

Distington Big Local Ltd /Partnership Board Meeting
Extraordinary Meeting
3 July 2019, 10 am
Distington Community Centre

Present: Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Norma Pritt, Josephine Greggain, Annette Whitehead, Karen Hodgson, Paul Tharagonet, Alison Boyd, Sue Hunter (Minutes)

Apologies: Alan Hunter, Julia Powley

200.19 Welcome The Chair welcomed everybody.

201.19 Conflict of Interests NP and AW – Community Centre funding.

202.19 Minutes of Previous Meeting N/A

203.19 Question of Possible Employment of Lindsay Bodman on a permanent contract.

The Chair introduced the background to this question. LB had recently asked for a reference to apply for a permanent part time job elsewhere (she is currently on a one year maternity leave contract), but had also said she was very happy working for DBL Ltd.

It was agreed that the workload in the office has become very high, with some things having to take a back seat to the complex issues and paperwork that the land project has generated. The Chair felt that though we had been somewhat pushed into making a decision about this, that the experience and work ethic that LB had brought should be kept if possible. She was also concerned at the effect the extra workload was having on IM, who has been so constantly busy it could not be sustained indefinitely. The post has changed immeasurably since IM took over, and she has changed with it, and done a great job. SH has been helping out where possible to try and take a little of the pressure away from IM.

After discussion it was conceded that although we have now engaged professional people to take the land project forward, there will still be a lot of work associated with it, and decisions to be made at every stage.

The board were in agreement of these views, but AB was concerned about the legal aspects of changing a contract before the person on maternity leave comes back. Concern was also expressed about Vic not feeling pushed out, and it was felt she should be immediately informed of any decision. LB had stated that she would reduce her hours if necessary, possibly going down to 16 hours per week.

IM had consulted CVS on the legality of the situation and possible options. AB asked if IM could inform the Board about this before a decision could be made. IM referred to an e-mail from CVS, options being –

it would be possible to extend the temporary contract for as long as required;
a permanent contract could be issued which would be dated from March 2019 (when LB commenced work)

The only proviso would be on hours, these could not be changed after the contract was put in place.

After more discussion the following proposal was put to the vote : -

LB to be offered a permanent contract (hours to be negotiated, minimum 16 per week), to start immediately after the end of the current temporary maternity leave contract. If LB accepts, Vic to be told immediately by IM/RR.

This was agreed unanimously by the Board.

NP then raised the problem of lack of space in the office for an extra person. It was thought that LB/Vic would work at different times, and also IM now has the option to work from home, so hopefully this would not cause a problem.

203.20 Community Centre application for funding Phase 1 improvements.

NP and AW left the room during this discussion.

The Community Centre committee has asked that £10,000 of the proposed DBL Ltd funding put aside for this project be made available to refurbish and rewire the kitchen. They have obtained £10,000 match funding as requested, and the quote from a local firm for the work is just under £20,000. This is a fixed price contract, and the work is scheduled to be done over one week in August 2019.

The Board unanimously agreed to this spend of £10,000.

NP and AW were invited back in and informed of the decision.

Date of next Board meeting : 6th August at 2pm in the Mable Knowles Room