



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council  
**WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL BOARD**

**Minutes of Meeting held on  
Friday 10 July 2020 – 9.00 – 11.30 A.M.  
MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

<p><b>Attendees:</b>  Matt Crompton – Chair  Steven Broomhead – Deputy Chair  Steve Park  Andy Carter MP  Charlotte Nicols MP  Martin Wood  Bill Carr  Lucy Gardner  Ben Wakerley  Nichola Newton  Dan Bunstone  Ted Adams  Nigel Schofield  Andy Hulme  Stephen Fitzsimons  Kathryn Green  Laurence Pullan  Lisa Knowles  Fayyaz Qadir  Dave Thompson  Steve Coffey  Andy Hulme  David Boyer  Simon Kenton  Sarah Hall – Observer  Kim Cooper – Observer</p>	<p><b>Company</b>  Muse Developments  Warrington Borough Council  Warrington Borough Council  South Warrington  North Warrington  Cities &amp; Local Growth Unit  Carpe Diem  Warrington NHS  Warrington’s Own Buses  Warrington &amp; Vale Royal College  Warrington NHS  Warrington NHS  Warrington Chamber of Commerce  Cheshire &amp; Warrington LEP  Warrington Borough Council  Warrington Borough Council  Warrington Borough Council  Atkins  Atkins  Warrington Disability Partnership  Torus  Cheshire &amp; Warrington LEP  Warrington Borough Council  Warrington Borough Council  Warrington North MP Office  ARUP</p>	<p><b>Apologies</b>  Simon Constable - NHS  Ian Cox - Golden Square  Cllr R Bowden - WBC</p>
Item	Subject	Action -Deadline
1.0	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
1.1	Apologies were noted and accepted.	
1.2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> NN Declared interest in regard to the Education, Skills & Employment preferred project bid, as Head of Warrington & Vale Royal College as the project would be led by the College.	



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2.0	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 28.02.2020</b> Agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.	
3.0	<b>Town Deal Update and Revised Timetables</b>	
3.1	SP gave an update on the current position of the Town Deal. The proposal is that we continue at speed with the progress being made following the work stream thematic groups that have taken place over the last 2-3 weeks and it is proposed to submit the Investment Plan on 31 July 2020 as per government deadlines as Cohort 1.	
3.2	Following general discussion it was agreed unanimously by the Board that Warrington should be part of Cohort 1 – deadline 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2020. SP had already responded directly to Martin Wood, but will now respond formally to North West Towns Hub.	SP Immediate
4.0	<b>Project Overview and Long List of projects</b>	
4.1	SF presented the overview and long list of projects agreed by each work stream thematic group. The long list is the result of discussions arising from the work stream meetings and additional meetings held with sector leads by Atkins. This is the long list which will need to be narrowed down to approximately 6 to take forward to create our business case.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stem Training and careers support</li><li>- Career improvement – into training</li><li>- Digital infrastructure support</li><li>- Health &amp; Social care academy/bio science</li><li>- Integrated/sustainable Bus Depot</li><li>- Walking &amp; cycling improvement</li><li>- Green trail and waterfront</li><li>- Bus priority &amp; treatments</li><li>- Construction training hub</li><li>- Bioscience training hub</li><li>- Health services in the town centre</li><li>- Cycle Hub</li><li>- Digital &amp; Creative Hub</li></ul>	
4.2	It is important that the Board consider the deliverability of all of the important outputs from each project. It was noted that the Bus Depot has already been chosen to receive funding from the LEP as a shovel ready project. SB confirmed that electric scooters have now been legalised and we are able to short list this idea for inclusion within the cycle hub project.	



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4.3	<p>DT requested that mobility scooters be also included within this key part of the active travel. Agreed.</p> <p>SP reported on the £1M of accelerated funds available which is in addition to the £25M from government. We are of the opinion we can add the £1M to the £5M funding for the Bus Depot. The ‘ask’ for the Town Deal would be to contribute the funding to the Bus Depot. This would be subject to Cabinet approval.</p>	<p>SF/BW</p> <p>SP</p>
5.0	<p><b>Thematic Group Updates</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Education, Skills &amp; Employment</b>          NN presented on behalf of the Education, Skills &amp; Employment work stream. The unanimous decision made by the work stream was to bring forward the following:</p> <p><b>5.1.1 <u>Advanced Construction Training Hubs (ACT)</u></b>          Placing the development of the relevant digital skills and competencies at their heart, the ACT centre based at the Winwick Road campus of Warrington and Vale Royal College will drive collaboration between the college, employers and the local authority to develop, commercialise and promote digital technologies and sustainability for the construction industry (primarily for building affordable homes) and the in-parallel skills training that supports it. In so doing, the ACT will assist the industry to build high quality, smart, green and efficient homes and building infrastructures, faster, cheaper and more sustainably than ever before. The ACT activity will closely align with the aspirations of the government’s ‘Transforming Construction Challenge’, CIOTB and the Centre for Digitally Built Britain. It is envisaged that the ACT at Warrington and Vale Royal College will be of national significance, a renowned centre of excellence and modelled on the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, a link to which is found below: <a href="https://www.cs-ic.org/innovationcentre/">https://www.cs-ic.org/innovationcentre/</a> A rough estimate of TID funding required would be approximately £4.4M</p> <p><b>5.1.2 Summary of comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LG: The opinion on additionality (the £1M) is in line with the opinion of Runcorn Town Deal</li> <li>- SC: Torus Developments is the largest developer of new homes across Cheshire, Warrington &amp; Liverpool City Region and would support the Construction Hub. Torus Foundation &amp; New Leaf would have clear links on the employment side</li> <li>- AH: It would be good to make sure there is a link with the Construction Industry Training Board nationally</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MW: Progress on Institute of Technologies policy nationally and whether there is any Warrington thinking on this. Lots of links to housing and green agenda too; Need to re-assure that Capital Funding is part of any Town Fund element bid</li><li>- DT: Inclusion of smart living technologies in ACT</li><li>- DB: There are a number of WBC Partnered construction companies in infrastructure delivery who would get involved as well as professional institutions</li></ul>	
5.2	<p><u>Develop a Social Care Academy in conjunction with Health &amp; Wellbeing work stream</u></p> <p>Create a consolidated social care education curriculum, attracting social care students and improving the quality of education and the professionalisation of staff through better linkages with social care professionals. Training for family carers, personal assistants, Care Agencies and up to Local Authority and NHS. The Academy will also bring the opportunity to reinforce synergies among health &amp; social care providers with regards to social patients and professional opportunities for students post-training. Rough estimate of TD funding to be agreed.</p>	
5.2.2	<p>Summary of comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- AC: What sort of numbers would benefit from this scheme? NN confirmed 10,000 at least</li><li>- DT: Personal Assistants would benefit from courses. Entry level would be essential and supported.</li><li>- LG: Supported the response in terms of numbers and the demand is definitely there</li><li>- MC: Collaborative nature of this workstream has been excellent and looking forward to developing this scheme further if chosen to go into the Town Deal bid</li></ul>	
5.3	<p><b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Work Steam</b></p> <p>LG presented the proposal from the Health &amp; Wellbeing work stream. LG would like to recognise all individuals who have contributed excellent ideas and knowledge</p>	
5.3.1	<p><u>Health &amp; Wellbeing Hub Town Centre</u></p> <p>The creation of a health and wellbeing hub in the heart of the Town Centre. The Hub would be designed &amp; delivered through a multi-agency approach with partners including Warrington Primary Care Networks, Warrington &amp; Halton Teaching Hospitals, Bridgewater Community Healthcare, Wellbeing Enterprises and Time to Change.</p>	



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	<p>The Hub would provide local residents with convenient access to a variety of services. The hub service model is significant for conditions such as frailty and diabetes in the environment of COVID recovery. The hub would require capital funding to refurbish and re-zone previous retail space to create an attractive and clinically effective space that encourages local residents to access the services. Revenue funding is required to enable the transition of staffing from traditional service delivery models to the new hub model for 12 months only. Capital funding £2.04M Revenue £1.14M.</p> <p>Summary of comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- TA: Confirmed this will be free at source, complementary to GPs. Probably a bit of a drop in and appointment to take advantage of location</li><li>- Potential costs: Some projects have got exploratory figures, indicative costs will be available and are currently working on this</li><li>- SB: WBC will work out the revenue side of this and is a great project. Bath Street could be considered</li><li>- AC: Excellent project and recently spoke in the House about re-using and re-purposing sites. Some plans are coming forward to change the classification of properties so could assist this project</li><li>- DT: Facility built under the WW stadium – using empty premises is a marvellous way to bring a project such as this forward</li></ul>	
5.4	<p><b>Housing &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>BW presented the projects put forward by the work stream. These include Walking &amp; Cycling Improvement in the town centre; Green Trail &amp; Waterfront improvement; Bus Priority and corridor treatments &amp; Cycle Hub</p>	
5.4.1	<p><u>Integrated sustainable bus station development</u></p> <p>Relocate the bus depot to support electric fleet, release land for housing and improve town centre accessibility. The bus depot will be relocated on a site in Dallam Lane, whilst the existing site will be re-purposed for housing development. This will help provide housing near the town centre which would benefit young people and provide access to jobs with no need for a car. The new depot would help enable the electrification of the bus fleet (Warrington has submitted an EOI to be an ‘all-electric bus town’)</p>	
5.4.2	<p><u>Summary of comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- BW: We are ready to go as the site is council owned and already have planning permission in place. Two principal matters in relation to financial funding and ensure is also all in place. Substantial amount of backing for this project</li><li>- SF: Highlighted the great work done on ‘first and last mile’ and will clearly be central to the project as well as the ‘Necklace’.</li></ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- DB: This would fit with the Central 6 Neighbourhood Plan and would help deliver the aspirations in this plan.</li><li>- LG: Happy to support active travel from the perspective of a large employer, from a hospital perspective we employ over 4000 staff to assist and enable active travel</li></ul>	
5.5	<p><b>Arts, Culture &amp; Digital</b></p> <p>BC presented the projects put forward by the work stream group.</p>	
5.5.1	<p><u>Digital &amp; Creative Hub</u></p> <p>The project will convert a Grade II listed building within the Bridge Street Conservation Area (previously W Hodgkinson Ltd) into a digital hub. This will have two functions: (i) provide a creative and support space for start-ups and (ii) create an interactive and leisure space for visitors. On the digital hub front, the building will comprise a co-working space, a space for events and a lab. Short training programmes will be provided, with courses around STEM use, technology and business development so as to provide a full-fledged accelerator space for entrepreneurs. There is also the possibility to open the ground floor to visitors and make it a leisure destination in the town centre with exhibitions, cafes and conferences. More broadly, the project aims to increase the attractiveness of Bridge Street, which is located in the old part of the town centre, as the heart of Warrington’s Cultural Quarter. This means repurposing of further existing buildings and space for workspace on the street could be considered.</p>	
5.5.2	<p>Summary of comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- NN: Confirmed the college would want to be wholly engaged in the project and ensure integration. Complementary rather than in competition.</li><li>- SF: Raised unemployment - this project would encourage young people and older people into the right environment</li><li>- DT: Raised the older people element who have started to use modern day technology, particularly during COVID. BC confirmed Facilities would be similar to a community environment.</li><li>- TA: Raised the leads within the NHS now regularly using technology and wondered if this was an opportunity to join up with Health. BC confirmed this would be available and would change cohorts to accommodate</li><li>- AC: Raised the challenges around the Pyramid and if we look to having more people living in the town centre, we have a massive opportunity for them and ensure liaison with Culture Warrington (CW). BC confirmed more input is required from CW. The building does require identity due to current mixed use facility</li><li>- DT: Raised the Telecare project around independent living</li></ul>	



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5.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SP: The Arts &amp; Culture sector should have a big part to play in the investment in the town and the ‘ask’ of the cultural sector needs to be developed. The Pyramid is an excellent facility but the way in which it has been designed does conflict with users. This should be the centre of Arts/Culture and performance for the town. This ‘ask’ will be accelerated next week.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked all work stream leads for their input in bringing the long list of bids for the Town Deal Board’s consideration.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>Investment Plan</b></p> <p>6.1 SP confirmed a new template was received from Government yesterday. There are two sections to the template for completion. Section 1 should be no longer than a total of 10,000 words. Section 2 requires more detail that we need to complete. This will be worked up in the main by the project leads supported by Atkins. SP will forward the Section 2 template for completion</p> <p>6.2 A discussion took place as to what the Board will put forward for consideration. SP confirmed some cloth will have to be cut. We need to be able to demonstrate the private gain that the public sector will see to drive it forward.</p> <p>6.3 MW confirmed that he believes WBC and partners have the capability to present the information in the right way in the right templates. Need to remember to use the guidance and ensure we meet the key aspects in it. We need to demonstrate we have considered and tried to secure match etc., but for some projects, match will be less.</p>	SP
7.0	<p><u>My Town Campaign Communications Plan</u></p> <p>7.1 LP presented the communications plan. There has been a strong online campaign across press, social media and website as well as physical public engagement sessions. The headline data is that we have reached 760K accounts, 93 ideas submitted via the web portal, 43 ideas submitted via physical events and 186 tiddlywinks cast.</p> <p>7.2 Public Engagement (Broad) findings – top themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public transport improvements for cyclist and buses</li> <li>- Better education and training for the care sector and STEM</li> <li>- Bridge Street and main town centre thoroughfare regeneration/support for town centre shops and businesses</li> <li>- More affordable town centre housing</li> </ul>	



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	<p>Next steps are to let people know when the investment plan is to be submitted. Assuming the bid aligns with public feedback, which all indicators seem to suggest this is definitely the case, a “we said, you did” campaign, once we know bid outcome.</p>	
7.3	<p>Next steps and contributions will be to tie in with the Investment Plan and when it will be submitted and what the nature of the plan will be.</p>	
7.4	<p>SF confirmed it was encouraging that the themes we have pulled together reflect and align what the public feedback has been</p>	
7.5	<p>SP added to the next steps point around informing the public. This is also to extract all the work done and that level engagement is firmly embedded in the town plan and evidence of engagement with communities across the town - this will be a key part of the plan.</p>	
7.6	<p>BC requested a break down around what would fall into the cultural suggestions made and if these could be shared. LP will send a full breakdown of what was received to all board members</p>	
7.7	<p>DT highlighted that it is important we use every vehicle possible to get the message out and about the town</p>	
7.8	<p>MW confirmed it was good to see visibility of the communications/material findings with wider on-line information for the Board that helps demonstrate wider transparency of the Board – likes of membership, Terms of Reference and minutes etc. Great discussion and hopefully a good bid shaping up</p>	
8.0	<p><b>Any other business</b></p>	
8.1	<p>The Chair thanked everyone on this call and the respective teams for their contribution and progress made in challenging times. Thanks to Atkins to help pull this together. We will rise to challenge and look to aim for Cohort 1.</p>	
8.2	<p>BC confirmed that it would help if Atkins pre-populate the forms prior to the Leads completing to assist in time for completion</p>	
8.3	<p>SP confirmed Atkins will support, but it is important sector leads take responsibility for their bids.</p>	





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8.4	SP thanked the Chair for his efforts; the work stream leads and everyone who has been involved, particularly within COVID. The last push is imminent and we have great bids to submit.	
8.5	FQ thanked everyone for supporting Atkins and will ensure consistency across the board and follow the guidelines require to ensure a successful bid solution	
9.0	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
9.1	The next meeting of the Town Deal Board will be held on Friday 24 July VIA Teams. MC may Chair dependent on his leave arrangements.	