



Meeting of the Ryde Town Board of Directors

Held on Friday 7 February 2025, 12:00 - 14:00 at No. 11 St Thomas's Square, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2PJ

Present	
Carol Jaye (CJ)	Steven Holbrook – Chair (SH)
David Redrup (DR)	Trevor Nicholas (TN)
Geoff Underwood (GU)	Also in attendance
Karen Lucioni (KL)	Allan Bridges (ABr) (Project Director)
Louise Dandy (LD)	Ann Barber (AB) (IW Council)
Lisa Gigliani (LG) (via Teams)	Peter Fellows (PF) (IW Council)
Phil Jordan (PJ)	Stuart Sayce (SS) (Place Spark)
Rachael Randall (RR)	Sarah Chatwin (SC) (Place Spark)
Richard May (RM)	Rebecca Outing (RTC as Secretariat)

Item		ACTION
1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from James Hinton, Donna Jones, Luke Kerr and Joe Roberston.	
2.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Meeting Notes - To agree the notes of the meeting held 10 January 2025 The notes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.	
4.	Place Spark – update about the future progress of Community Engagement Report Stuart Sayce from Place Spark presented the results from the Community Engagement consultation and a draft version of the report for government. The follow up discussion emphasised the importance of ensuring the report remains adaptable, recognising that key elements may evolve. Concerns were raised about consultation gaps and the need to address missing perspectives from underrepresented groups. It was acknowledged	

	<p>that while broad engagement is crucial, there is a risk of becoming mired in continual consultation without progressing.</p> <p>ACTION: Explore strategies to engage underrepresented groups, with a particular focus on the 70+ age group</p> <p>Strategic alignment was raised, particularly in relation to work previously undertaken by RTC and other entities. Sarah Chatwin confirmed that existing work has been taken into consideration to ensure the report's effectiveness. The importance of Ryde as a central focus, rather than the wider Isle of Wight, was reiterated.</p> <p>The report will be circulated for review from the Board members to ensure factual accuracy. Members agreed that focusing on the framework and overall structure would be most beneficial at this stage, rather than delving into excessive detail. This item will be reconvened at either the March or April meeting, allowing time for everyone to digest and provide feedback.</p>	ABr
5.	<p>Verbal update - Latest on guidance and future of the programme</p> <p>SH confirmed that no further communication has been received. Receipt of the additional £200,000 capacity funding is still pending.</p>	
6.	<p>To agree the membership of the Business Task Force</p> <p>Membership confirmed to include: Lisa Gigliani (Lead) James Hinton Carol Jaye David Redrup Karen Lucioni.</p> <p>The group seeks to establish a unified voice for local businesses and create a platform for structured engagement. It also aims to enhance business representation across various sectors, including retail and tourism, to ensure a well-rounded approach.</p> <p>The potential for developing a business association was raised as a long-term objective, offering businesses a more structured platform for collaboration. While there is no immediate consensus on this, the task force will explore the feasibility of such an initiative.</p> <p>ACTION: Draft Terms of Reference for the Business Task Force to be written for discussion</p>	ABr
9.	<p>To agree the membership of the Inward Investment Task Force</p> <p>Membership confirmed to include: James Hinton Phil Jordan</p>	

	<p>Carol Jaye Geoff Underwood Richard May.</p> <p>A decision on leadership and meeting schedules will be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>There was a short discussion about merging the Business Task Force and Inward Investment Task Force, but this was ultimately rejected. It was agreed that while the two groups should collaborate, their functions remain distinct. The Business Task Force will focus on business engagement and representation, while the Inward Investment Task Force will concentrate on attracting and managing investment opportunities.</p> <p>ACTION: Draft Terms of Reference for the Inward Investment Task Force to be written for discussion</p>	ABr
10.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>KL: A request was made for Board members to meet with Ryde Town Council to discuss social engagement initiatives. The format of this meeting is yet to be confirmed, but it is expected to involve a Q&A session with council representatives. Members to coordinate participation.</p> <p>ACTION: To organise a social engagement/ Q&A session between Ryde Town Board and Ryde Town Council</p> <p>LD: The audio recording of meetings was raised and discussed. Concerns were raised that not only could this hinder open discussion, but also that some discussions involve commercially sensitive information. It was agreed that, for now, meetings would not be recorded. SH agreed to revisit the request in future.</p> <p>RR: Guest speakers. RR suggested inviting Kate Willard OBE, an experienced advisor on government investment strategy, with past involvement in Town Boards, to share insights on funding and development strategies. No objections were raised.</p> <p>ACTION: To invite Kate Willard OBE to meet Ryde Town Board</p>	<p>ABr</p> <p>RR</p>
11.	<p>Details of next meeting</p> <p>Friday 7 March 2025, 12:00 - 14:00 at No. 11 St Thomas's Square, Ryde</p>	

Meeting closed at 13:17