

Workington Towns Deal Board Meeting
Friday 02 July 2021
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
Cllr Mike Heaslip	Allerdale Borough Council
Mark Jenkinson MP	MP for Workington
Bridget Johns	Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
Chris Natrass	Lakes College
David Taylor	Allerdale Investment Partnership
Anthony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group
Corinne Watson	Cumbria LEP

Officers/Support

Julie Alexander	Allerdale Borough Council
Michael Barry	Cumbria County Council
Rosie Jenkins	CLGU
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

Cllr Mike Johnson, Cllr Paul Scott

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The board agreed the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Update on Accelerated Funding Projects

Kevin Kerrigan updated the board on the accelerated funding projects, displaying photographs of the ongoing schemes

Work on the outdoor event space and gym at Workington Leisure Centre is nearly complete. CCTV and new lighting has been installed alongside the equipment, and there are just some re-seeding works necessary adjacent to the new seating area. Despite the early procurement of a large outdoor screen, installation has been delayed due to the lack of availability of component parts. The hiring of a screen to broadcast the Euros as an interim measure was discounted on the basis of covid restrictions and the potential to draw trade from town centre businesses. There is a need to raise awareness of the facility and therefore a launch event is to be arranged – potentially in August. Board members will be invited.

Work on the underpass has also been largely completed, although the light fittings are temporary at present and delivery of the visual artwork to be installed is awaited. The works include reconfiguration of the carpark outside the Bingo Hall to prevent cars going the wrong way, and the provision of staff parking and a smoking shelter. Although the underpass was due to open to traffic on the 24th June the closure order has been delayed until 11th July to resolve issues associated with the height restriction sign.

The Opera house building has now been demolished although levelling works are outstanding. The council has agreed to buy the site following demolition and levelling, with a further agreement in place for resurfacing. Initial delays in the project were incurred because of the discovery of asbestos, and there are subsequent issues to be resolved relating to party wall issues and a flying freehold, and the stability of retaining walls to Tiffin Lane. A structural engineer has been engaged to agree final site levels.

The projects are within the Accelerated Funding budget although capital contributions from ABC and CCC were included in the underpass project as planned.

4. Update on Town Deal Projects

KK outlined the work being undertaken on the business cases for each of the projects.

Cumbria County Council is taking a lead on the public realm scheme, whilst ABC, CCC & AIP are working together on the Port and Oldside project. WSP are to be engaged having worked on the masterplan for the Port. There has been some dialogue with potential end users. Work is ongoing to ensure that

the 3 other projects have the right level of support. There is benefit in continuing to work with Mott McDonald on the business cases, and ABC is in the process of procuring them as a Strategic Delivery Partner for the Council.

Discussions have been held with Chris Natrass about the project governance and support for the Digital Accelerator Project.

Detailed and robust talks have been held with the Rugby and Football Clubs in connection with the Sports Village, making clear what they will need to do take the business case forward. The Council will be making support available to assist them.

Business cases have to be submitted by the 24th March 2022. It is the intention to finalise the cases by the end of the year and report them to Allerdale executive on 12th January, allowing 2 months for the resolution of any issues.

5. *Update on Levelling Up Fund Submission*

KK notified the group about the local authority bid for Levelling Up funding. The £4.8 billion fund was launched last year aimed at town centre regeneration, local transport projects and cultural and heritage assets. Local authorities are able submit bids for up to £20 million aligned with their parliamentary constituency, and County Councils are also able to submit bids. ABC with support from CCC submitted a bid for a Workington Gateway Project. Round 1 funding bids had to be submitted by 18th June. Workington is a Priority 2 Area, and it is therefore important that the bid is convincing and of high quality.

The scheme will enable the free movement of HGVs by the widening and reengineering of the Ramsay Brow junction, involving the acquisition and demolition of the Henry Curwen public house. Further road widening would be undertaken at Hall Brow. A new pedestrian crossing is to be provided across Washington Street, and enhanced links provide to Curwen Hall and Park. The bid will tie in with the Towns fund public realm projects as well as supporting the Port.

The LUF will be retained as an agenda item for future meetings given its close links with the Towns Fund, but the focus of the meetings will remain on the Town Deal projects

6. *Future Meetings*

Next Board meeting – Friday 30 July 2021 – 2:30 pm, to be held remotely.
Board members will be updated accordingly.

The meeting ended at 3:50 pm