

WARRINGTON TOWN BOARD

Minutes of meeting held on 16 August 2024

ATTENDEES		APOLOGIES
Steve Coffey (Chair)	Torus	Steven Broomhead Cllr Laura Watson Martin Wood Stephen Hunter Dave Thompson Lucy Gardner Eleanor Blackburn Nichola Newton Heather Standidge Christian Persoglio Laurence Pullan Stephen Fitzsimons
Charlotte Nichols MP	Warrington North	
Sarah Hall MP	Warrington South	
David Boyer	Warrington Borough Council	
Steve Park	Warrington Borough Council	
Simon Bleckly	Warrington Borough Council	
Elliot Grimshaw	Cities & Local Growth Unit	
Georgia Millership	Cities & Local Growth Unit	
Damian Richards-Clarke	Warrington Borough Council	
Nigel Schofield	Warrington Chamber of Commerce	
John Laverick	Warrington Borough Council	
Stephen Bennett	Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospital	
Josh Downs	Langtree	
Sean Hunt	Parliamentary Assistant House of Commons	
Alan Dickin	Warrington Borough Council	
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 attendees to the meeting. 	
2.0	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 21 June 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment: Item 7 Town Deal Project updates – The Living Well Hub count corrected to 1600 visitors. Approval: The minutes, with the above amendment, were agreed upon as a true and accurate record. <p>Matters Arising & Action Carried Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Well Hub: Stephen Bennett confirmed the Changing Place Facility has been registered. Greenall's Avenue Improvement: Alan Dickin reported that the review for adding seating to the improved path is ongoing, with consideration being given to other locations as well. 	
3.0	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No declarations of interest were noted for this agenda. 	
4.0	<p>Towns Fund Governance & Transparency</p> <p>Simon Bleckly provided an update on governance and transparency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial meetings have taken place with all project leads to review project outputs outcomes and reporting requirements. Next stage, internal audit to conduct sample tests for output verification; results to be reported later this financial year. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received an email from the Towns Fund Assurance Team regarding a national review on governance and transparency, with no confirmation if Warrington was included. The Towns Fund Programme Manager has reviewed the guidance, and internal audit is checking for alignment. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Report back at next meeting with any adjustments for sign off . 	SB & KH
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Towns Fund Programme Update Kerry Hall reported on the Towns Fund Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme continues to meet milestones and deliverables, with the Construction and Civil Engineering Academy set to complete in Q2. Will then have four projects completed, and three in delivery. Stage 1 evaluations for completed projects will align with the end of Q2 (September). The total Towns Fund grant remains 100% committed, with spending following project timelines. Revised delivery schedules are in place for previously delayed projects, aligning with the overall programme schedule. New branding guidelines for Levelling Up initiatives have been distributed. A schedule for marcoms activity is being developed to support projects at varying stages. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Town Deal Project updates -</p> <p>Digital Enterprise Hub Update from Josh Downes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project remains on programme and budget. Roofing works 85% complete and toilet and showers at first fix; targeting October for completion. Internal scaffold being erected next week. Phase 3 works commence November, with anticipated completion May 2025. Several temporary full-time jobs are supporting the project during construction. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Construction & Civil Engineering Academy Update from Kerry Hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following practical completion at the beginning of July the internal fit out is ongoing with completion scheduled for 23 August. Opening to students scheduled for beginning of new term 2 September. Provisional date for official opening 2 December. Capital funding to be claimed. Signage will comply with new branding guidelines. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Sustainable Travel Update from Alan Dickin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cycle Hub operator, Cheshire Cycles, is reporting they have services booked up a week in advance. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure cycle shelter installation outside the bus depot is delayed due to utilities diversion. Accessibility improvements for Winmarleigh Street currently at live consultation stage. Wayfinding consultation in the town centre is ongoing, with additional locations under consideration, activity led by the Town Centre Strategy Group. Cycle improvements as part of the Green Trail programme are also under live consultation. Consultation for Kingsway Bridge is planned to commence in October for delivery in 2025. Potential conflict identified between Winmarleigh Street accessibility improvements and the Pyramid Remastered project scheduling of works. Progress report accepted. <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Share copy of wayfinding map and confirm if the Living Well Hub has been included. The project team to liaise with Pyramid project lead to synchronise accessibility and project deliverables. <p>Pyramid Remastered Update from John Laverick:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main contractor has been awarded the contract, and the Pyramid is officially closed, with Culture Warrington clearing the building. Standard construction risks identified, with additional complexities due to the nature of the building. A potential conflict with Winmarleigh Street accessibility improvements was noted on across the project scheduling. Progress report accepted. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The project team to liaise with the Sustainable Travel project lead to synchronise accessibility for construction traffic and project deliverables. <p>Completed Projects Update All completed projects are operating as expected, next update will be as part of monitoring and evaluation at the end of Q2.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>AD</p> <p>JL</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update Kerry Hall updated on status and key highlights of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 30 ongoing projects and 3 completed projects under Communities and Place, Local Business Support, and People and Skills themes. New applications continue to be received, with the programme potentially becoming oversubscribed. Programme management is monitoring commitments against the £6.5 million budget. Any underspend within current projects may be reallocated to support new initiatives. No confirmation yet on an extension of UKSPF beyond March 2025 or an alternative support programme. Recent government visit reviewed allocations and expenditure. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrington has allocated 57% of UKSPF to council-led initiatives and 43% to external partner-led projects. • UKSPF has provided crucial support for communities and place-based initiatives, filling a gap that previously existed where no grants were available for this type of assistance. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Levelling Up Fund – Warrington North Reconnecting the Settlements: Steve Park raised concerns about the funding status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council signed and returned the MoU for £9.4M levelling up funding in June 2024. • Last week informed the funding is pending final approval, with the timeline for a decision unknown. • Council activities are now in abeyance pending further update and will be updating stakeholders. • Chief Executive has contacted Charlotte Nichols MP for assistance in clarifying the status. • Progress report accepted. <p>Health and Wellbeing Hub & Bus Depot/Fleet: Stephen Bennett suggested exploring synergies between the Health and Wellbeing Hub and the bus depot project/fleet; offering basic health checks on buses.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>5. Make introduction to Ben Wakerley at Warrington’s Own Buses.</p>	<p>JL</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Next Meeting 18 October 2024 10am-12pm</p>	