

Workington Town Deal Board

21 May 2026, 10:00 – 12:00

Via MS Teams

Minutes



Actions	Owner/Date
Organise a meeting at the end of the year at Oxford Innovation.	ER
Ask OI to give a presentation on their plans and prospectus at the next board meeting.	SR/RD

Decisions	Owner

No.	Item
1	Welcome and introductions / apologies / declarations of interest. <u>In attendance</u> Ellie Richardson (ER), Debbie Kavanagh (DK), Cllr Denise Rollo (DR), Steve Robinson (SR), Cllr Barbara Canon (BC), Michael Heaslip (MH), Mike Renouf (MR), Robert Docherty (RD), Liz Fitzsimons (LF), Victoria Kelsall (VK), Tony Wareing (TW). Chaired by Michael Heaslip in John's absence. <u>Apologies</u> John Coughlan (Chair), Cllr Mark Fryer. Mark Fell had difficulty joining. <u>Conflict of Interests</u> 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.
2	Review of previous minutes Minutes from the meeting held on 13th February 2026 were ratified by the board. The minutes will now be uploaded to the webpage.
3	Programme Performance & Monitoring Report (October 2025 to March 2026) DK presented the report to the board. Although it is no longer a requirement for the board to sign off on the report, the report is provided to ensure board members are all sighted on the programme progress. 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. - Risk RAG has been replaced with Stakeholder Engagement RAG. - RAG guidance has been updated and is included in the report.
4	Programme/Project Updates VK presented the update. <u>Innovation Centre</u> - Capital works complete, with handover to Oxford Innovation in April 2026. - Oxford Innovation aiming to be open for business in July 2026. - All Town Deal funding now spent.

SR provided a Client Update. Oxford Innovation in the mobilisation period, formerly taking over the lease on 6th July. Initial meeting with Oxford Innovation, followed by monthly progress meetings throughout the first year, then quarterly from year two onwards.

MR had a query surrounding Oxford Innovation's plans to subcontract aspects of management. He would be interested to know how they will develop their prospectus.

SR – client-side team will link in and understand the internal arrangements Oxford Innovation are developing.

Suggestion made for the board to visit the facility following its opening. RD suggested it may be worthwhile to visit later in the year, after the operator has bedded in, so you can ask about the success of operations, prospectus, statistics/numbers etc., and see the outputs and outcomes.

ACTION: (ER) Organise a meeting at the end of the year at Oxford Innovation.

DR suggested it would be useful to receive an update from Oxford Innovation at next board meeting to see what's available at the facility, so board members can help to advertise the facility within their networks. MR – this adds to his query on the prospectus. There is a want to know and a need to publicise what the facility is doing.

ACTION: (SR/RD) Ask Oxford Innovation to give a presentation on their plans and prospectus at the next board meeting.

BC shared a concern that some people don't know what 'Innovation Centre' means.

BC shared that she is planning to reach out to Oxford Innovation to ask how they can incorporate an undergraduate scheme to help retain graduates in the local area.

BC/MH – the board need to become more involved in the completed projects – supporting engagement with the local community.

Public Realm

- Murray Road complete, with Central Way nearing completion (July).
- Road closure (liaising with local businesses for access requirements) planned in early July for 5 nights to allow resurfacing.
- Consultation on wayfinding works in the town centre to be planned prior to implementation.

MH suggested liaising with Workington Town Council to eliminate signage overlaps. DR seconded this, explaining the Town Council have their own colours and branding, so we need to work together. Consultation would be useful to ascertain locations for wayfinding. VK to take away and look to plan consultations.

Port of Workington – Tank Farms A & B and Oldside.

- Tank farms 90% complete:
 - A – retaining 3 tanks. Work ongoing to remove pipework and associated bund.
 - B – fully remediated. Works commenced on the redevelopment of the site (external to TD project).
- Oldside – pre-commencement conditions discharged with works to commence in May, and completion expected in August.
- No end user identified at this stage. There is a risk in remediating a large site without tenants, therefore flexible approach required. Now remediating 4.13 hectares – slightly less than business case. Change control to reallocate underspend following scope change to other Town Deal projects.

Sports Village SR and VK presented this update.

- CC Executive to consider report next week to seek approval to change the delivery model (Cumberland led). Seeks required governance and seeks approval to procure a main contractor, confirm funding package and progress the business case to support operation to the site.
- Scheme designs to be progressed to RIBA 4.
- Scope now includes phase 1 and 2 to be delivered as a single phase.
- (SR) Business Plan in development with support from FMG to demonstrate it will be a financially viable and sustainable facility.

	• Commitment from CC that the Town Deal Board will be engaged with during the develop of the business plan, so they have opportunity to provide insight on their local community. BC echoed that sustainability of the facility, as well as the Workington Reds and Workington Town teams, is vital. There may be other organisations that could use this facility.
5	Any other business / next steps Chair closed the meeting at 10:55.