



**Workington Town Deal Board Meeting  
Meeting held via Microsoft Teams  
Friday 01 May 2020  
Draft Minutes**

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Alan Barry	Cumbria County Council
Chris Bagshaw	Workington Town Council
John Coughlan (chair)	TSP Engineering Ltd
Valerie Hallard	Churches Together in Workington
Mark Jenkinson MP	MP for Workington (part meeting)
Bridget Johns	Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service
Cllr Mike Johnson	Allerdale Borough Council
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
Chris Natrass	Lakes College
Corinne Watson	Cumbria LEP

Officers/Support

Julie Alexander	Allerdale Borough Council
Michael Barry	Cumbria County Council
Ashley Bennett	Mott MacDonald
Stephen Cox	Mott MacDonald
Hannah Dolan	PA to Mark Jenkinson (part meeting)
Rosie Jenkins	BEIS
Suzanne Jones	BEIS
Kevin Kerrigan	Allerdale Borough Council
Lizzy Shaw	Cumbria County Council
Christina Shepherd	BEIS
Oliver Steele	Mott MacDonald

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed all Board Members and their supporting officers to the meeting.

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Urban regeneration, planning and land use; Skills and enterprise infrastructure; and connectivity



### Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Paul Scott	Allerdale Borough Council
Anthony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group

### 2. Minutes of last meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

### 3 Presentation – Mott MacDonald

A presentation was given by Mott MacDonald, the consultants appointed to prepare the Allerdale Growth Strategy and support the Town Investment Plan (TIP). The presentation slides had been previously circulated to the board members. Some further slides detailing the impact of COVID 19 on Allerdale are available and it was agreed to circulate these following the meeting.

The Presentation examined 4 key areas:

- Project Overview and Timescales.  
The TIP is expected to be completed by mid-July. The importance of the proposals aligning with the objectives of the Towns Fund was stressed, in addition to a well evidenced narrative demonstrating a clear understanding of the area's assets, opportunities and challenges. It is bigger than the High Streets Fund, and includes non-placed initiatives such as skills and enterprise. Need to consider how best to conduct community consultation.

Suzanne Jones of the government Cities and Local Growth Unit (part of BEIS) was able to confirm that the government was committed to funding for the Towns selected, and that the Towns were not competing with one another. The preparation of the TIP is judged to be very important as the country moves into the post Covid-19 recovery phase. Ministers have agreed to three waves of investment plans, to be submitted when each authority is ready through the summer and autumn. Full guidance would be published, but in the interim Green

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Book criteria (value for money), quality criteria and examining the economic and business case should be applied. Engagement is difficult at present; more will need to be undertaken as the process proceeds.

- Impact of Covid-19

The impact on the local economy and recovery was examined, but the extent that national survey data relates to the reality on the ground locally requires further investigation; the local dimension is necessary to back up the case for local investment in the TIP.

The need for in depth interviews and concerns over survey fatigue were discussed along with potential input from the countywide Business Emergency Resilience Group (BERG). The chair offered support to participation in the surveys, and board members and representatives can promote and encourage participation and involvement from all areas of the economy to ensure that a local nuanced response is achieved.

How the economy will recover is unclear at present, but schemes need to be in place ready for delivery. Recovery will be long term in nature.

- Workington - Emerging Baseline Findings.

The role of Workington and headline statistics were discussed. The localised nature of the economy and the impact of the 'Sellafield effect' on the local context were highlighted. Interventions will need to be within the defined town boundary, although benefits will accrue to adjoining populations (Seaton). The strengths and weaknesses of the Town centre were outlined. Further analysis and stakeholder and business consultation is needed.

- Projects/Intervention Areas

119 potential projects require sifting, and more projects will be submitted by CCC next week. The number of projects will need to be reduced to a manageable level, and it is important that those selected deliver the change and growth that the government requires. The final shortlist will be less than 10. There is overlap and duplication in the ideas put forward, and it may be appropriate to package smaller projects together as a single scheme. Projects selected must align with the Workington Investment Plan, and the ambitions of the Government and Towns Fund. Potential barriers to delivery, feasibility, viability and

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beneficiaries of projects will need to be taken into account in calculating the Best Cost Ratio. If benefits cannot be monetised, schemes will need to be accompanied by an effective narrative.

There was a discussion relating to the Vision and the objectives for the Town Investment Plan and the need for agreement to be reached on this. It was agreed that the Chair and Programme Director would discuss this separately and set out a way forward for consideration by the Board.

#### 4. Any Other Business

ARUP has been appointed as lead consultants by the government Towns Fund Team to support the Programme. They are setting up the Towns Fund Portal which will be available to access from June.

Public engagement remains challenging at present and Mott MacDonald are considering approaches to this. It was agreed the community engagement subgroup need to be engaged in this discussion.

#### 5. Future Meetings

Next Board meeting – Friday 22 May – 14:30 pm, to be held remotely. Board members will be updated accordingly.

The meeting ended at 4pm

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