



Meeting Notes

Project: Warrington Stronger Town Deal

Subject: Education and skills discussion group

Date and time: 06 July 2020 at 13:00

Minutes by: Phoebe Annett

Present: Nichola Newton (chair), Warrington & Co LEP
Pat Jackson, Cheshire and Warrington LEP
Mark Duffy, Sellafield
Susan Scurlock, Primary Engineer
Nigel Schofield, Warrington Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Kate Guise, Warrington Borough Council
Sue Savage, DWP Employer and Partnership Management
Chris Haslam, University of Chester
Stephen Fitzsimons, Warrington and Co
Steve Park, Warrington Borough Council
Kathryn Green, Warrington and Co
Fayyaz Qadir, Atkins
Phoebe Annett, Atkins

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND ACTION
1.	<p>Funding Update (SP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The LEP were asked by central government to submit 'shovel ready' projects, that could be delivered by March 31st 2021 for a new funding opportunity. The three projects from across the LEP that were chosen were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A sewer project that brings forward regeneration opportunities- Alderley Park- Warrington Bus depot relocation project- (costing £21.8 million in total) <p>The amount of funding available has been allocated based on population, these three projects have been given a total of £15.5m, £5.1m of which has been allocated to the bus depot. This effectively leaves an additional £5.1m of the Town Deal funding to support other projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In addition, we have been allocated £1m from the Accelerated Towns Fund. Warrington therefore has access to up to £6.1m out of the £7.5m needed for

NOTE TO RECIPIENTS:

These meeting notes record Atkins understanding of the meeting and intended actions arising therefrom. Your agreement that the notes form a true record of the discussion will be assumed unless adverse comments are received in writing within five days of receipt.



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	<p>the bus depot project. The council will underwrite the funding gap in lieu of further funding in order to get the project into motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The bus depot project is therefore likely to be our next large-scale construction project in Warrington which should be considered when developing the Construction Skills project concept.
2.	<p>Aim of this session is to refine the longlist and confirm between 1 and 3 projects related to this workstream to be taken forward. The longlist is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Career support/STEM training (including 3D printers etc, there is some overlap here with work that Primary Engineer and the LEP are doing) - Career improvement and training opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This should be a theme that cuts across all the projects, rather than a project in itself - Links to Accelerate Cheshire project which has been brought forward - Digital infrastructure support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livewire have centres that could potentially incorporate this - Health & Social Care Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A timely project which we expect would be impactful - Integrated/sustainable bus depot - Walking & cycling improvements - Green trail & waterfront - Bus priority & treatments (links to Central 6 Masterplan) - Construction training hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As with Time Square, we can ensure developers use the local supply chain and provide apprenticeships - Potential funding from CITB (£70k per year for 3 years) - Bioscience training hub (Alderley Park already has a strong offering in this area as does the university) - Health services in the town centre - Cycle hub to encourage active travel - Digital & creative hub
3.	<p>It is crucial that where there is any overlap, we complement existing schemes, not repeat or replace them.</p>
4.	<p>There are a significant number of self-employed people claiming income support (approximately 70% across Cheshire and Warrington) as a result of Covid-19, who need support in setting up consultancies/small businesses (PJ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People in this situation can have technical knowledge and experience but be limited by core business or digital skills (NS) - We've seen examples in the engineering sector (Air Tours/Lucas Engineering etc) but this can also apply to health care sector.
5.	<p><u>Construction Academy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An example of where this has been done well is the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (https://www.cs-ic.org), contact Douglas Morrison (SS) - Potential for links with colleges in Leeds - Timely as ties in with the government agenda to accelerate infrastructure projects
6.	<p><u>Health and Social Care Academy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must ensure there is evidence that there will be sufficient jobs available for those in training as part of any scheme, particularly Health and Social Care Academy (PJ)



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Social Care courses at Chester University tend to be oversubscribed and employment rates of graduates are high (CH) - It is common for people to join this profession at different stages in their lives, often a career change as well as a first job (CH) - Students in this sector tend to stay local (CH) - Must consider the image of the sector, issues with pay etc (PJ) - Our aspiration is to provide training for jobs beyond Cheshire and Warrington (SF) - Must have links with employers etc to ensure jobs at the end of courses
7.	Funds should be used to develop the offering rather than a physical building; existing physical assets can be used such as colleges or buildings in the town centre that need to be repurposed
8.	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Progress two projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and social care academy - Advanced construction training <p><u>Subject to there being clear evidence that will be a strong supply of jobs for those that participate.</u></p>
9.	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project definition document to turn these concepts into clearly defined projects with quantified costs and benefits - Board meeting on 10th July to review project definition document - Round of workshops to finalise outcomes, these will then be embedded in the IP - Final board meeting for approval on 24th July - Final submission on 31st July