

**Workington Towns Deal Board Meeting
Friday 12 June 2020
Draft Minutes**

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Alan Barry	Cumbria County Council
Chris Bagshaw	Workington Town Council
John Coughlan (chair)	TSP Engineering Ltd
Valerie Hallard	Churches Together in Workington
Gordon Henry	Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service
Mark Jenkinson MP	MP for Workington
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
Chris Nattrass	Lakes College
Cllr Paul Scott	Allerdale Borough Council
Corinne Watson	Cumbria LEP
Anthony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group

Officers/Support

Julie Alexander	Allerdale Borough Council
Michael Barry	Cumbria County Council
Ashley Bennett	Mott MacDonald
Hannah Dolan	PA to Mark Jenkinson
Miriam Ferrari	Mott MacDonald
Rosie Jenkins	Cities and Local Growth Unit
Kevin Kerrigan	Allerdale Borough Council
Lizzy Shaw	Cumbria County Council
Oliver Steele	Mott MacDonald
Julie Ward	Allerdale Borough Council

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed all Board Members and their supporting officers to the meeting.

Apologies

Cllr Mike Johnson

Allerdale Borough Council

2. Minutes of last meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

3 Findings of Baseline Study

Mott MacDonald (MM) presented work done to date on the baseline economic position in Allerdale and Workington. The limited availability of settlement level statistics will be addressed in part by extensive stakeholder engagement proposed as part of the study.

The presentation slides had been previously circulated to board members, and highlighted the unique nature of the local economy, the challenges that need to be addressed, and constraints and opportunities for future growth. Understanding the baseline situation is fundamental to the Workington Investment Plan, enabling the identification of projects that will address key issues and contribute to the achievement of the vision.

Rosie Jenkins of CLGU confirmed that it is long term transformation and change that the fund is addressing, not the short -erm impacts of Covid 19.

4. Updated Vision

Following further feedback from the board, a revised vision had been prepared for consideration.

“Workington is a vibrant and well-connected commercial, civic and community hub for West Cumbria, loved by residents and visitors. Its prosperity is being built on a manufacturing renaissance, clean energy and a thriving town centre, powered by its skilled workforce and a dynamic mix of large and small companies. The town offers everyone a wealth of cultural, leisure, sporting and recreational activities. The town centre is home to new residents, businesses and social enterprise, as its attractive natural setting, built heritage and accessibility is increasingly recognised across Cumbria and beyond. Workington is a safe, healthy, affordable and sustainable community that offers opportunities for all.”

This was judged a huge improvement on earlier versions and agreed by board members subject to further review of the use of tense in the text, and the inclusion of the word ‘educational’ in the vision, as part of the activities offered by the town.

The strategic goals had also been realigned to reflect the revised wording of the vision.

5. *Project Discussion*

Since the last meeting MM had refined the set of project packages incorporating comments received from board members. Some new ideas had also been put forward.

Proformas had been prepared outlining each project with an overview of known and key information to support discussions around the inclusion or exclusion of projects in the Intermediate list of potential projects for the Workington Investment Plan. These were outlined in the meeting

In view of the number of projects to consider, a working group is to be established into which board members can feed their comments on each scheme. The working group will consist of KK, MB, CB, JC, OS, CW, and a template will be circulated to enable the submission of observations. The chair gave assurances that all comments would be fully considered, including those submitted whilst the meeting was ongoing.

MM explained that some of the projects had been included for completeness, and underlined the need for schemes to align with the Towns Fund, and tie in with challenges demonstrated in the baseline findings. Projects should address underlying issues, trends and economy, and board members were asked to consider whether there were any gaps in the schemes put forward.

6. *Future Meetings*

Next Board meeting – Friday 03 July 2020 – 13:00 pm, to be held remotely. Board members will be updated accordingly.

The meeting ended at 4:20 pm