

#### **Item 14 - Old Bank Initiative – Information only**

To receive information from Cllr M Molteno and Cllr Jancovich in regard to the Old Bank Initiative in Todmorden.

This Committee notes that The Old Bank in the centre of Todmorden has been vacant for a significant number of years. Empty shops like this can contribute to the decline of town centres. Conversely, bringing unused spaces into positive use, can help stimulate local social and economic activity.

Following Cllr Molteno and Cllr Jancovich's meeting with Matt Bowman from Leeds based Charity, East Street Arts, Councillors wanted to make the Resources Committee of Todmorden Town Council aware of a project by East Street Arts which hopes to bring life back into the old Yorkshire Bank Building. Todmorden is home to many artists and the possibility of both celebrating their work in the centre of town and of rejuvenating a beautiful and prominent building is exactly the kind of project we need to see more of.

East Street Arts intends to take a lease on The Old Bank and partner with Todmorden based artists to utilise the building – creating simple and affordable studio, rehearsal or maker spaces. East Street Arts will encourage the artists to open The Old Bank up to the public – through workshops, drop-ins or exhibitions. The space would benefit from repairs and maintenance work, potentially from local volunteers, to maximise its potential for active use.