



Millom Town Deal Board

21 May 2026, 14:00 – 16:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Actions	Owner/Date
To amend the RAG rating (and related commentary) for Stakeholder/Political Interest RAG on the Iron Line from a 3 to 4.	WD/SR
To amend the colour of the spend RAG within the report for Activating Community Health.	DK
VK to go back to project managers to check they are monitoring this alongside contractors.	VK
Query whether this is a correct output for this project? How is it being measured and should it be in a different project?	VK/WD
To ensure project managers are articulating the risks and mitigations appropriately.	VK
Report to be recirculated following amendments for the board to review.	ER

Board Recommendations	Owner

Agenda Item No	Agenda Item
1	Welcome and introductions / apologies / declarations of interest David Savage welcomed the board to the meeting. <u>Present</u> David Savage (DS), Cllr Bob Kelly (BK), Paul Skelton (PS), Andrew Harper (AH), Andrew Hobson (AHo), Marion Giles (MG), Adam Connolley (AC), Simone Faulkner (SF), Tracey West (TW), Liz Fitzsimons (LF), Debbie Kavanagh (DK), Ellie Richardson (ER), Victoria Kelsall (VK). <u>Apologies</u> Simon Bremer, Paul Foster, Nick Lancaster, Wendy Devlin, Steven Robinson. No new declarations of interest.
2	Review of minutes The Board ratified the draft minutes from the meeting dated 4th March 2026. The minutes will now be uploaded to the Millom Town Deal webpage.
3	Actions from previous meeting No. 35 – In Progress – Revenue funding package needs to be reviewed with Tracey. Awaiting confirmation from finance on the spend position as of 31st March so this can be confirmed with Tracey. Looking to arrange a meeting with Tracey to discuss a Change Control request in early June. No. 50 – Complete – PS reviewed the reports. Continuous review required to make sure there is a real sense of issues in the report. Paul to take lead on monitoring this going forwards.

4	Introduction to the new Old Bank operator Deferred to informal board meeting on 11th June 2026.
5	Millom Town Deal Performance Report – 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026 DK presented the report to the board detailing the position of the projects on 31st March 2026. There are some changes to the content of this report following guidance from MHCLG, including: • Client comments are now required in more detail, with MHCLG looking for information on programme progress/health. • Information required on significant changes and challenges. • Risk RAG has been replaced with Stakeholder Engagement RAG. • RAG guidance has been updated and is included in the report. • Programme level risks no longer have RAG ratings and are instead described in detail. DK highlighted that although the report does not require sign-off by the board, it is important that it is subject to appropriate scrutinising. <u>Iron Line:</u> PS noted that the challenges are not being described sufficiently for this project and challenged the Stakeholder/Political Interest RAG which was rated 3. DS and VK agreed a 4 may be more appropriate. ACTION: (WD/SR) To amend the RAG rating (and related commentary) for Stakeholder/Political Interest RAG on the Iron Line from a 3 to 4. <u>Activating Community Health:</u> PS raised that the colour of the spend rating (RAG 4) is incorrect. ACTION: (DK) To amend the colour of the spend RAG within the report for Activating Community Health. <u>Outputs:</u> DS queried whether it is correct that '0' temporary full-time jobs supported are being reported for Activating Community Health. ACTION: (VK) to go back to project managers to check they are monitoring this alongside contractors. DS also queried the EV charge points mentioned in the agreed outputs for Reactivating Heritage Buildings as this has not been mentioned within the project. ACTION: (VK) Query whether this is a correct output for this project? How is it being measured and should it be in a different project? <u>Risks:</u> PS challenged the mitigations for the programme risk 'Increased capital and unforeseen costs' explaining they don't mitigate the risk appropriately. Perhaps the scope should be modified or new funding streams be explored. ACTION: (VK) To ensure project managers are articulating the risks and mitigations appropriately. DK suggested rewording the last line of the Iron Line mitigation to explain we may need to reconsider the scope may address the concerns as the current wording not clear. ACTION: (ER) Report to be recirculated following amendments for the board to review. Top three programme risks need to be brought back to a future discussion to make sure these are accurately detailed on future reports. Project Change Controls • TD. 15 – Reactivating Heritage Buildings: to rebaseline the milestones for an accurate reflection of project progress.

	Form presented to the board as part of our internal governance process surrounding Change Controls. All change controls will have been previously discussed with the board.
6	Programme Progress Report <u>Activating Community Health</u> • Sports and leisure workshop recently undertaken. • Building now watertight. • Swimming pool passed stabilization testing. • Internal walls are being built up. • Planning approval for new access road granted. • Leisure operator secured – “Everyone Active”. • No official opening date yet but handover is anticipated to be October 2026. PS queried when the operator will be recruiting and how the board can be of support to the operator during their recruitment process. DS confirmed that Luke Leathers and Everyone Active have agreed to come to the next informal board meeting scheduled for 11th June 2026 so queries can be picked up there. <u>Iron Line</u> • Planning approval obtained in February 2026. • Plan to award construction contract in June, start on site in July, and complete in March 2028. • Options to use other mitigation measures rather than a TRO continue to be explored. • The cost plan is over budget due to several factors, including slope stability works, inflation, contaminated land, and the solution to the use of the byway. • Proposal to move budget from Connecting Millom and Haverigg to Iron Line through a change control to support cost pressures. Active Travel may also provide some additional funding. PS suggested a Deep Dive may be needed on this project in future meetings. DS requested that a paper is provided for the 11th June 2026 detailing programme priorities, how funding issues will be addressed for Iron Line, and how the Connecting Millom and Haverigg project is impacted by any proposed changes of scope, including other potential funding streams to address any shortfalls. AHo queried the proposals around vehicle access, looking for reassurance from CC that they have confidence a solution is possible. DS confirmed discussions are ongoing between CC and RSPB, and whilst it does not look likely that a TRO will be the final proposal, a suitable solution will be agreed alongside RSPB. MG raised a concern that this project is behind on progress compared to other projects even though this was the ‘lead project’ in the eyes of MHCLG. DS explained that the projects that have gone first were able to progress as they had been granted appropriate planning approvals. Iron Line had two attempts at planning approval and has been impacted significantly by the lack of progress relating to planning. It should be clear to MHCLG that we are exploring alternative funding to strengthen the budget and ensure the project is successful. <u>Reactivating Heritage Buildings (Old Bank)</u> • Operator now secured. • Building now watertight including new extension. • Second-fix mechanical and electrical is underway. • External groundworks commenced ready for landscaping. • External stonework and rendering now complete. • Passenger lift fully installed and tested.

	• Completion July 2026. • 32West will be working with the operator to provide support with comms and engagement. <u>Connecting Millom and Haverigg</u> • <u>Market Square:</u> ○ Engagement with public on proposed interventions complete. ○ Cameras to be installed to monitor the space and understand how the area is used. ○ Decision to be taken on preferred option, balancing community and regeneration. SG issued a reminder that the miner statue in the square will need to be upgraded or replaced. DS emphasised that CC had submitted to the Board various options and an agreed approach has been approved by the Board. VK will make sure this is picked up. • <u>Haverigg Railway Bridge:</u> ○ First improvement programmed. ○ Consultation process on new crossing complete. ○ Awaiting costs from BT regarding movement of infrastructure. MG queried the name of this bridge, explaining it is known locally as 'Moor Bridge' and is not in Haverigg. VK to take this away. • <u>Wider improvements:</u> ○ Stage 4 designs complete and signed off by CC Highways. Costs received were higher than anticipated, so it is being reviewed by Highways. Decision required on the prioritisation of schemes following CC's review of the schemes from a highway perspective. It is hoped this will be ready for the Board to consider at the informal board in June. Request that the Board receive the information in advance of this board. VK to arrange for this. <u>Programme Cost and Priorities</u> covered during project updates. Budget position shared with the board.
7	Comms and engagement update DS shared an update. • Leisure workshops held. • The Board through the work of the MP Office had brought Visit England and Cumbria Tourism representatives to visit Millom. They also met with representatives from the Heritage & Arts Centre and the Nicholson community. Shared with them the ambitions of Millom for tourism. DS sending document describing the 'asks' to Visit England to ER to circulate with the board. • Millom Leisure Centre has been on the BBC national news. • E-newsletter issued today with printed newsletters to be issued by the end of next week. • 3G pitch – comms piece to come celebrating 1 year anniversary. • Introductory interview with the new operators of the Old Bank is to be issued. • Engagement session surrounding contract award to Storeys for the Iron Line is expected in July.
8	Annual Reappointment <u>Chair of Millom Town Deal Board:</u> David Savage - Nominated by BK, seconded by MG and supported by other board members. David Savage was formally re-appointed as Chair of Millom Town Deal Board. <u>Vice Chair of Millom Town Deal Board:</u> to be brought forwards to the next meeting.

	<u>Chair for the Communications and Engagement Sub-Group:</u> Simone Faulkner - Nominated by DS, seconded by BK. Simone Faulkner was formally appointed as Chair to the Communications and Engagement Sub Group.
9	Any other business / next steps Reminder that the next informal board meeting will be held on 11th June 2026. DS emphasised the significance of the discussions to be had at this meeting and the importance of board member attendance. The Chair thanked board members for their time and closed the meeting at 15:31.