



Millom Town Deal Board

3 September 2026, 2-4pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Draft Minutes

Actions	Owner/Date
To increase the RAG rating for Iron Line Stakeholder and Political Interest from 1 to 2.	WD
To expand on this commentary within the report ['additional resource allocation' within Programme Level Risks.]	WD
To have another look at the wording and update as necessary [mitigation for the second Iron Line risk, to include further avenues for additional funding.]	VK

Board Recommendations	Owner

Agenda Item No	Agenda Item
1	Welcome and introductions / apologies / declarations of interest David Savage welcomed board members to the meeting. <u>Present</u> David Savage (Chair), Cllr Bob Kelly (BK), Simone Faulkner (SF), David Glover (DG), Marion Giles (MG), Stephen Kelly (SK), Paul Skelton (PS), Paul Foster (PF), Wendy Devlin (WD), Debbie Kavanagh (DK), Steven Robinson (SR), Victoria Kelsall (VK), Andrew Hobson (AH) on behalf of Michelle Scrogam, Caroline Barber (CB). <u>New members</u> Stephen Kelly and Berry Moyle were formally accepted as new members of the board. Declarations of Interest for both new members were reviewed and accepted by the Board. <u>Apologies</u> Nick Lancaster, Simon Bremer, Tracey West.
2	Review of minutes The Board ratified the draft minutes from the meeting dated 21.05.2026. The minutes will now be uploaded to the Millom Town Deal webpage. Following the deferral of nominations at the previous meeting, the Vice Chair of Millom Town Deal Board was formally noted as Nick Lancaster.
3	Actions from previous meeting No. 35 – Closed. Grant funding re-profiled. No. 51 – Closed. No. 52 – Closed.

	No. 53 – Closed. No. 54 – Closed. No. 55 – Closed. To be continually monitored. No. 56 – Closed.
4	Board Governance and Roles David Savage presented this item, combining it with item 9. DS presented a reminder of the Board's structure including formal, informal and sub-group meetings, and points of contact for each project. David Savage announced his intention to step down as both the Chair and a member of the Board, effective 31st December 2026. The Board were made aware of the recruitment process for a new chair and presented with the expected timeline of this process. Board members shared their thanks to DS for his contribution over the course of his tenure as chair. Board members were invited to agree on a proposed reduction in the frequency to board meetings. BK noted that following the proposed bi-annual frequency, only two formal meetings a year does not seem enough. DK explained that the meeting cycle is structured around the reporting cycle. As reporting to MHCLG is only required bi-annually, we have proposed to align these meetings to the current reporting dates, however, we will still share quarterly performance reports with the board. DS reiterated that informal boards will be held outside of these formal board meetings. Proposed meeting schedule has been agreed in principle, acknowledging that it may be subject to change again following the recruitment of the new chair. PF noted that reducing the frequency of board meetings may make it less attractive to an external prospective chair, due to a perception that a lot of the work is already done. DS explained it is hoped that the lesser demand will be more attractive to a new prospective chair.
5	Millom Town Deal Performance Report DK presented the report to the board, highlighting the key areas. The report covers the period 1st April to 30th June 2026 and has been shared with board members in advance. PS challenged the Stakeholder and Political Interest RAG rating for the Iron Line project, which was rated '1', due to the commentary included within Programme Wide Challenges and Risks citing 'challenges over key stakeholder engagement due to large number of stakeholders and complex nature of issues, being addressed by appropriate meetings and agreed resolutions to issues raised.' It was agreed that the rating should be increased to a '2' in line with the rating criteria. ACTION: (WD) To increase the RAG rating for Iron Line Stakeholder and Political Interest from 1 to 2. It was noted that there are some additional outputs for Reactivating Heritage Buildings and Activating Community Health to report which will be picked up in quarter two reporting. Within Programme Level Risks, DS queried what is meant by the described mitigation 'additional resource allocation'. WD explained this is surrounding the allocation of additional resources by the contractor during quieter times at the school to maximise opportunities for delivery. ACTION: (WD) To expand on this commentary within the report.

	PS raised a concern for the second risk on the Iron Line project's risk register. It was suggested that the mitigation for this risk be strengthened, to include further avenues for additional funding. ACTION: (VK) To have another look at the wording and update as necessary. DS noted that the articulation of risk and rating of RAGs continue to be challenged by the Board. It is hoped that there is improvement for quarter two. Project Change Controls An approved Portfolio Holder Key Decision Report was shared with the board to support a redistribution of funds from the Connected Millom and Haverigg project to Iron Line.
6	Programme Progress Report WD shared the update with the board. <u>Activating Community Health</u> • Internal walls fully erected • Swimming pool titling commenced • Work completed to front car park • Works on new access road commenced • Leisure operator (Everyone Active) secured • Everyone Active to attend informal board on 8th October to explain mobilization plan • MOU being developed with the school • Handover of the building in November 2026. DS noted how valuable the help and support of the community track team, Millom Striders, has been in supporting the facilitation of construction by Thomas Armstrong. There were no further details on the MOU available during the meeting, however DS explained details are expected to be shared by Cumberland Council at the informal board on 8th October. <u>Reactivating Heritage Buildings (Old Bank)</u> • Building now complete • HoT are almost agreed with the operator • Site visit planned for 10th September for board members • Completion event planned for 14th September • Opening date to the public to be confirmed - operator unable to take control of building until lease is in place. HoT is the first part of this process. <u>Connecting Millom and Haverigg</u> Virement approved to move funding from Connecting Millom and Haverigg to the Iron Line (change control shared with the board in the agenda pack). • Market Square: Decision required on how much of the remaining budget is spent on improvements to the square. An options paper is to be prepared for the informal board to gather board feedback on prioritisation. It was confirmed that the refurbishment of the miner statue is still included. • Haverigg Railway Bridge: ○ First improvement programmed ○ Cost from BT to move infrastructure received ○ Works to be delivered by internal highways team. <u>Iron Line</u>

	• Virement approved to move £2.5m from Connecting Millom and Haverigg to Iron Line • Risks around slope stability and contaminated land now fully costed • Solution with RSPN on proposed BYWAY interventions • Ongoing discussions with RSPB on Easements (drainage, road widening and permissive rights) • New planning application required for proposed revised drainage. PS suggested collating the unforeseen costs that have arisen because of re-working due to stakeholder requirements, to highlight the impact this has had on the budget and support the case for any requests for additional funding. <u>SR added:</u> • The client-side team is working with the new operators for the Old Bank to ensure they have enterprising support. • The team is also reviewing the Iron Line project to ensure the end product is an attractive and impressive visitor destination, and that there is adequate budget in place to deliver this work.
7	Millom Recreation Centre – Forward Strategy MG provided an update to the board on the future of the Millom Recreation Centre. ‘The Rec’ will become a specialist gymnastics facility, focussing on both recreational and competitive gymnastics. They plan to redirect other existing activities to the new leisure centre, operated by Everyone Active.
8	Comms and engagement update WD and CB both shared updates on communications and engagement. • Various social media updates have been issued in relation to both Activating Community Health and the Old Bank (Reactivating Heritage Buildings project). • A Monthly Update Newsletter was issued on 06.07.2026. • Communications are planned for the coming months in relation to the Old Bank completion, key stakeholder interviews and an operator video. • An update on the delivery of the Connecting Millom and Haverigg project is expected in October, including market square design. • Engagement work with school ambassadors to produce a time capsule for the leisure centre during half term. • 32West to arrange for school children to visit the leisure facility for a tour prior to its opening.
9	Board Restructuring Discussed during item 4.
10	Any other business / next steps DS reminded the Board of the following dates: • Board member visit to Old Bank on 10th September • Completion event at the Old Bank on 14th September • Informal board meeting on 8th October, focusing on Everyone Active’s mobilization plan and the Activating Community Health MOU. • Next formal board meeting on 19th November where it is hoped the Board will review applications for a new chair. Chair closed the meeting at 15:57.