

**Workington Towns Deal Board Meeting**  
**Friday 27 August 2021**  
**Draft Minutes**

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Alan Barry	Cumbria County Council
John Coughlan (Chair)	TSP Engineering Ltd
Mark Jenkinson MP	MP for Workington
Bridget Johns	Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service
Cllr Mike Johnson	Allerdale Borough Council
Jo Lappin	Cumbria LEP
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
David Taylor	Allerdale Investment Partnership
Anthony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group

Officers/Support

Julie Alexander	Allerdale Borough Council
Kevin Kerrigan	Allerdale Borough Council
Lizzy Shaw	Cumbria County Council

1. Introductions

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

Apologies

Michael Barry, Valerie Hallard, Cllr Mike Heaslip, Rosie Jenkins, Chris Natrass, Cllr Paul Scott

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Update on Funding Release/Profile

KK advised the board on a MHCLG offer of funding to aid project delivery. This involves an early payment of 5% of the Heads of Terms offer, likely to be

received by ABC in September. This is not additional funding and would need to be spent before further funding is released. MCHLG is expected to release FAQ shortly. The funding has the potential to accelerate detailed design work, but does not change the time available for submission of the business cases. KK is not in a position to make a recommendation to the board regarding this funding at present but will consider with the teams working on each project. John Coughlan (JC) agreed that focusing on one or two projects might be helpful in accelerating delivery, but it is acknowledged that all project delivery plans would still need to remain within defined timescales.

The TIP submission included funding profiles for each project which detailed when funding would be drawn for each scheme. MHCLG has confirmed that there is an opportunity to review the financial profiles prior to 27 September. Again this will be discussed with the project teams and the board will be updated at the next meeting.

MCHLG has also released a revised template for the project summary document which will be submitted following

#### 4. Update on Town Deal Projects

KK outlined the work being undertaken on each of the projects. The aim is to have business cases finalised by the end of the year, enabling them to proceed through ABC governance procedures for consideration by Executive in January. This provides some flexibility in terms of the deadline for the submission of project summary documents to MHCLG in March.

#### Public Realm and Connectivity

Project Development work is being led by Cumbria County Council and Michael Barry. A brief has been finalised for consultants to progress the scheme.

#### Port of Workington/Oldside

Project group meetings have been held between CCC, ABC and AIP. WSP have been appointed to support development of the business case. They are already working on the POW business plan which will underpin the business case. A brief of intrusive ground investigation works has been agreed, and WSP instructed to progress. David Taylor confirmed that logistics and infrastructure are currently being looked at in detail.

#### Sports Village, Innovation Centre and Digital Accelerator Projects

Mott McDonald (MM) is being commissioned to develop the business cases for these three projects. Inception meetings have been held with the project teams working through the timetable for the business case submission. The MM commission is on the basis that the business cases will be ready by the end of the year.

Innovation Centre: As part of the Mott MacDonald commission SQW will be leading with support from Buttress

Digital Accelerator Project: Discussions have been held with Chris Nattrass. MM leading and will engage with stakeholders in coming weeks, including the LEP.

Sports Village: Project Board established, attended by Cllr Mike Johnson as chair, led by representatives of Workington Town and Workington Reds. The project is being led by the clubs with the support of the Council. Manning Elliot have assisted with prospectus development and concept and design work which includes branding. The clubs are keen to move forward with the local community and stakeholders. ABC communications team are assisting, and a publicity campaign is planned.

Discussions with the FA/Football Foundation have been productive, and since the TIP submission discussions have also been held with Athletics England (AE) and Seaton Athletics Club (SAC) about the potential for an athletics facility at the stadium. It is considered that a 400m track is not required. Instead, an indoor facility is being investigated which has the potential to be a regional attraction. Discussions are ongoing with AE, but proposals will need to be viable and sustainable.

Morgan Sindall has offered support in the preparation of a high level cost plan.

The clubs are looking at developing a Community Interest Company in which both parties have an interest.

There is a need for match funding for this project which will be challenging. Bridget John offered support with advice on the formation of the CIC.

KK advised that it was intended that more formal written project updates will be provided for future meetings. Jo Lappin requested that this was done as it would assist Board members in adding value.

5. AOB

David Taylor suggested that a visit to the project sites may be beneficial. A launch event for the accelerated funding projects including the gym, opera house and underpass is likely to be end of September/early October. All board members will be invited, and there will be time for discussions before and after the tour.

Lizzy Shaw asked about the development of the assurance and assessment process. Brendan Carlin will be asked to update the board at the next meeting.

6. *Future Meetings*

Next Board meeting – Friday 24 September 2021 – 2:30 pm, to be held via MS Teams

The meeting ended at 3:05 pm