



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

**Minutes of Meeting held on 20 May 2022**  
**MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

<p><b>Attendees:</b> Steve Coffey – Chair Andy Carter MP Martin Wood Nicola Newton Lucy Gardner Anton Fields Alison Roberts David Boyer Steven Hunter Dave Thompson Eleanor Blackburn Emma Hutchinson Simon Foden John Laverick Nicki O’Connor Tim Smith</p>	<p><b>Company</b> Torus South Warrington MCHLG Warrington &amp; Vale Royal College NHS Warrington Borough Council Warrington Borough Council Warrington Borough Council Warrington Borough Council Warrington Disability Partnership Warrington Borough Council LiveWire &amp; Culture Warrington Wire Regeneration Warrington Borough Council DWP Warrington Borough Council</p>	<p><b>Apologies</b> Steven Broomhead Steve Park Ben Wakerley Ian Cox Nigel Schofield Stephen Fitzsimons Laurence Pullan Cllr Russ Bowden Chris Bowen Malcolm Jackson John Adlen Damian Richards-Clarke</p>
--	---	--

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	<b>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and noted all apologies received.	
1.2	He specifically welcomed Nicki O’Connor from DWP to her first meeting since joining the Town Deal Board.	
2.0	<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Presentation</b>	
2.1	Tim Smith attended to present the UK SPF to the Town Deal Board.	
2.2	TS explained that SPF is the successor programme to European funding, with some overlap with the existing funding arrangements. Warrington has been allocated £6.5m in funding, 80% of which is revenue. No match funding is required, in contrast to the European requirements. Allocation has been made to each local authority area, but can work with other LA’s if beneficial. There will be some additional support needs from the authority to administer the fund.	
2.3	There is a requirement for an arms-length function to examine strategic fit, and ensure that local priorities are being addressed.	
2.4	There are three investment priorities, up to LA to determine the distribution of expenditure against these:	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communities and place</li><li>• Supporting local business</li><li>• People and skills</li></ul>	
2.5	There are 41 interventions in the SPF prospectus. There are some opportunities to support initiatives that previously couldn't be supported through European funding, such as the ability to support retail, hospitality and leisure. People and skills priority roughly matches the former European Social Fund.	
2.6	There is an additional stream called Multiply, which is an adult numeracy programme. Warrington has been allocated £917k in addition to the £6.5m. The Multiply funding is ring-fenced to that programme.	
2.7	We need to develop an investment plan over the summer months, and submit it in August, following appropriate consultation setting out our investment priorities.	
2.8	TS asked board members to examine the 41 interventions, and asked if the board could fulfil the arm-length strategic role	
2.9	DT asked if back-office costs need to come from this funding. TS advised that there is a 4% maximum that can be allocated for this.	
2.10	NN stated that she is pleased to see that retail, hospitality and leisure can now be supported. TS agreed and added that the revenue funding from SPF could be used to support other capital schemes.	
2.11	NO advised that support will be required for the investment plan to be developed, adding that the 41 interventions were much more flexible than previous funding schemes.	
2.12	LG offered to support the development of the investment plan. LG also asked if TD Board could fulfil the oversight role for the SPF. EB suggested that the TD could fulfil that role, subject to terms of reference being updated.	
2.13	SC raised the issue of timescales, given the investment plan needs to be submitted in August. EB advised that we would like to share the investment plan with this group ahead of the submission. Additionally, it would be presented to WBC's council.	
2.14	MW added that the stakeholder engagement is a critical component, and needs to be done in a meaningful way ahead of submission. NO added that DWP will support the application in terms of the response for skills and learning. MW will contact TS and NO to agree points.	
2.15	<b>Action SC / EB/ TS to agree the process for the TD Board to fulfil the overview role.</b>	SC/EB/TS
2.16	TS explained that he was currently gathering ideas for investment, and that needs to be filtered prior to producing an investment plan. NN added that the process for the Towns Fund worked really well, so we should be well placed to participate.	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

2.17	SC thanked TS for the presentation.	
3.0	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 22 April 2022</b>	
3.1	<u>Matters arising</u>	
3.2	Matters arising covered in the project updates.	
4.0	<b><u>Programme Office Update</u></b>	
4.1	<b>Town Deal Director's Report</b>	
4.2	AF presented the report which was a financial update on the programme. The overall funding package for the programme currently stands at £50.1m. There is an additional £0.250m of funding from the Council towards the 3G pitch as part of the sustainable travel package, and the figures now include the match funding for the Health and Wellbeing Hub	
4.3	Following the assurance review earlier this year, the council has received all money expected at this stage from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), a total to date of £12m. This includes 5% enabling funding for each project. Remaining funds for 2022/23 will be forthcoming following a further assurance review.	
4.4	At financial year end (31 March 2022), the Council had received £2.860m from the Towns Fund. A total of £1.281m had been spent on the projects, with £1.579m effectively carried forward to 2022/23 through the Council's Section 151 Officer using their freedoms and flexibilities, so there is no impact to the funding on the programme.	
4.5	Each project provided a financial update for this board, which shows that £3.7m has been spent overall so far, and a further £9.6m committed.	
4.6	The Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) for the Advanced Construction and Civil Engineering Centre has been agreed, and is in the process of being signed and sealed. Work is continuing on the GFA with Wire Regeneration for the Digital Hub. The grant funding agreements are essential in order for funds to be passed on to the projects from the Council.	
4.7	In terms of match funding, the overall programme is funded from a number of sources, in addition to the £22.1m from the Towns Fund. Broadly, there is £30m planned in total from government grants, matched with £20m from other sources.	
4.8	There are three areas of uncertainty in the match funding currently. Discussions are ongoing with regard to the ERDF (£1.9m) funding for the Digital Enterprise Hub to ensure that all conditions relating to ERDF can be accommodated as well as satisfying the conditions for the Towns Fund. The match funding for the Health and Wellbeing Hub (£3.4m) includes some revenue costs once the hub is operational, and discussions are ongoing with public sector partners on how this will be achieved. It will depend on	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

<p>4.9</p> <p>4.10</p> <p>4.11</p> <p>4.12</p> <p>4.13</p>	<p>how the hub operates, and partners will need to agree a model for cost distribution. While uncertain, confidence is high that this will be resolved. The final area of uncertainty is the match funding for the Pyramid Remastered (£1m). The project team are exploring the potential for submitting a bid to the Arts Council Cultural Development Fund to address this issue. All other sources of funding are secure – either received already, or there are no anticipated issues.</p> <p>In addition to the funding uncertainty detailed above, cost inflation and supply chain issues (cost and availability) are still the main risks reported across the programme.</p> <p>The monitoring and evaluation process has commenced and the deadline for the first submission is 10 June 2022. A second submission will be required in December 2022. The programme team are working with project leads to ensure that we comply with all requirements.</p> <p>EB advised that Football Foundation funding has been confirmed and increased to £590k given the additional costs for the scheme.</p> <p>MW advised that ERDF funding should be identified as one of the three key risks in the M&amp;E return. <b>Action: AR/AF to note.</b></p> <p>AR updated the board on the M&amp;E document, tracking what’s been promised versus what’s been delivered. AR &amp; AF attended a webinar on the matter this week and will work with project leads to complete the return. <b>Action: AR to share M&amp;E update (which includes the risk register) via email to the board.</b></p>	<p>AR</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p><b><u>Project Lead Financial Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Bus Depot</b>  JL updated. Financials are stable. There is a risk in terms of ground conditions. Project is running on time, and is on budget.</p> <p>AC asked if existing bus fleet would be moving to the new depot, and when the electric fleet would be operational. JL advised that it was dependent on the installation of the chargers, which is uncertain right now given shortages in cables and microchips. The depot has been designed to operate either a diesel or electric fleet. AC offered to contact colleagues in government if required.</p> <p>SH added that the current market conditions for chargers is extremely volatile, and this has been shared with DfT. <b>Action: SH to copy AC to any communication on this matter to DfT.</b></p> <p><b>Sustainable Travel Programme</b>  SH updated. Undertaking a market test exercise on the cycle hub. Looking closely at the programme for bus priority work on Wilderspool Causeway in light of the swing bridge works planned for next year. Good progress being made on the 3G pitch.</p>	<p>SH</p>



# WARRINGTON

## Borough Council

5.3	<p>DT asked about accessibility improvements, advising that he had a team of volunteers to support this. <b>Action: SH to make contact to progress.</b></p> <p><b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Hub</b>          LG updated. Project is on track. Two workshops are planned next week with partners to develop plans and visit the site. LG assured the board that the uncertainty around the revenue costs relates to operational costs, so is a low risk. There is also a risk in relation to £270k of capital that is nearly resolved.</p> <p>Warrington &amp; Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has also contributed an additional £160k capital to the project.</p>	SH
5.4	<p><b>Digital Enterprise Hub</b>          SF updated. GFA is nearly there. Focus has been on ERDF resubmission, decision anticipated on 09 June 2022. Have been responding to queries already since submission. There will need to be some separation between the ERDF funded component, and the TD funded component, which will push delivery for the TD project back.</p> <p>DT offered to contribute to the detailed design from an accessibility perspective.  <b>Action: SF to invite DT to meet with architects.</b></p>	SF
5.5	<p><b>Pyramid Remastered</b>          EB updated. Have been out to tender for the design team, working through them now – there was a range of costs. Quality assessments have been undertaken. Currently exploring a potential issue with the procurement process, awaiting advice. Plan is to take a report to cabinet in July.</p> <p>Match funding potential from the Cultural Development fund for between £2m and £5m. The project has been designed in phases to accommodate the flow of funding.</p>	
5.6	<p><b>Advanced Construction Centre</b>          NN Updated. Previously NN wrote to AR about a potential budget issue of £700k due to construction cost increases. NN advised that this has now been reduced due to a number of design changes to reduce the cost. Will also be seeking additional funding to support this project.</p>	
5.7	<p><b>Health &amp; Social Care Academy</b>          NN updated. Well on track. Academy is looking amazing. Joint steering group meeting in September will be hosted at the college.</p>	
6.0	<p><u>Any other business</u></p>	
6.1	<p>No other business.</p>	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

7.0	<u>Date of Next meeting</u>	
7.1	01 July 2022	