

**Workington Towns Deal Board Meeting**  
**Friday 23 October 2020**  
**Draft Minutes**

Attendance

Board Members

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

Officers/Support

Julie Alexander	Allerdale Borough Council
Valerie Ayre	Cumbria County Council
Alison Hatcher	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.

Apologies

Cllr Mike Heaslip. Cllr Heaslip has sent comments on the latest draft TIP that has been circulated.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

3. *Review of Town Investment Plan*

Oliver Steele (OS) of Mott MacDonald updated the board on the review sessions and outlined changes to the draft TIP that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair, Kevin Kerrigan and OS had presented the plan to the LEP and to the Town Delivery Partner/MHCLG.

Following the reviews the historical and geographical context of Workington has been amplified within the plan, similar to the approach followed by Barrow-in-Furness. Their plan had received a good response. Further work has also been undertaken to reinforce the linkages between the vision, issues and opportunities, and projects selected. Any further comments will need to be received on Monday at the latest.

A single page summary setting out the inputs, outputs, outcomes and interventions has been prepared. The Town Delivery Partner feedback strongly recommended the production of a clear executive summary and a preface by the Towns Fund Board, which would often be focused on by government in the decision-making process. The TIP has also been amended to make it clear that the aspiration is for Workington to be the hub for West Cumbria. Any further feedback by board members is welcome.

The Document is going through final formatting at the moment. The document is largely complete, but the final version will include more images of Workington.

It was discussed that the 'Transforming West Cumbria' programme could be referenced in the TIP. This £2.2 million fund supports social enterprise and development as part of a supporting communities programme. Details are to be forwarded to OS by Bridget Johns.

Alison Hatcher highlighted that in addition to seeking to secure £25 million, the TIP would also be used as a policy reference for the town, and therefore it should be strengthened with additional hooks to help support other schemes such as the Cumbrian Coastal Railway Line and for making the case for other capital bids. In terms of Ramsay Brow the TIP states that CCC is securing the funding for this project. AH clarified that CCC has not got the funding, and is looking for the government to provide it through the DOT pinch point fund and that the TIP needs to reflect this – the alterations at Ramsay Brow will support other aspirations in the TIP. OS confirmed that the TIP would be amended to incorporate these comments.

Cllr Barry emphasised the need for the document to include Workington Reds when discussing Workington's sporting heritage

A query was raised from Rosie Jenkins about the community engagement section, and OS confirmed that this will be included in the final document.

Alan Barry moved that the Board formally delegates approval and final sign off of the Plan incorporating any final alterations to the Chair and Cllr Deputy Leader Mike Johnson. This was seconded by Chris Natrass, and unanimously agreed by the Board.

The TIP will be submitted by Friday 30 October.

#### 4. Update on Accelerated Funding Projects

Kevin Kerrigan updated the Board on the accelerated funding projects.

##### *Acquisition and Demolition of the Opera House*

Good progress is being made with the acquisition; a price has been agreed verbally in which would involve the Council acquiring a demolished site. The project is currently in the hands of solicitors and going through internal processes at Allerdale. It is anticipated that demolition might be undertaken after Christmas, and the project completed by the end of the financial year.

##### *Central Way Scheme*

This scheme involves three elements:

- Outdoor events space at the leisure centre. This formal space would be able to host outdoor events, displays and activities for example the siting of a big screen for the World cup. Thomas Armstrong won the tender and is awaiting an EA permit before works commence next month.
- Outdoor Gym. The tender documents are being finalised. Equipment will be installed following the creation of the events space.
- Works to improve underpass/cycleway. Discussions are ongoing with Cumbria County Council, and the works will be going out to tender next week. Applications for the highway works and road closure have been submitted, and a planning application will be submitted shortly for an internal steel framework structure. Initially it had been the intention to apply the cladding to the bridge walls, but technical issues have necessitated the steel framework. Works are scheduled for early in the New Year, with the aim of avoiding road closures in the run up to Christmas.

David Taylor suggested that signage advertising the Towns Fund is erected on the sites whilst the projects are ongoing, letting the public know what is funding the work. KK confirmed that the Allerdale comms team will be involved in publicising the work, but agreed to look into the provision of signs.

5. Next Steps

The plan has been considered by the Council Executive, with delegated approval to the Chief Executive and deputy Council Leader Cllr Mike Johnson in consultation with the Chair of the Town Deal Board. It has now been endorsed by the Board and, subject to final minor revisions, will be submitted to the MCHLG by Friday 30 October.

It was agreed to return to the 4 week cycle for future meetings. KK has circulated the dates for board meetings until the end of April 2021.

The Chair thanked Kevin, Oliver and the team for all their hard work, and the board for its positive input, support and encouragement. Cllr Barry offered the Board's thanks to the Chair.

6. Future Meetings

Next Board meeting – Friday 20 November 2020 – 2:30 pm, to be held remotely. Board members will be updated accordingly.

The meeting ended at 3:00pm