

WARRINGTON TOWN BOARD

Minutes of meeting held on 22 April 2024

ATTENDEES		APOLOGIES
Steve Coffey (Chair)	Torus	Steven Broomhead
Steve Park	Warrington Borough Council	Andy Carter MP
Eleanor Blackburn	Warrington Borough Council	Charlotte Nichols MP
Nigel Schofield	Warrington Chamber of Commerce	Cllr Jean Flaherty
Mark Rathbone	Culture Warrington	David Boyer
Laurence Pullan	Warrington Borough Council	Nichola Newton
Lucy Gardner	Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospital	John Laverick
Georgia Millership	DLUHC	Ian Cox
Simon Foden	Langtree	Martin Wood
Stephen Hunter	Warrington Borough Council	Christian Persoglio
Elliot Grimshaw	DLUHC	
Heather Standidge	Enterprise Cheshire & Warrington	
Stephen Fitzsimons	Warrington Chamber of Commerce	
Dave Thompson	Warrington Disability Partnership	
Kerry Hall	Warrington Borough Council	

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
1.0	<p>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. 	
2.0	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 16 February 2024 & Matters Arising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes agreed as a true record. Progress on actions/carried forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Terms of Reference have been uploaded to the Towns Fund webpage. Bus Depot, report back on the final settlement figure. 	
3.0	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eleanor Blackburn declared interest in relation to item 4.0. 	
4.0	<p>Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW)</p> <p>Steve Park provided an update on the transition of Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) to Local Authority control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August 2023 the UK Government confirmed that LEP functions nationally would become the responsibility of Local Authorities. Decision made to close C&WLEP and move to local authority control, increasing ownership by each council: Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington to c.33%. There are four directors of the company limited by guarantee. Each local authority has director representation with Eleanor Blackburn representing Warrington and Philip Cox former Chief Executive of the LEP. The company is led by a Joint Committee of the three local authorities. A Business Advisory Board will maintain and support business representation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The model is least disruptive and enables continued delivery of sub-regional economic growth with the transfer of functions supporting devolution agenda. The Joint Committee will have County Deal on future agenda. 	
5.0	<p>Towns Fund Year End Monitoring & Evaluation</p> <p>Kerry Hall informed that Towns Fund team had distributed the performance monitoring template for completion for the delivery period 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission window opens 22 April through to 28 May 2024. Project updates have been requested by 25 April. Intending to share performance report with Town Board by 8 May for review/feedback by 15 May. Final sign off by Town Board Chair and S.151 officer arranged for w/c 13 May. 	
6.0	<p>Towns Fund Programme Update</p> <p>Kerry Hall updated on the Town Fund Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme has achieved further milestones with 3 projects now complete: Living well Hub along with the H&W academy and the bus depot and the Construction & Civil Engineering Academy is due to complete Q1 FY24/25. Looking ahead Also in Q1 the cycle hub part of the Sustainable Travel portfolio will open and further work at the Digital Enterprise Hub is commencing. Pyramid remastered has planning approval and is presently out to tender. Continued challenges around timescale and budget with projects in delivery mitigating, Further grant payment from DLUHC based on performance review of the Construction & Civil Engineering Academy. Level of grant usage remains behind programme schedule due to timescale challenges. Some overspend on projects, subject to monitoring. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
7.0	<p>Town Deal Project updates -</p> <p>Bus Depot & ZEBRA Funding</p> <p>Update from Steve Hunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation works for the charging infrastructure for 53 double headed chargers. On order new bus fleet 105 vehicles. Vehicle branding will be uniform across fleet. The buses will provide accessible information with audio announcements and screens visible from all seats. See Annex A for images of infrastructure works and bus livery, Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Pyramid Remastered</p> <p>Update from Eleanor Blackburn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 4 Technical Design completed. Tender invited 5-6 potential contractors, 2 continue to be interested and an extension to deadline requested – return date now 3 May. Project plan has a report going to cabinet for approval in July. Option to push to September if required. Cost challenges, continue to work with the Quantity Surveyor. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Warrington continue to plan for their relocation of services; programming, operations, and storage in readiness for moving out of Pyramid during construction works. • Links in with the Place Partnerships Funding from the Arts Council which supports the wider cultural programme during the Pyramid construction phase. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Living Well Hub Update from Lucy Gardner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hub opened in March with a phased opening to the public. • Visitor numbers in week 1 saw 173 with 150 in week 2. • 85% are drop in/walk in users. • Capital budget overspend on construction works with negotiation ongoing. • Interim solution used NHS funds - oversight meeting agreed to build a contingency fund in line with collaboration agreement. • A challenge with the volume of people dropping in is the welcome staff ratio. looking at options to use volunteers from across different organisation's. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Option for comms around the completed changing places facility. 2. Plan for project review as part of project closure process. <p>Health & Wellbeing Academy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Digital Enterprise Hub Update from Simon Foden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval from WIRE Board to accept the package of work. • Contractor being given instruction 22 April with start date on site 10 June 2024. • Prioritised external cladding and roof works over the summer months with internal works commencing September. • Discussed accessibility on the site. Once works complete there will be a small section on the 2nd floor without lift access. Overall, the building will be 95% accessible. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Provide drawings/plans of the building to show accessibility works. <p>Construction & Civil Engineering Academy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Sustainable Travel Update from Steve Hunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cycle Hub located under an arch at Central Station due to open in May, about to sign grant funding agreement with Cheshire Cycles. Fit out well under way. Photo opportunity being arranged for 13 June. • Imagery for the Cycle Hub will be available at the next meeting. 	<p>LP KH + LG</p> <p>SF</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations in planning post-election for Bewsey Road and Kingsway Bridge. • Other projects in the portfolio are further behind although deliverable. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised 	
8.0	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update Eleanor Blackburn updated on status of UKSPF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key highlights across 3 themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communities & Place 14 projects with accumulative funding allocation £2.7m ○ Supporting Local Business 9 projects with accumulative funding allocation £1.6m ○ People & Skills 6 projects with accumulative funding allocation £1.2m. • From the £6.5m UKSPF allocation £5.8m programmed actual/expected spend. • Outputs and outcomes People & Skills forecast 100% delivery, there are shortfalls across Communities & Place and Supporting Local Business. Team working to deliver these shortfalls with projects. • Some delays with projects committed particularly in Communities & Place theme. With programme deadline of end of March 2025 important to progress with less than 12 months remaining. • Presently undertaking the FY23/24 year end monitoring. • Group discussed the openness of the programme to support voluntary organisations. • Progress report accepted; Note that funding allocation is remaining and uncommitted. 	
9.0	<p>Levelling Up Fund Steve Hunter and Eleanor Blackburn updated on Warrington North:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still waiting for formal notification to Validation Stage 2 submitted in February. • Environment & Transport have commenced work at risk in relation to design. • The intention for the active travel schemes to use framework contractors. • Community projects are unable to commence works at risk, project team is being set up. • Some nervousness in Burtonwood community as no formal announcement. • DLUHC informed that information should be available soon. 	
10.0	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
11.0	<p>Next Meeting 21 June 2024 10am-12pm</p>	

Annex A

New Warrington All Electric Bus Depot



Launch Event – confirming final colour / branding

