



Workington Town Deal Board

05 December 2025, 14:00 – 16:00

The Oval Centre or MS Teams: [MS Team meeting link](#)

Minutes

Actions	Owner/Date

Decisions	Owner

No.	Item
1	<p>Welcome and introductions / apologies / declarations of interest.</p> <p><u>In attendance</u> Ellie Richardson (ER), Debbie Kavanagh (DK), Robert Docherty (RD), Liz Fitzsimons (LF), Denise Rollo (DR), Mike Renouf (MR), Barbara Cannon (BC), John Coughlan (JC), Anthony Wareing (AW), Steven Counce (SC), Chris Nattress (CN), Steven Robinson (SR).</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> David Taylor, Michael Heaslip. Katie Cartner (stepped down).</p> <p><u>Conflict of Interests</u> No conflicts of interest were declared.</p> <p>Returned conflict of interest declarations from board members were circulated as part of the Agenda Pack for transparency and will be uploaded to the Workington Town Deal Board webpage.</p>
2	<p>Review of previous minutes Minutes from the meeting held on 12th September 2025 were ratified by the board. The minutes will now be uploaded to the webpage.</p>
3	<p>Actions from previous meeting No. 01 – Complete. No. 02 – Complete. Outstanding Conflict of Interest Declarations and Bios will be chased up.</p>
4	<p>MHCLG 6 monthly report DK presented the performance report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2025, which had been circulated in advance. It was explained that at this time, the details of this report would typically be submitted to MHCLG, however due to changes in guidance from Towns Fund to Local Regeneration Fund, it is not required.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the RAG ratings and status of each project, explaining that commentary on these ratings is included in the report. Risks were presented to the board along with their mitigation and scores, as well as a client update.</p>
5	<p>Programme/Project Updates SC presented an update to the board. Innovation Centre</p>

- Construction is progressing well with practical completion expected in March 2026.
- The operator has signed the contract, with final stages of governance being worked through internally before final sign off.
- Photographs showing progress were shared with the board.

Public Realm

- Works are progressing on Murray Road with works due to commence on Central Way in January.
- Wayfinding strategy design is in progress and stakeholder consultation will occur in due course.
- Photographs were presented to the board highlighting enhanced pedestrian crossings and new seating areas.

Port of Workington

- Following the open tender procurement exercise for a D&B contract in October 2025, ten tenders have been received and are being assessed.
- Expect to finalise the assessment and award contract before Christmas.
- Public communications planned for January 2026.

DR queried whether any market engagement had been conducted before going out to tender. SC explained that it was an open tender, but a specialist contractor was required so there were little local contractors who applied.

Sports Village

SR gave a verbal update. Notes to be circulated with the minutes.

- Project is progressing well.
- Planning application has been submitted and is due for determination in January 2026.
- Tender for construction contractor is underway.
- Groundshare agreement has been agreed between Workington Town and Workington Reds rugby teams. Changes and adjustments to the grounds were needed to make sure the Reds can be accommodated.
- A business plan is being developed to make sure the facility is financially sustainable post-completion.
- There has been a change in scope resulting in additional funding being required.
- Anticipating commencement of works in March 2026.

CN queried the anticipated timescale for the planning sequence, and whether there are any significant stop/go risks. SR explained there are no great risks anticipated to come through from the planning permission that would impact delivery, however it was noted that there may be flood risks. It is understood that there could be pre-commencement conditions tied to the planning permission but these would not yet be known. Aiming for determination at the planning committee in January 2026.

It was also queried whether the intention is still to move the Workington Reds club in January, before all planning applications and groundshare agreements have been finalised. In response, it was explained that there are interdependencies to work through and a decision from Cumberland Council on project delivery is needed before moving the club. There are ongoing communications with the Workington Reds and it is recognised that notice is required to ensure the club is ready to move when needed.

It was queried whether the timescales for delivery were now too tight, and whether agreements will be made in time to progress. It was explained that a key milestone is coming up for Cumberland Council's Executive to be presented the report in January 2026 for sign off and that sign off will create a domino effect, but only once everyone is comfortable can the project progress.

6 Any other business / next steps

CN queried whether there has been any notable community feedback provided that the board would benefit from knowing about. SC explained that although there had been some complaints regarding barriers during construction, there is generally positive feedback from the community now.

	<p>It was noted that CN is retiring and therefore stepping down from the board. Mark Fell will be joining the board in his place as a representative of Lakes College.</p>
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	<p>The chair wished the board a Happy Christmas and New Year, and closed the meeting at 14:58.</p>
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