



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

**Minutes of Meeting held on 22 April 2022 – 9.30 am**  
**MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

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| <p><b>Attendees:</b><br/>Steve Coffey – Chair<br/>Steven Broomhead – Vice Chair<br/>Andy Carter MP<br/>Martin Wood<br/>Ellie Cox<br/>Nichola Newton<br/>Lucy Gardner<br/>Anton Fields<br/>Alison Roberts<br/>Steven Hunter<br/>Dave Thompson<br/>Eleanor Blackburn<br/>Emma Hutchinson<br/>Simon Foden<br/>Laurence Pullan<br/>Kim Cooper</p> | <p><b>Company</b><br/>Torus<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>South Warrington<br/>DLUHC<br/>DLUHC<br/>Warrington &amp; Vale Royal College<br/>NHS<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Warrington Disability Partnership<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>LiveWire &amp; Culture Warrington<br/>Langtree<br/>Warrington Borough Council<br/>Towns Fund Delivery Partner</p> | <p><b>Apologies</b><br/>John Laverick<br/>Stephen Fitzsimons<br/>David Boyer<br/>John Adlen<br/>Bill Carr<br/>Nigel Schofield<br/>Cllr Russ Bowden<br/>Cllr Tom Jennings<br/>Charlotte Nichols MP<br/>Ben Wakerley<br/>Malcolm Jackson</p> |
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| Item  | Subject  | Action |
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| 1.0   | <b>Welcome and Apologies</b>   |        |
| 1.1   | The Deputy Chair welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies received.   |        |
| 2.0   | <b>Introduction of the new Chair of the Town Deal Board – Steve Coffey.</b>  |        |
| 2.1   | SB welcomed and introduced SC as the new chair of the Town Deal board. SC welcomed the opportunity as was looking forward to charring the board. |        |
| 3.0   | <u>Minutes of meeting held on 11 March 2022</u>  |        |
| 3.1   | <b>Matters arising</b>   |        |
| 3.1.1 | Actions from the meeting held on 16 March 2022 were confirmed as ongoing or completed and Alison Roberts (AR) is monitoring progress.            | AR     |
| 3.1.2 | A strategic view of match funding will be considered at the next board meeting, which will be finance focused.                                   |        |
| 3.1.3 | The minutes were agreed as a correct record.   |        |



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| 4.0 | <u>Town Deal Director's Report</u>   |    |
| 4.1 | AF presented his report covering overall progress of the Warrington Town Deal Programme since the last Board meeting held on 16 March 2022.  |    |
| 4.2 | AF explained that following the assurance review that was undertaken by DLUHC in February, the next tranche of funding has been confirmed. This is for 70% of the 2022/23 schedule for the five projects that were due to spend in 2021/22 (less the 5% enabling funds which have already been received). AF added that 100% of the funding for the Digital Enterprise Hub and Pyramid Remastered is expected to be flowing shortly, both projects were not due to spend until 2022/23.                                      |    |
| 4.3 | The Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) with Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the Health and Wellbeing Hub has been signed and sealed, as have the feasibility funding agreements with Warrington and Vale Royal College for the Health and Social Care Academy and the Advance Construction and Civil Engineering Centre (ACCE). Progress has been made on the GFA for the ACCE which is now in the final stages of completion. Work is continuing on the GFA with Wire Regeneration for the Digital Hub. |    |
| 4.4 | EB advised that the Football foundation Funding for the 3G pitch as part of the Sustainable Travel programme is still being processed, however is not yet secured.   |    |
| 4.5 | The Digital Hub project is still working on securing the ERDF funding, with the timeframe for the project now under pressure with this unresolved. An examination of the match funding position across the whole programme will be included for the next Board meeting, which will be finance focused.   |    |
| 4.6 | DT asked if the risk level for the Digital Hub should be changed in light of the uncertainty around ERDF funding. AF acknowledged this and agreed that it should be reviewed.  | AF |
| 4.7 | AF highlighted the work being undertaken across projects, for example the sustainable travel package supporting the Health and Wellbeing Hub through looking at repurposing an existing taxi rank as disabled parking in the vicinity of the intended location of for the hub. That's in addition to the work on wayfinding and cycle parking/ storage in the town centre.   |    |
| 4.8 | Inflation and the uncertainty of supply chains are the main risks reported across the programme right now. All projects include contingency and mitigation measures, however recent prices indicate that issues are likely to arise in terms of cost.  |    |



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| 4.9  | <p>The support offer from the Towns Fund Delivery Partner has been renewed and there is a range of support available for those working on Town Deal projects, details of which will be shared with project leads.</p>   |    |
| 4.10 | <p>The monitoring and evaluation process is expected to commence shortly with updated guidance anticipated at the end of this month, and the deadline for the first submission will be 01 June 2022. A second submission will be required by 01 December 2022. The programme team will continue to work with project leads to ensure that we comply with all requirements.</p>  |    |
| 4.11 | <p><u>Programme Office Update</u><br/>AR thanks colleagues for their input on the construction schedules.</p> <p>AR advised on a tour planned to some of the Town Deal projects with DLUHC colleagues due to take place next week.</p> <p>MW advised that M&amp;E guidance will be out next week, with deadlines likely to be extended. MW looking forward to visit on Tues with EC, who has joined the C&amp;LG team.</p>  |    |
| 5.0  | <p><u>Project Lead Updates</u></p>  |    |
| 5.1  | <p><u>Advanced Construction &amp; Civil Engineering Centre (ACCE)</u><br/>NN updated on progress. Planning is in process, still awaiting. Steering group meetings continue and are still effective. NN advised that there is an issue with cost, with a potential overspend – to be covered in more detail at the next meeting.</p> <p>DT requested an opportunity to review the detailed designs and meet with the architects as he had previously done with the Health and Wellbeing Hub.</p>   | NN |
| 5.2  | <p><u>Health &amp; Social Care Academy</u><br/>NN updated on progress. Amy York appointed as the Academy manager. Hybrid classrooms have been created, (see update)</p> <p>Training needs are being identified with partners. Clinical skills hub potentially could transfer over to the HSCA, this remains an ambition.</p> <p>Collaboration with Liverpool John Moore’s for 40 midwifery students.</p> <p>JSOG &amp; Steering Group (with the H&amp;WB Hub) will be invited to tour in June, invitation is extended to the board.</p> | NN |



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| 5.3 | <p>LG commented that the new course will have a significant impact for the health sector and for local employment. NN reflected that the model is really effective and is being shared more widely, having high credibility with employers.</p> <p>DT Thanked NN for developing the personal assistant course, reflecting on the social care crisis with beds being blocked.</p> <p><u>Pyramid Remastered</u><br/>EB updated on the project. Two workstreams – construction and change management / operational.</p> <p>In terms of construction, the tender process is underway to procure design and construction partners to work up the detailed design and take to the next stage of construction – appointment should be approved in July.</p> <p>EH updated on the change management – applications have been submitted to the Arts Council for additional funding. Warrington named on the list by the Arts Council for levelling up funding.</p> <p>EB added that the team are working on what can be done during the closure period when the substantial building work is undertaken.</p> |  |
| 5.4 | <p><u>Health &amp; Wellbeing Hub</u><br/>LG updated. GFA agreement now in place. Lease negotiations continue. Working on RIBA stage 4 designs with partners.</p> <p>Health watch and peoples panel engagement continues.</p> <p>Ongoing revenue costs remain as key risk, work continues with partners to mitigate this.</p>  |  |
| 5.5 | <p><u>Sustainable Travel Programme</u><br/>SH updated on the programme.</p> <p>3G Pitch – going through to Cabinet in June.</p> <p>Sankey street – working with businesses to develop the scheme.</p> <p>Green ring enhancements – TPT near Stockton Heath swing bridge towards Waters Meet – seeking to deliver this ahead of the swing bridge work in April 2023 by Peel Ports.</p> <p>Bus priority – main scheme is on Wilderspool Causeway, so looking at the phasing of this now to take into account the swing bridge work.</p>   |  |



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| 5.6 | <p>Cycle Hub – market testing exercise being planned. Looking at secure cycle parking locations in the town centre.</p> <p>SH advised that inflation is a significant risk – the cost and availability of materials.</p> <p><u>Bus Depot</u><br/>SP updated – report taken.</p> <p>Cost of the electric charging points to be incorporated within the Depot are a risk – relates to the Zebra project. Otherwise project is progressing to plan.</p> <p>SH advised that there is a joint project board for Bus Depot &amp; Zebra.</p> <p>SH also advised that he’s had some useful discussions with DfT colleagues about the procurement of the electric buses. <b>Action – SH to catch up with MW about this.</b></p> <p>SH also advised that Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has received indicative £16.2m funding. £10m capital (bus priority) &amp; £6m revenue (services/fares/frequency/routes).</p> <p>DT asked if the accessibility of the new bus fleet could be addressed, DT happy to contribute to considerations of the new buses. SH explained that the new buses needed to comply with enhanced accessibility requirements and shared a list of what this would incorporate - including kneeling buses/ AV announcements – space for wheelchairs/pushchairs etc. <b>SH / DT to meet on this matter.</b></p> | SH/MW |
| 5.7 | <p><u>Digital Enterprise Hub</u><br/>SF updated on the project. Main focus has been liaising with DLUHC on the requirements for the ERDF funding. Meeting has taken place with DLUHC colleagues and there is a way forward. Looking to conclude by the end of May. Spend on ERDF is required by June 2023. Solution that is being considered will deliver the ERDF project first, with the digital hub to follow.</p> <p>University of Chester planning to take space at St James’ Court in Sept 2022. Digital focus group is now established including future occupiers of the building.</p> <p>DT asked about the opportunity to review designs. SF confirmed that DT will be invited to review when designs are ready.</p>   | SH/DT |



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|     | MW offered to participate in any three way conversations as required to facilitate conclusion.  |        |
| 6.0 | <u>Any other business</u>   |        |
| 6.1 | SP advised that prospectus has been received for the UK shared prosperity fund (UKSPF), and allocations received - £7,413,000 for Warrington. £916,500k required for 'multiply' (adult numeracy) programme, leaving circa £6.5m. Mainly revenue funding. Investment Plan to be submitted by 01 August 2022. |        |
| 6.2 | SP explained that there were some concerns that this funding would be less than the previous European funding, however for Warrington this is not the case. The fund is provided to the Council.  |        |
| 6.3 | SP proposed that ToR for the TD Board expand to include advising on the UK Shared Prosperity fund. SP proposed to bring a paper to the next meeting, inviting Tim Smith to present. <b>(AGREED by the Board)</b>  | Agreed |
| 6.4 | MW supportive of the proposal to involve the Town Deal Board on the UKSPF.  |        |
| 6.5 | SC planning to make contact with the project leads on a one to one basis to discuss their projects.   | SC     |
| 7.0 | <u>Date of Next meeting</u>   |        |
| 7.1 | 20 May 2022 – Finance based meeting   |        |