

**Workington Towns Deal Board Meeting**  
**Friday 22 October 2021**  
**Draft Minutes**

The meeting was held at Allerdale House, Workington with a number of attendees also joining online via MS Teams.

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Alan Barry	Cumbria County Council
John Coughlan (Chair)	TSP Engineering Ltd
Jack Gordon	Sovereign Centros
Valerie Hallard	Churches Together
Cllr Michael Heaslip	Allerdale Borough Council
Cllr Mike Johnson	Allerdale Borough Council
Jo Lappin (online)	Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
Chris Nattress (online)	Lakes College
Councillor Paul Scott	Allerdale Borough Council
David Taylor (online)	Allerdale Investment Partnership
Anthony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group

Officers/Support

Michael Barry (online)	Cumbria County Council
Rosie Jenkins (online)	CLGU
Kevin Kerrigan	Allerdale Borough Council
Catherine Nicholson	Allerdale Borough Council S151 Officer

1. Apologies

Mark Jenkinson MP, Bridget Johns, Catherine Gourlay

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting (24 September 2021)

3. Feedback from site visits

In advance of the meeting a number of board members had undertaken a site visit to the Port of Workington followed by a walking tour of a number of the project sites including the sports village, the innovation centre and key locations within the public realm and connectivity project as well as the outdoor gym, events space and public realm improvements funding using the Towns Fund accelerated funding.

The Chair asked for any feedback from board members following the site visit. Comments received were that it was good to see that the accelerated funding projects had been carried out to a good standard, that it was good to see the potential of the Port of Workington and that the site visits had been very useful and it was good to see the projects are closely related in term of location.

#### 4. Projects Update

A project update had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

##### Port of Workington/Oldside

- Project steering group met 15/10/21 (CCC/ABC/AIP/WSP)
- Reviewed programme and approach to the development of the business case.
- Reviewed outline of strategic case.
- Reviewed evidence base.
- Ground Investigation work (window sample drilling and trial pits) commenced 11/10/21
- Delay to cable percussion drilling due to covid related staffing issues. Work now due to commence w/c 26/10/21 – project team are confident this delay can be accommodated within the overall programme.

Cllr Alan Barry commented that it was good to see ABC and CCC working well together

##### Public Realm and Connectivity

- CCC working to confirm appointment of consultants to support development of business case.
- CCC/ABC officers held workshop to review scope of project taking into account revisions to budget following project prioritisation.
- Programmed for completion of business case by end December 2021.

It was noted that the comments received from board members during the site visit would be very helpful to the project team in considering where to focus the planned investment.

## Digital Accelerator

- Programme and approach to the development of the business case agreed with Mott MacDonald. Project review meetings scheduled for every 2 weeks.
- Baseline data collection and analysis of available information has been progressed.
- Some delay in receipt of requested information in relation to project specific information and employer contacts.

Chris Nattress confirmed he has met with Mott MacDonald and provided further information to assist with the demand assessment work.

## Innovation Centre

- Programme and approach to the development of the business case agreed with Mott MacDonald. Project review meetings scheduled for every 2 weeks.
- Demand assessment work progressing well.
- E Survey has now been issued. Closing date 29/10/21.
- 3D model developed and work undertaken to review massing and building scale in the context of what can fit on the site.
- Socio-economic contextual review underway.

Board members discussed the location of the innovation centre within the central car park site and that the 3D modelling work currently undertaken will be important in determining how the building is integrated into the surroundings and links the site to the town centre. Cllr Alan Barry asked that the location of the Innovation Centre be considered carefully, sensitive to the impact on light and privacy to the neighbouring houses and church. KK responded that once the 3D model is developed and the massing and building scale work is completed, this would be addressed in the planning process.

## Sports Village

- Programme and approach to the development of the business case agreed with Mott MacDonald. Project review meetings scheduled for every 2 weeks.
- Initial work completed in the local and regional market analysis; cost benchmarking; procurement strategy and a roadmap for the scheme.
- Inputs will be shared with key stakeholders at workshops planned for 28/29 October.
- The Project Board continues to meet every 2 weeks. Clubs are progressing work to consider governance/financials structure for the

future operation of the sports village and making arrangements to visit/meet other clubs to learn from their experience. Meeting held with Chairman of Consett AFC and support from the FA discussed.

It was discussed that the availability of match funding for this project remains a challenge but that positive discussions are taking place. There was also a discussion in relation to the potential choice of pitch surface for the proposed stadium and community pitch a decision on which has still to be made and examples of stadia elsewhere which accommodated both football and rugby league.

Jo Lappin advised via the chat function that she had to leave for a national meeting she needed to attend but that she was going to ask about the plans for reporting on project development, risk etc going forward to ensure that the Board have the necessary to support the implementation of the programme.

The Chair commented that he was comfortable with the format of the project updates that has been provided and sought view of other board members who were in agreement.

## 5. AOB

Cllr Mike Johnson raised the potential impact/risks to the Town Deal Programme associated with the planned local government reorganisation in Cumbria. It was noted that it was important that the existing councils (ABC and CCC) ensure that any match funding and land transfers required to support the delivery of projects were confirmed in advance of LGR.

Cllr Barry asked that thanks be recorded for Sven Richards at the Port of Workington for the tour of the Port and for ABC for providing the meeting venue and lunch for board members.

It was agreed that whilst the hybrid meeting format had worked well and was convenient given the meeting followed the site visits the next board meeting at 2.30pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November would be an online meeting using MS Teams.

Meeting ended 15.19