

Attending: Link Agency (PJ Phil Jones, Chairman), Goole Town Council (JC James Cooper), Goole Civic Society (MHC Margaret Hicks Clarke), Environment Agency (PS Paul Stockhill).

Present: Programme Manager (HH Helen Hoults), Regeneration Project Manager (NR Nick Russel), Local Growth Co-ordinator (LJ Leigh Johnson), Media & Communication (LO Lucy Oates), PAF Project Coordinator (BW Ben Wright) James Timm (ERYC Strategic Property Head).

1. **Welcome and Apologies** the Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and took the opportunity to note thanks to the outgoing Board member Barbara Jeffreys, for her dedication and involvement as the former Goole Town Council representative and welcomed Goole Town Councillor James Cooper to the Board. Apologies were received from Cllr Anne Handley, Teresa Chalmers, Claire Watts, Richard Beal, Laurie Ferguson, Mark Speed, Jamie Lewis and David Davis M.P
2. **Declaration of Interests** JC declared an interest in Goole Vikings Rugby Club having been in discussions with them during their first season in the Betfred league regarding their requirements.
3. **Draft Minutes from Friday 11th July 2025** were approved by MHC, seconded by PS and agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising** MHC raised an issue regarding planning permission for the North Street end of the arcade. An application will be resubmitted and be considered by the western area planning committee. MHC said she will contact Cllr David Jeffreys to discuss. To also note that as the Arcade is now in two private party ownerships, a separate application for the Victoria Street side is also in motion
5. **Projects Progress Report:** HH outlined progress across the Town Deal Programme. Work continues to progress at pace on the **Market Hall** building however, completion and handover is expected to be delayed which has impacted on the phased scheduling of the public realm work surrounding the exterior of the building. Work is taking place with the new hall operator, to agree their launch schedule and publicity plan. In addition, a meet and greet session with local stakeholders will be arranged. The impact of both the Public Realm and Market Hall construction work has required Goole Town Council to review the annual Christmas light switch on event. It was agreed that public notification of this be concluded and issued as soon as possible.

The **Victoria Pleasure Ground** is at a critical stage with a tender process currently live to procure the site operator by Goole Town Council and a recruitment process for a VPG community engagement officer role with GTC. The tender for the site operator opened on 22 August with a deadline of 17 October.

PJ explained there are specific requirements to the tender for the site operator to ensure this part of the process secures a successful and a sustainable future for the VPG community asset serving the many community clubs and associations as intended, this is why the appropriate procurement is in place to ensure a fair and consistent approach. Appropriate managed usage and space will be part of the site's success. The VPG was funded as a community asset to ensure generations of people can benefit from the multiple facilities that will become available across a range of sports and abilities. Semi-professional clubs will benefit from the regenerated VPG whilst it is predominantly funded as a community asset and that will shape future usage to serve community interests. The added value of wider local economic benefits that semi-professional clubs can generate for the town is most welcome and occasionally managing these conflicting needs can present challenges to be overcome that do not limit or hinder the original community and grass roots benefits on the site's completion. The Community Engagement post will help address some of these issues. JC has shared information links to encourage local interest in the current opportunities available.

JC discussed continuing rumours circulating regarding a change to the original building plans and understands that some changes were required during the planning approvals process. MHC stated that any major changes to the project would have required reapplication. No major changes have occurred therefore the project is developing

as intended. MHC also added Goole Civic Society will be attending home games and have advertising around the site for the 2026 celebrations.

Goole Leisure Hub steel work has now been erected adding scale and dimension to the building. Anticipated completion date remains as July 2026. LO has asked East Riding Comms team to update on development so she can create updates for Town Deal communications.

Developments on **Station Hub** are taking time due to Network Rail and Northern Rail formal agreements, and their complex sign off process. Station Hub work has been incorporated into the Public Realm contract of works schedule and will be the final phasing stage. There will no disruption to rail passengers during these works however some road closures will occur for the highway improvement aspects outside the station forecourt. JC noted that despite some disruption people will see the positive as physical change takes place and Town Deal delivers on its commitments.

HH explained the Hull & East Riding Transport Partnership has provided continuation funding for the **Hopper service** to be maintained until the end of the financial year (31st March 2026). Future transport considerations will be the responsibility of the combined authority and a new funding regime. A decision will be required prior to December 2025 on the future direction of the service. Viability has been clearly demonstrated, and the Hopper can now evidence why it should be considered as part of a mainstream public transport provision. The fact the current Transport Partnership agreed to fund the service until the end of March 2026 is a positive sign. HH added that a clear timeline and future strategy for the Hopper will be created for the November 2025 Board meeting.

Public Realm work has begun on the pedestrian plaza. Much work has taken place to ensure all businesses have been consulted to understand their operational needs and the impact of the work on their business. Outdoor space issues and licenses are being carefully managed. Humberside police are currently in dialogue with Goole Town Council regarding CCTV and the welcome pruning back of trees to improve camera visibility. PJ added consideration of the deterrent factor and improved security has always been a consideration of the Public Realm improvement works alongside stronger enforcement and a zero-tolerance approach to criminal damage. The recent graffiti at Riverside Gardens was highlighted.

HH explained all skills funding had been allocated through **Opportunity Goole** grants. Success stories will be developed and the next phase in terms of scope and funding will be considered via the Government's Get Britain Working programme. PJ added that the value of having a local single point of contact service in Goole with so much economic opportunity has been highly valuable for local businesses and residents and the value and benefits of this should be highlighted when considering future provision and modelling.

Dutch River Road highways works have been completed. The flood defence work starts on site in September. Timings for the Greenway may be pushed back slightly until flood works are completed. The Environment Agency are working with LO to produce a press release update.

6. **Property Activation Fund Review** BW outlined the remaining budget and all projects contracted in the system. PAF applications have converted into 24 fully approved and contracted projects. Of the contracted projects, 8 have achieved financial completion, following final monitoring visits and approval of their final claims. There are currently 16 projects in active delivery. BW explained that consideration had been given to the likelihood and potential risk of any approved project failing to complete delivery therefore not being able to draw down the grant awarded in the committed budget. As of the 8th of September 2025, there are no projects across the approved project portfolio that indicate this risk. However, during regular monthly delivery monitoring, this will continue to be observed, and any concerns reported promptly.

BW explained options available for Board members to consider in relation to the limited remaining PAF funding. Various routes and considerations were discussed including strategic priorities of PAF, project risks and outcomes. JC remarked on the undercover walkway from Paradise Place to the market hall and suggested potential for a development in collaboration with Brew York. HH clarified any financial decisions must be based on the best way forward for PAF and in line with the approved project priorities and expected outcomes. Various views and considerations were shared and BW advised that aspirations for the former cinema building were on hold due to

being unable to agree a way forward currently with the building owner. PJ added that some potential suggestions do not fit the necessary criteria to be taken forward in time via the PAF and those will need to consider alternative future options post Town Deal for delivery. MHC added that projects with high community value, visual impact and positive health and wellbeing outcomes could be viable. PJ proposed that sites of high strategic priority be invited to apply for the remaining PAF budget under a specific timeline and that they be appraised as a single batch for best value and deliverability. This would be a final call on remaining PAF funds, and a competitive process given the limited PAF fund remaining. It was agreed to take this proposal forward and if any other amount remains or becomes available, then that be considered for additional frontage improvement works to high street properties.

- 7. Communication Activity and Forward Planner** LO reported on media coverage of Goole Town Deal. In the period 2 July to 4 September, Town Deal posts were viewed over 95,823 times and reached over 21,000 people. More than 700 people interacted with posts and 600 people clicked on links to more information, PJ thanked LO for her detailed report and stated that the scale and value of comms work had been very thorough and made a significant impact across all projects and the overall programme.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Plaza Fund Launch BW confirmed work has now been completed to launch the Pedestrian Plaza Fund and that it is now open for applications. Three applicants have already started to register their intent. Successful projects will need to be carefully managed on timings to prevent disruption with the Public Realm project work in the same location.

8.2 Case for Change Rail Study HH highlighted the current study and consultation into the potential for regular rail transport to Leeds including from Goole. This follows on from work that the early Town Deal sought to take forward by producing an outline business case. Town Deal was unable to take the process further and the regional task group agreed to continue with driving the aspiration forward. ERYC has pursued the opportunity again as increasing momentum to support the change is growing to support investment and growth.

8.3 Items from the Floor HH advised Town Deal is now in its final chapter, and every effort is focussed on delivery and completion to honour the agreed commitments of investment for Goole. It is anticipated that by November further information will be available from central Government in terms of any significant competitive funding streams available to Local authorities. Likewise, funds to become accessible via the new combined Authority alongside ERYC's growth plans and Economic Development Strategy, are expected to shape and define the next chapter post Town Deal for Goole.

JC notified all that the developer, Helen Li, is keen to establish a town centre group. One of the aims would be to consider what the next steps are for the town centre and the needs in terms of offer to attract and establish new businesses that the town may require. PJ commented that the impact of Town Deal and what happens next in terms of the effect development will have and the longer prognosis for the town centre will take some time to demonstrate. Several aspects in Goole have been transformed in the last five years and the Town Investment Plan produced to secure the Town Deal, is a ten-year plan with the same objectives and aspirations. Continuing to tackle the aspects that have not changed or deal with new detrimental economic issues remains the challenge for all concerned to determine how and what with.

- 8 Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority** Nothing new to report other than anything mentioned previously during the meeting.
- 9 Date of future Board meetings** All will take place from 2pm to 4pm in person at Raise Business Centre, unless advised otherwise on the following dates:
- Friday 14 November 2025
 - Friday 20 February 2026
 - Friday 17 April 2026