

**Workington Towns Deal Board Meeting
Friday 24 September 2021
Draft Minutes**

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Alan Barry	Cumbria County Council
John Coughlan (Chair)	TSP Engineering Ltd
Catherine Gourlay	Workington Town Council
Valerie Hallard	Churches Together
Cllr Michael Heaslip	Allerdale Borough Council
Mark Jenkinson MP	MP for Workington
Bridget Johns	Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
Chris Nattress	Lakes College
David Taylor	Allerdale Investment Partnership
Anthony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group

Officers/Support

Sami Falou	CLGU
Kevin Kerrigan	Allerdale Borough Council
Corinne Watson	Cumbria County Council

1. Apologies

Michael Barry, Jack Gordon, Rosie Jenkins, Cllr Mike Johnson, Jo Lappin, Catherine Nicholson, Cllr Paul Scott, Lizzy Shaw

Note. The Chair was experiencing technical difficulties and only able to join the meeting intermittently but asked that the meeting continue.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Governance Update

As requested at the previous meeting a paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting updating on governance/appraisal processes. This reflected the arrangements previously discussed and agreed by the Board. It was noted that with the agreement of the Chair Allerdale Borough Council's S151 Officer would be invited to attend Board meetings given the formal role of the S151 officer in the Town Deal process and to strengthen the links between the Board and the accountable body. Unfortunately, Catherine Nicholson had been unable to attend due to another commitment relating to local government reorganisation.

Cllr Heaslip sought clarification of the terminology accountable body. KK confirmed that this reflected the wording of the Town Deal and related guidance.

Cllr Barry asked for clarification in relation to the separation of project development and appraisal. KK confirmed that as set out in the paper there is a clear division of responsibilities with Allerdale Borough Council. KK noted that the paper referred to the potential use of Mott MacDonald to provide independent appraisal and confirmed that they would only be used for those projects where they are not commissioned to develop the business case. Where further independent appraisal is required for projects where Mott MacDonald are supporting the development of business cases alternatives will be identified if additional independent appraisal is required.

4. Projects Update

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

Cllr Barry noted that there is a lot of work to do and asked for confirmation that deadline could be met.

KK and CW acknowledged that there is a lot to do but all project and consultant teams were working to a clear brief and timetable and were confident this would be met.

5. Financial Profile

A financial profile for future drawdown had been submitted with the Town Investment Plan and Project Confirmation and MHCLG have provided an opportunity to review this by 27 September.

It was noted that at the request of MHCLG this profile does not include the 5% advance funding that it is to be provided and which will be deducted from future payments.

Following consultation with the project teams some adjustments were proposed and circulated in advance of the error. Whilst noting an error in one of the columns the Board agreed the proposal.

Valerie Hallard noted that in relation to the digital accelerator project £1m spend was profiled for 22/23 and did this mean that the facility would be located at Lakes College rather than the Innovation Centre. KK advised that this would have to be confirmed and agreed through the business case but the TIP had indicated it would be at Lillyhall. Chris Nattress suggested that whilst the equipment was likely to be located at Lakes College as the main hub there is a potential future role for the innovation centre.

Tony Waring asked for confirmation of the match funding requirement, particularly the sports village. KK confirmed that there was a circa £6m match funding requirement. Whilst a number of options are currently being explored it is not yet possible to confirm the source of match funding. The business case will have to demonstrate how it is intended to secure match funding.

6. Future Meetings

The following dates for future meetings were agreed. Invites to be circulated next week.

Friday 22 October – 2.30pm
Friday 19 November – 2.30pm
Friday 17 December – 2.30pm
Friday 14 January – 2.30pm
Friday 11 February – 2.30pm
Friday 11 March – 2.30pm

It is intended that meetings would continue via MS Teams however at the last meeting a visit to the project sites had been suggested. It was proposed that these take place in advance of the next meeting on 22 October with details to be confirmed. With this in mind it is proposed to hold the meeting in person with the option for board members to dial in if unable to attend in person. Details of the meeting arrangements are to be confirmed.

Meeting ended at 15.10