



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

**Minutes of Meeting held on 16 March 2022**  
**MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

Attendees		Company	Apologies
Matt Crompton – Chair		Muse Developments	Professor Steven Broomhead
Andy Carter MP		South Warrington	Cllr Russ Bowden
Charlotte Nichols MP		North Warrington	Ben Wakerley
Steve Park		Warrington Borough Council	Bill Carr
Martin Wood		DULHC	Ian Cox
Nichola Newton		Warrington & Vale Royal College	Laurence Pullan
Nigel Schofield		Warrington Chamber of Commerce	Christopher Bowen
Lucy Gardner		NHS	Steve Coffey
Stephen Fitzsimons		Warrington Chamber of Commerce	Catherine Holmes
Alison Roberts		Warrington Borough Council	
Steven Hunter		Warrington Borough Council	
Dave Thompson		Warrington Disability Partnership	
Eleanor Blackburn		Warrington Borough Council	
Emma Hutchinson		LiveWire & Culture Warrington	
Malcolm Jackson		Langtree	
John Laverick		Warrington Borough Council	
John Adlen		Cheshire & Warrington LEP	

  

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed all the meeting and noted all apologies received.	
2.0	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 21 January 2022</b>	
2.1	<u>Matters arising</u>	
2.2	Actions from the meeting held on 21 January 2022 were confirmed as ongoing or completed and Alison Roberts (AR) is monitoring progress.	
2.3	DT / LG are yet to catch up re the H&WB Hub, but it is in hand.	
2.4	Minutes were agreed as a correct record.	
3.0	<b><u>Programme Office Update</u></b>	
3.1	<b>Town Deal Director’s Report</b> Anton Fields (AF) presented his report covering overall progress of the Warrington Town Deal Programme since the last Board meeting held on 21 January 2022.	



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	<p>The focus this month is on finance. AF outlined that the Town Deal programme is in line to receive £22.1m of funding from the Towns Fund, however with partner and other contributions the overall programme is £46.5m. There remains some uncertainty with the overall funding package. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) contribution to the Digital Hub project is not yet confirmed, nor is the £550k Football Foundation contribution to the 3G pitch as part of the sustainable travel project.</p>	
3.2	<p>A total of £2.9m has been received to date from DLUHC, in line with the programme schedule. This includes the 5% enabling funding that came through last year.</p>	
3.3	<p>AF explained that each project has provided a financial update for this board, and the consolidated summary shows that £2.7m has been spent and a further £10m committed, the majority of which relates to the Bus Depot. Any underspend in the current financial year will be managed using the S151 freedoms and flexibilities. At the time of writing the Bus Depot is reporting an underspend of around £100k, and the Health and Social Care Academy something in the region of £80k.</p>	
3.4	<p>Overall progress across the programme continues to go well. The two projects in the construction phase are currently on track to be completed on time – Health and Social Care Academy by September, and the Bus Depot by the end of the year. Progress has been made on the outstanding grant funding agreements for the Advanced Construction and Civil Engineering Centre, Health and Wellbeing Hub, and the Digital Hub. Key project risks remain and they are being managed, mitigated and removed where possible. Material availability and inflation are still a concern across the programme, with projects advance purchasing where possible to fix the prices. The programme team are continuing to engage with all project leads, and the Department, to ensure that we remain well placed to comply with the monitoring and evaluation requirements throughout the delivery phase.</p>	
3.5	<p><b>Assurance Statement</b> The assurance statement from Lynton Green, S151 Officer was shared with the board for information.</p>	
3.6	<p><b>Programme Office Update</b> AR updated the board on the reviewing the programme as we move from business case development into delivery. AR will re-issue the programme shortly, and noted that there are some minor changes known at this point. The programme will also include indicative key media opportunities.</p>	
3.7	<p>MW updated the board on the assurance process which was designed to inform the release of payment into next financial year – we are in line to receive 70% of the allocation in April, with the balance in the summer.</p>	
4.0	<p><b><u>Chair of the Town Deal Board</u></b> Steve Park (SP) asked the Chair, Matt Crompton (MC) to update the Board on his plans for the future. MC confirmed that he has decided to retire, a decision made in August. Kate Bowyer (ex Crown Estate) will take over MC's role at Muse Developments.</p>	



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4.1	MC thanked the Board for all for the support. SP thanked MC for his contribution, highlighting the good work that has been done to date.	
4.2	SP will work on finding a new chair, and will update the Board in due course. <b>[Action SP]</b>	<b>SP</b>
5.0	<p><b><u>Future Strategic Role of the Board</u></b></p> <p>SP updated on the anticipated second round of Levelling Up funding, LU2, plus the replacement for European Funding – UK Shared Prosperity Fund, UKSPF, where Towns will be allocated funding, but not necessarily in a competitive environment, unlike levelling up. Both sources of funding require partnership board working similar to this board.</p>	
5.1	There is a realistic prospect that this Board could be providing guidance to the Council on additional projects from the Levelling Up Fund, plus any potential projects from the UK Prosperity fund.	
5.2	The Board is likely to evolve and build on the good things that have been done so far.	
5.3	MW encouraged that the continued role for the Board is being considered. Events in the Ukraine and Russia are effecting the timescales around these funds right now, but would hope that some areas would hear news before local elections take place.	
5.4	MW confirmed that LU2 will be competitive with tough competition, and that UKSPF is allocated, with spend agreed in advance. UKSPF allocations will be at a Local Authority level.	
5.5	MC asked if the board would need to be expanded. SP advised that the plan is for form to follow function, and will revisit membership once future projects are known. <b>[Action SP]</b>	<b>SP</b>
6.0	<p><b><u>Project Leads Financial Updates</u></b></p>	
6.1	<p><b><u>Bus Depot</u></b></p> <p>John Laverick (JL). Bus Depot going well. Steel starting to go up. Below ground works for the electrification (Zebra project) have started, with some ground issues that needed to be dealt with. Have a good grip on the EV charger and infrastructure, and Steve Hunter and team have a good grip on the procurement on the electric bus fleet.</p>	
6.1.1	MW shared plans to get a case study drawn up on the Bus Depot to share with other towns. JL confirmed that the bus fleet would be included in the case study also. <b>[Action JL]</b>	<b>JL</b>
6.2	<p><b><u>Sustainable Travel</u></b></p> <p>Steve Hunter (SH) updated on the sustainable travel package. Planning to take the 3G pitch award to June Cabinet meeting, with good progress made on this with planning now in place. Good progress has been made on all elements.</p>	



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6.2.1	EB advised that there has been an increase in the estimated cost for the 3G pitch related to planning condition, additional safety measures (up to an addition £250k) – the Council has agreed to provide this funding through the Council’s capital programme.	
6.2.2	NN shared that she has had discussions with Ben Wakerley about future skills around electric vehicles, and the potential for future courses.	
6.2.3	JL added that high voltage training and skills could also present a useful link.	
6.2.4	Stephen Fitzsimons (SF) made reference to the procurement of the buses. SH advised that the bus fleet has been procured by the Council through the public procurement regulations.	
6.2.5	Andy Carter MP (AC) added that his preference would be for the buses to be procured in the UK.	
6.2.6	MW would value a discussion with SH / SFz about this to be able to advise colleagues in the automotive section in BEIS. <b>[ACTION SH]</b>	<b>SH</b>
6.3	<u>Health &amp; Wellbeing Hub</u> Lucy Gardner (LG) updated the Board. Have now appointed contractor to lead the negotiations on the preferred site. In the process of procuring an architectural partner with a view to completed RIBA stage 3 and 4 in April. In terms of risk, conversations with partners have been taking place. New risk, provision of another facility presented a risk – risk of confusion, however this has now been agreed to be included in the hub.	
6.3.1	In terms of finance, have used from match funding from WHHFT, so haven’t needed to draw down funding at this stage yet. GFA in finance committee on 21/3, board on 30/3.	
6.4	<u>Digital Enterprise Hub</u> Simon Foden (SF) updated. AF advised that in the final stages in terms of the ERDF contribution. Progress is good, with the project board meeting regularly. Next task is to work on the procurement strategy with the Council. Focus initial has been on building work. Working group has now been set up with a digital focus. SF has linked in with WVRC for joint working.	
6.4.1	MC asked if ERDF queries were related to subsidy control / state aid – SF confirmed that this was not the case.	
6.5	<u>Pyramid Remastered</u> EB updated on the project. Focus is currently on procurement. Project board meeting monthly, and a change management board has been established, with a focus on the future delivery model for Pyramid plus the need to deliver an alternative programme while Pyramid is closed.	
6.5.1	EB advised that £1m partner funding is as yet unsecured. Work is continuing to secure additional funding.	



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6.5.2	Emma Hutchinson added that the membership of the change management board has been refreshed.	
6.5.3	MC asked if there was a plan B if the £1m funding was not forthcoming. EB confirmed that the project was phased and the scope of works could be reduced to match budget if absolutely necessary with remaining work to be completed once additional funding secured – however the cost plan currently shows all work can be completed for the available budget – this will be rechecked/verified as the detailed design progresses.	
6.5.4	AC confirmed that there was £75m available and he asked for Warrington to be included, which the secretary of state has confirmed, so he encouraged a bid	
6.6	<u>Advanced Construction Centre</u> Nicola Newton (NN) updated on progress. Work to date has been supported by advance funding from W&VRC. Ground condition and building surveys are underway. Stakeholder group continues to meet. The programme is on track.	
6.6.1	The last stakeholder meeting was not that well attended. MC asked for NN to share the contractors that they are planning to work with, as he could possibly help with this.	
6.7	<u>Health &amp; Social Care Academy</u> NN updated on spend – project is on track in terms of delivery. Working with the health trust to develop clinic skills. All courses are being advertised and working with employers to bring people onto the programmes. Amy York (Centre Manager) has been promoting the academy.	
6.7.1	Colleagues from the hospital have been to visit this site. Stakeholder meetings continue to be really well attended.	
7.0	<u>Any Other Business</u>	
7.1	SH Requested that DfT was included in the conversation with MW/BEIS/SFz. <b>[Action MW/SF]</b>	<b>MW/SFz</b>
7.2	MW observed that progress was impressive. MW suggested that at the next financial board, a strategic view is taken on the match funding. <b>[ACTION AF]</b>	<b>AF</b>
8.0	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	
8.1	22 April 2022	