

**Workington Town Deal Board Meeting
Friday 15th November 2024 – 2pm**

Draft Minutes

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Barbara Cannon	Cumberland Council
Katie Cartner	Holmen
Emma Chapman	Workington Town Council
John Coughlan	Chair
Valerie Hallard	Churches Together in Workington
Bridget Johns	Cumbria CVS
Cllr Denise Rollo	Cumberland Council
David Taylor	Allerdale Investment Partnership
Tony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group

Officers/Support

Diane Carter	Cumberland Council
Elizabeth Fitzsimmons	Cumberland Council
Debbie Kavanagh	Cumberland Council
Kevin Kerrigan	Cumberland Council
Ebony Rollinson	Cities and Local Growth Unit

1. Apologies

Board Members: Cllr Mark Fryer, John MacAlister MP

Noted that Jonny Lowe has left Holmen/Iggesund and has been replaced by Katie Cartner.

Mike Egerton has stepped down from the Board as Sovereign Centros no longer have any involvement in Workington following the sale of the Washington Square Shopping Centre.

2. Declarations of Interest

Non declared.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The Board agreed the minutes of the last meeting (17 May 2024).

KK noted that as previously advised by email the Project Adjustment Request considered at the last meeting has been approved by MHCLG.

4. Project Update Report and Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting

The board considered a Project Update Report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The information contained in this report will be input to the Monitoring and Evaluation to be submitted to MHCLG.

The update report relates to the period to 30 September 2024 as required by MHCLG. A number of updates following the preparation of the report were provided:

The following projects updated were discussed:

Public Realm and Connectivity: The construction contract has been awarded to Thomas Armstrong Construction and work will commence in January with completion scheduled for October 2025.

Sports Village: There has been a delay in the planned submission of the planning application due to an ongoing review of design/cost. This is now anticipated to be submitted in December 2024 but should not impact on the planned delivery programme. The revised scheme is to be reviewed with the football and rugby clubs in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr Rollo asked if the programme could be shared. KK confirmed this would be done following the discussion with the clubs.

KK advised that Cumberland Council, in its role as accountable body, is discussing revised governance arrangement for the project with Cumberland Sports Village Ltd to provide further engagement and oversight of the delivery programme.

Clean Energy Hub at Port of Workington/Oldside. The planning application for the remediation scheme at Oldside will not now be considered as the November Planning Committee as the Biodiversity Net Gain mitigation issue has still to be resolved. Ecologists have been instructed and a number of sites for possible off-site mitigation provision are being considered. It is hoped that

the planning application would be considered by the Planning Committee in January. This should not impact on the delivery programme as due to ecological constraints work cannot commence until after April/May 2025.

Innovation Centre/Public Realm.

The extent of slag material at the site is greater than initially anticipated but a cost for removal has now been agreed and this is within the budget contingency. Groundworks commenced on 11 November and are expected to be complete by the end of the year with construction work commencing in January.

In response to a question from Cllr Cannon it was confirmed it was the extent of the slag across the site that was greater than expected and a specialist sub-contractor has been employed to remove this material.

The Board agreed the following.

- The Chair be authorised to sign the Monitoring and Evaluation Return for the Town Deal Programme

6.. AOB

The next meeting will be on Friday 21 February 2025 at 2pm. A schedule of future meeting will be circulated.

KK advised that as there were a couple of vacancies on the board it may be an appropriate time to review Board membership. Cumberland Council were also considering whether there may be a role for the Board following the conclusion of the Town Deal Programme as the Council develops a new Economic Strategy. Any changes to the Board would be agreed by the Council's Chief Executive as agreed when the Board was established but any comments from Board members in relation to a review of Board membership could be submitted for consideration. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

John Coughlan suggested it would be appropriate to appoint new members to the vacancies. Valerie Hallard suggested that if new members are appointed a site visit to view the project may be helpful.

John Coughlan thanked the Cumberland Council team for their work in delivering the Town Deal programme.

The meeting ended at 2.32pm