

Welcome to Yorkshire

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**Welcome to Yorkshire Board Meeting – Thursday 23rd April 2020 at 2:00pm
Zoom Meeting**

WTY Board Meeting

Present:

Jas Athwal DL (JA)
Dan Bates (DB)
Peter Box CBE (PB) – Chair
Nicky Chance-Thompson (NCT)
Richard Flint (RF)
Jacqui Gedman (JG) - Observer
Paul Grace (PG)
Ros Jones
Carl Les (CL)
James Mason (JM)- Chief Executive
Abbie Ollive (AO)
Sarah Tahamtani (ST)

Apologies:

Stephen Parnaby (SP)

In Attendance:

Tina Cooper (TC)
Andrew Galvin (AG)

1. Welcome and Apologies.

PB welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from SP.

2. Declarations of Interest

With regards to the WTY loan CL declared he is the Leader of NYCC and a member of the North and West Yorkshire Business Rates Pool Committee.

3. Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 23rd March was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Minutes were proposed as a true record of the board meeting on the 21 February 2020.

4. Chair's Update

PB formally welcomed Nicky Chance-Thompson, Richard Flint and Abbie Ollive to the WTY Board and thanked them for their time and commitment to WTY.

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PB acknowledged the impact that the Coronavirus is having on tourism and thanked the WTY staff who have accepted change and different ways of working, including those who agreed to be furloughed. He highlighted the huge amount of work there is to do to assist the recovery of the tourism sector once the current restrictions begin to lift.

PB informed the Board that work on a recovery plan has started and several very positive meetings with local authority leaders and chief executives have taken place, with more timetabled over the coming weeks.

A report to the West and North Yorkshire Business Rates Pool Committee (BRP) is being prepared and we are waiting for confirmation of the date of the meeting.

Standing items and reports

5. Chief Executive update

The Board noted a report from the Chief Executive that included information on WTY's response to the Covid-19 restrictions, an update on events that have been postponed, the furlough of staff and different ways of working during the lock down.

Decision: The Board noted the report and requested a detailed report on the WTY Recovery Plan to the next Board meeting.

Action: To include a report on WtY Recovery Plan (short term strategy) on the agenda for the next Board meeting

Decision: The Board agreed to inform the JM how they would prefer to receive information and confirm which communication channels they currently use.

Action: Board members to contact JM regarding future communication methods

JM presented an updated draft Strategy Proposal on the medium to long term future direction of WtY.

Decision: Board members discussed the draft strategy in some detail and agreed to send comments to TC.

Action: Board members to email comments on the draft strategy to TC

Decision: A Board meeting will be arranged to focus on the proposed strategy and governance review.

Action: To arrange a Zoom meeting to focus on the WTY Strategy and improvements to governance arrangements

6. Governance

The Board noted a report on proposed changes to WTY governance arrangements.

Decision: The Board will consider the reports and send comments to TC to be collated for discussion at a future Board meeting.

7. Finance

The Board considered a financial update report from AG and discussed financial priorities for Welcome to Yorkshire.

Decision: The Board noted the report.

Decision: The Board requested that consideration is given to further cost savings and a report is brought back to the next Board meeting.

Action: A report on additional savings to be presented to the next Board meeting

8. Health and safety

The Board noted the measures in place to support staff who have been furloughed.

It was noted that no staff accidents have been reported this month.

It was noted that First Aider refresher training was completed in March

It was noted that staff are at various stages of completing the e learning course on Inclusion and Diversity provided by Shipley College

The Board noted that on line GDPR training for all staff is in progress.

9. AOB

10. Dates and frequency of future Board meetings

An additional meeting to be arranged, date to be confirmed