

WARRINGTON TOWN BOARD

Minutes of meeting held on 21 June 2024

ATTENDEES		APOLOGIES
Steve Coffey (Chair)	Torus	Steven Broomhead
Cllr Laura Watson	Warrington Borough Council	Andy Carter MP
David Boyer	Warrington Borough Council	Martin Wood
Stephen Hunter	Warrington Borough Council	Georgia Millership
Damian Richards Clarke	Warrington Borough Council	Elliot Grimshaw
Eleanor Blackburn	Warrington Borough Council	Charlotte Nichols MP
Nigel Schofield	Warrington Chamber of Commerce	Christian Persoglio
Nichola Newton	Warrington and Vale Royal College	Steve Park
John Laverick	Warrington Borough Council	Laurence Pullan
Stephen Bennett	Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospital	Ian Cox
Josh Downs	Langtree	Mark Rathbone
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. Josh Downes is replacing Simon Foden on the Board. Cllr Laura Watson is new cabinet member for Cllr Laura Watson is cabinet member for economy, growth and quality work. 	
2.0	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 22 April 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to following amendments, minutes agreed as true record. Item 7 Town Deal Project Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus Depot & Zebra Funding – remove Warrington Disability Partnership have assisted the design team. Pyramid Remastered – remove Action 1. As already liaised on the accessibility for the design. <p>Matters Arising & Action Carried Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Well Hub – Changing Places Facility registration. Provide drawings/plans of the Digital Enterprise Hub to show accessibility works/improvements. 	DT & SB JD
3.0	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Coffey declared an interest in the former bus depot site (Item 5 project update) within the South East Warrington Urban Extension, which will deliver new homes. 	
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 continues to deliver against milestones and deliverables. 92% grant funds received by Warrington Borough Council. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage of grant is following trajectory of project plans. • Introduction two stage evaluation for project closure. Agreed that projects that have achieved their deliverables will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete a stage 1 evaluation to be reported to the next meeting. ○ Mandatory reporting will be at a frequency of every 6 months aligned to the Towns Fund monitoring and evaluation. ○ Optionally report more frequently to the Town Board to updates on benefits, communications any matters outstanding. • The group discussed the future of the Town Board as the Towns Fund portfolio is moving towards delivery. • Initially the Town Board was established for the governance for Towns Fund portfolio, now includes other levelling up initiatives including UK Shared Prosperity Fund (March 2025) and Levelling Up Funds (March 2026). • The Chair thanked the board and project leads on the great job in advancing the Towns Fund from concept to delivery and emphasized the need to evaluate next steps for the Town Board in the coming months. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
7.0	<p>Town Deal Project updates -</p> <p>Bus Depot & ZEBRA Funding Update from John Laverick and Steve Hunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site is clear, located in South East Warrington Urban Extension, the outputs associated with the project will be realised at future date. • Expect a proportion of the new homes will be for life standard and compliant with M4 category 3 wheelchair user dwellings. • Engagement ongoing with the joint venture. • Reviewing the ground conditions of the site to understand type of future uses. • Currently reviewing constraints, plan to bring back an abridged version of the Master Plan. • Preparation works ongoing for the charging infrastructure. • New electric bus fleet starts to get delivered July. • Decommissioning the diesel fleet. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with Ben Wakerley on electric bus at the disability awareness day 16 July 2024 <p>Pyramid Remastered Update from Eleanor Blackburn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received 2 tender responses, one compliant, both scored. Clear preferred contractor with a quality submission, within budget and timescale. • Recommendation going to council cabinet 8 July followed by standstill period. • Met with preferred main contractor to discuss approach/preferred way of working - M&E strengths in project team. • Linkage with Warrington and Vale Royal College and the Construction and Civil Engineering Academy. • Project delivery reduce risk scoring against cost and timeline. • Contractor is an emerging business not Tier 1. • Culture Warrington are progressing with alternative operational sites during 	SH

	<p>construction period. Former Vintage Viola unit in Golden Square is being prepared as pop-up performance space with all public activity taking place on the ground floor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying for UKSPF funding for technical equipment for use in pop up location/s prior to Pyramid. • The secured Place Partnership Funding has enabled the launch of Warrington Arts Festival, supporting cultural activities focused on engaging the community. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Living Well Hub Update from Stephen Bennett:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since opening in March through to end May the Hub has had 1600 visitors. A mix of drop in visits and booked appointment. Slightly behind target but ahead accounting for delay and 60% capacity being utilised. • Communications continue to be distributed by mix of media. • Programme of activity continues to be developed and there are opportunities for other partners. • Further recruitment for the Hub to support the manager and team. • Linking with other projects/partners most recently Warrington Cycle Hub. • Issue early May, the Hub flooded due to volume of rain through the main drain. Resulting in Hub closure for 2 days. Towns Funding available to cover remedial works. • Ongoing governance conversation in relation to future operational budget. • Department for Health are interested in the Hub model - not aware of any other locations with the Warrington model. • Entered HSJ awards, will find out if shortlisted in August. • Bid in for funding to commission additional Voluntary Sector support. • Cllr Watson conveyed that she was impressed with the Hub and the activities supporting the community. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Health & Wellbeing Academy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working alongside the Living Well Hub and supporting the Care Leavers Covenant. • Continuing to develop the programme with insight from employers. • Continuing to promote widely the opportunities to education and businesses. • Investing in resources with a new clinical skills lead. • Taking part in a pilot programme to support recruitment into the Young People's Residential Care Sector in collaboration with the Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board and Wigan & Leigh College. • Will be delivering courses at the Winsford campus – mini version of the academy. • Application for courses has exponentially increased. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with college comms team on activities to promote the academy widely to the business community established and fledgling. <p>Digital Enterprise Hub Update from Josh Downes:</p>	<p>NN</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor started on site 3 June. • Compound set up and building scaffolded. • Agreed grant claim drawdown to support cash flow. • Tenant consultation event took place in May and comms distributed to support the start of the external works. • Continuing to liaise with the church and the works required. • New platform lift will provide level access to the building. • Group discussed whether ongoing engagement with digital businesses to ensure the facility is delivered to the standards they require from a modern business centre - Confirmed that there is ongoing engagement with the tenants to support and inform and looked at other facilities to learn. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Construction & Civil Engineering Academy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overrun by several weeks, handover planned end June in readiness for fit out prior to start new academic year. • Ongoing programme to promote the construction trade courses resulting in significant interest and development of waiting lists. • Partners continuing to pass on leads and introduce investors that are planning to develop employees training needs, including renewables. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTION:</p> <p>2. Plan official opening and materials.</p> <p>Sustainable Travel Update from Steve Hunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3g pitch complete and drainage contract awarded on adjacent grass pitches. • Cycle hub officially opened 15 June. • Active travel scheme at Bewsey Road, ready to go to consultation straight after the general election. • Consultation planned for the Autumn for Kingsway Bridge cycleway link. • Sankey Street consultation is planned for the Winter. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTION:</p> <p>3. Confirm if there is any seating along the complete Greenalls Avenue improved path.</p>	<p>NN & KH</p> <p>SH</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update Eleanor Blackburn updated on status and key highlights of UKSPF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects: 27 live and 2 completed across the themes and expecting a number of applications to be submitted including sizeable application to support cultural and arts activities. • Now with limited funding allocation remaining so continuously tracking commitments and spend/claims against the £6.5m programme budget. Any underspend is being redirected to support other projects. • No confirmation if UKSPF will extend or continue. Await outcome of general election. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiply, a programme delivered through UKSPF to provide adult numeracy programme for adults aged 19+ who have not previously attained a GCSE Grade 4/C or higher maths qualification. After a slow start the delivery team has expanded with Warrington and Vale Royal College and the pace of delivery has increased. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
9.0	<p>Levelling Up Fund Steve Hunter and Kerry Hall updated on Warrington North – reconnecting the settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final approval received just before general election. • Timescale for delivery to end March 2026. • Transport schemes being supported with consultants from framework to support with preliminary and detailed design. • Community schemes have project teams set up and are meeting regularly. Focus is on procuring the specialist services, initial design and project planning. • Linkages with other support and services that link with community. <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Introduce Stephen Bennett to Burtonwood Community Centre committee. 5. Add Warrington Disability Partnership to the Community Stakeholder Engagement List. 	KH KH
10.0	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Fitzsimons informed that the Warrington Business Conference is scheduled for 11 October 2024. 	
11.0	<p>Next Meeting 16 August 2024 10am-12pm</p>	