



**Workington Towns Deal Board Meeting
Friday 2 October 2020
Draft Minutes**

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Alan Barry	Cumbria County Council
John Coughlan (Chair)	TSP Engineering Ltd
Valerie Hallard	Churches Together in Workington
Mark Jenkinson MP	MP for Workington
Cllr Mike Johnson	Allerdale Borough Council
Bridget Johns	Cumbria Council for CVS
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
Chris Natrass	Lakes College
Tom Nuttall	Sovereign Centros
Cllr Paul Scott	Allerdale Borough Council
David Taylor (Part)	Allerdale Investment Partnership
Anthony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group
Corinne Watson	Cumbria LEP

Officers/Support

Valerie Ayre	Cumbria County Council
Julie Alexander	Allerdale Borough Council
Michael Barry	Cumbria County Council
Rosie Jenkins	CLGU
Kevin Kerrigan	Allerdale Borough Council
Lizzy Shaw	Cumbria County Council
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

Jack Gordon – Tom Nuttall substituting

Post Meeting Note – Cllr Michael Heaslip had been unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Update on Community Engagement

Kevin Kerrigan updated the board on the community engagement work. The public consultation on the individual projects has commenced, being promoted via social media and press releases, and posters have been displayed. A TV report is expected next week with an interview with the Chair, and the response to date (330) has been good.

An analysis of the responses to each project was presented, demonstrating broad support for all schemes, but particularly for the Sports Village proposals.

The use of the Town Council electronic notice boards was queried and Cllr Scott agreed to follow this up. The effectiveness of the engagement in reaching Workington residents not involved in the process was discussed. The Chair emphasised that it is the responsibility of all board members to promote the consultation through their own organisations as well as individually; the process must not just rely on the Council's website.

4. Review of Draft Town Investment Plan

An updated draft of the Town Investment Plan was circulated prior to the meeting.

Oliver Steele of MM summarised alterations made to the plan and what further work is needed. Following previous comments changes have been made to the chapters introducing Workington and outlining the issues and opportunities, seeking to demonstrate the logic of the decision-making in

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project selection, and to place the projects in a broader context of what is happening in Workington. Work is also ongoing on defining the measurable outcome indicators which will be used to validate the benefits of the schemes. Any further final comments on the plan should be submitted by Friday 9th October. Kevin Kerrigan and MM will continue to work on the final details and the delivery strategy for individual projects.

Board members expressed support for the plan. One comment suggested further input on governance, leads and partners for the next part of the programme, and a question was raised about the restriction of digital skills to levels 4 & 5 in the digital skills programme, expecting it to meet a wider range of needs and abilities. It was explained that the programme was designed to meet the identified need for higher level skills in particular, although it would not necessarily exclude other learning pathway skills.

The chair commended how the plan has taken shape, and thanked the board for their positive and constructive comments.

5. Next Steps

Since the last board meeting costing work has been undertaken, and there has been a reduction in funding of the options in order that the total 'ask' does not exceed £25 million. Identifying match funding options will be included in the next phase of programme. It was felt important to include details of what the £750,000 Towns Fund Capital Funding Grant is being spent on and the timetable for this work, in order to illustrate the comprehensive nature of the proposals for Workington within the bid. Rosie Jenkins advised that it would need to make it very clear that this work does not form part of the bid itself.

Concerns were relayed from Christ Central Church about the scale and position of the proposed Innovation centre. Kevin Kerrigan advised that any scheme would still need to go through the planning process where there would be an opportunity to comment. A view was expressed by one board member that it would be preferable if these concerns could be addressed prior to the submission of any planning application.

The bid remains on a tight timetable with two challenge sessions scheduled with the LEP and ARUP (Towns Fund Delivery Partner) for the week beginning 5th October. A report will need to be published for the Allerdale Executive on 14th October. This will be a draft version of the plan, in advance

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of the public consultation results and feedback from the challenge sessions. The report does make it clear that this published plan is a draft only which will be finalised, amended and reviewed in light of the results from the consultation and challenge feedback.

KK & MM will draft the chairman's introduction and finalise the text, and liaise with the graphic design team. The final draft version will be presented at the meeting of 24th October. Tom Nuttall is to submit current footfall figures for Washington Square for inclusion.

The Chairman and board agreed that it had been a short, but positive meeting, and the group must now focus on meeting the final deadlines. It was reiterated that any further comments must be submitted by next Friday, 9th October.

6. Future Meetings

Next Board meeting – Friday 23 October 2020 – 2:30 pm, to be held remotely. Board members will be updated accordingly.

The meeting ended at 3:15 pm