnership).

The Board might wish to consider upskilling local people, for example by appointing a trainee/apprentice to help deliver the programme.

The Board acknowledged the importance of promoting Chadderton as an investable proposition and targeting innovative projects that deliver value for money. This could involve looking at a deficit model and determining barriers to change and growth.

ACTION: Paul Clifford

- (i) to circulate the Arcadis presentation slides.
- (ii) to circulate the “Re-imagining Chadderton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan” (2023).
- (iii) to coordinate a desktop mapping/profile exercise to underpin the approach to community engagement.
- (iv) to create an asset register linked to One Public Estate data.
- (v) to circulate and publish online the map of the Long-Term Plan for Towns delivery area.

Neil Consterdine spoke about drawing on PBI planning for real data.

If any proposals from the community do not align with the programme objectives or are unworkable for any reason, the Board might consider factoring them into broader levelling up discussions (Harry Catherall).

There was a discussion about residential vs. employment sites, namely: does the draft Local Plan support or challenge the view of Chadderton as somewhere to live only, rather than somewhere to live *and* work? (MP Jim McMahon)

Consider adding safety/crime data to the baseline and noting that this was outside the Arcadis commission.

Simon Jordan urged the Board to focus on the area's positives and to promote existing and forthcoming assets/projects extensively. Local people might view local assets like the Bee Network and Metrolink differently from the Board. The Board should spend money gradually and focus upon successes/positives rather than well-documented/longstanding challenges.

The Board should remember that, unlike the Long-Term Plan for Towns, the West District does not include Failsworth or Coldhurst (Councillor Shuttleworth).

MP Jim McMahon commented that projects could be targeted and/or universal, depending on community priorities.

8. Developing the Vision and Investment Plan (Laura Windsor-Welsh)

i) Setting the vision and priorities

The Board will dedicate its next meeting on 7 June to a workshop to establish the vision and set priorities. Desktop information and data will be collated and circulated beforehand.

ii) Community engagement including approach, mechanisms and timeline

Engagement must be accessible, flexible, inclusive, and sustainable, and set out in a dedicated engagement plan. There should be a co-production approach, centred upon the Board helping local organisations to build their capacity for designing and delivering community engagement with and for the Board.

ACTION: Laura Windsor-Welsh

- i) to set up a task group for community engagement and to circulate a community engagement approach brief
- ii) to engage an independent facilitator for the next Board Meeting workshop on 7 June.

Stuart Lockwood must send apologies for 7 June. He can engage users of Oldham Community Leisure via QR codes.

MP Jim McMahon commented that some places are on the administrative boundary between Oldham Council and Manchester City Council.

MP Jim McMahon commented about the private residential sector and these issues should be considered in the general work of the Board to improve the area.

iii) Expansion of Board membership

The Board will broaden its membership to include community groups, faith groups, businesses, and young people. Ideally groups will send chairpersons (or equivalents) to represent them during meetings.

Where there are existing networks in the community, the Board will reach out to them rather than create new sub-groups of its own.

Neil Consterdine says the Board needs to consider more representation from the voluntary sector – “our shop window”.

Harry Catherall suggested reaching out to all local schools.

ACTION: the Board to plan an open day for the Long-Term Plan for Towns, potentially coinciding with Chadderton Day (6 July).

ACTION: Laura Windsor-Welsh to explore options for engaging additional stakeholders including businesses, young people, community groups, voluntary groups, and faith groups so that they are represented on the Board by the date of the engagement workshop (7 June).

iv) Future meetings

Where possible meetings will be held on Friday afternoons. Meetings will be held approximately once a month for the first twelve months.

9. Action review / next steps (Laura Windsor-Welsh)

ACTION: Paul Clifford / Secretariat

- i. circulate the Terms of Reference for feedback prior to adoption.
- ii. circulate and maintain a register for declarations of interest.
- iii. circulate the Oldham Council presentation slides.
- iv. circulate the Arcadis presentation slides.
- v. circulate the “Re-imagining Chadderton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan” (2023).
- vi. coordinate a desktop mapping/profile exercise to underpin the approach to community engagement.
- vii. create an asset register linked to One Public Estate data.
- viii. circulate and publish online the map of the Long-Term Plan for Towns delivery area.

ACTION: Laura Windsor-Welsh

- ix. set up a task group for community engagement and mobilise an approach.
- x. circulate a community engagement approach brief.
- xi. engage an independent facilitator and work with them to plan the Board visioning session on 7 June.3. Es
- xii. explore options for engaging additional stakeholders including businesses, young people, community groups, voluntary groups, and faith groups so that they are represented on the Board by the date of the engagement workshop (7 June).

ACTION: the Board

- xiii. plan an open day for the Long-Term Plan for Towns, potentially coinciding with Chadderton Day on 6 July.

10. Any other business (Laura Windsor-Welsh)

None

11. Time and date of next meeting (Laura Windsor-Welsh)

Provisionally 13:00-15:00 on Friday, 7 June 2024 (venue in Chadderton TBC).

The meeting closed at 14:42.