



Warrington Town Deal Board

Minutes of Meeting held on 27 August 2021 – 1.00 pm
Microsoft teams meeting

Attendees	Company	Apologies
Matt Crompton – Chair	Muse Developments	Stephen Fitzsimons
Steven Broomhead – Vice Chair	Warrington Borough Council	Ben Wakerley
Steve Park	Warrington Borough Council	Emma Hutchinson
Andy Carter MP	South Warrington	Bill Carr
Charlotte Nicols MP	North Warrington	Lucy Gardner
Nichola Newton	Warrington & Vale Royal College	David Boyer
Nigel Schofield	Warrington Chamber of Commerce	Cllr Russ Bowden
Steve Bennett	Warrington NHS rep Lucy Gardner	Steven Broomhead
Simon Kenton	Warrington Borough Council	Martin Wood
Alison Roberts	Warrington Borough Council	
Steven Hunter	Warrington Borough Council	
Dave Thompson	Warrington Disability Partnership	
Steve Coffey	Torus	
Eleanor Blackburn	Warrington Borough Council	
Chris Bowen	Torus	
Laurence Pullan	Warrington Borough Council	
Simon Foden	Langtree	
John Laverick	Warrington Borough Council	
John Adlen	Cheshire & Warrington LEP	

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	Welcome and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair welcomed all the meeting and noted all apologies received.	
2.0	Minutes of Meeting held on 2 July 2021	
2.1	Matters arising	
2.1.1	2.2: Programme updated and issued with Minutes	KG
2.1.2	4.4: Steve Bennett standing in for Lucy Gardner briefed on providing an update on selection of preferred location	
2.1.3	4.7.1: Simon Foden to update on ERDF position	SF
2.1.4	5.2: WDP have shared consultation responses with their stakeholders/social media contacts	DT
2.1.5	7.1: Next Town Deal meeting date arranged by KG	
2.2	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.	Noted
3.0	Programme Office Update	
3.1	Director's Report August 2021	
3.1.1	This report, included with the papers covers the overall progress of the Warrington Town Deal Programme since the last Town Deal Board on 2 July 2021. It is followed by written updates from each of the seven project leads. Details of the Town Deal's governance arrangements, of the seven projects and the opportunity for citizens to have their say are contained within this link: warrington.gov.uk/my-town .	



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Item	Subject	Action
3.1.2	Board members are reminded that Warrington is one of Town Deal Cohort 1 areas, which include Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Darlington, Peterborough, Norwich and Torquay. Our Town is therefore forging forward the policy agenda attached to local and collaborative working. This is not a unique experience for our Town. In Warrington we are the first town in Europe to be afforded Healthy City status, we have started to make real progress in recalibrating partnership work to deliver a preventative, inclusive, collaborative and a democratic accountable model to spatial planning and whole system delivery. On a national level, two business cases – the Bus Depot and Health and Social Care Academy – were submitted to the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) for approval on June 23 following consideration by Warrington Borough Council’s Cabinet. I am pleased to record that on 13 August these two summary business cases were approved. Warrington has sustained an inclusive and extensive programme of communication, engagement and participation. Our collaborative approach is showcased on the Town Deal’s website. A comprehensive public survey regarding each of the seven projects has been undertaken. Achievements will be available at the Disability Awareness Day on 12.9.21.	
3.1.3	Two reports are now due to go to October Cabinet and the remaining three projects will go to Cabinet in November. MHCLG are now requiring that the projects are endorsed by the Town Deal Board and consequently the two summary papers for H&WB & Sustainable Travel will be issued to Town Deal Board members for any comments next week from the two October Cabinet reports.	AR
3.1.4	Dave Thompson (DT) raised a question in regard to the Sustainable Travel Project. A piece of work was completed in regard to the RLWC event around accessibility and questioned whether we could look to engage community involvement to see where accessibility measures could be implemented. SH agreed to pick up this matter with DT outside of the meeting.	SH/DT
3.1.5	SP reflected on where we as a borough have come from and how we have progressed at pace with all Projects. Underpinning all of this have been the colleagues in MHCLG in terms of rules and the understanding of them. In particular the partners involved in the projects can be held up as it can be up to 6 weeks before we get a green light to progress, which results in a 12 week gap and puts partners at risk. With the permission of the Chair, SP suggested a letter be drafted to Government, co-signed by the Chair stressing that we are Cohort 1 and working at pace and in regard to this 12 week timescale issue - If this could be concentrated down then the fast tracked projects would be delivered more efficiently. The Chair agreed he would sign or countersign a letter pointing out the practicalities of the current arrangement. SK/AR to draft a letter and issue to MC for approval.	SK/AR/MC
3.1.6	Andy Carter MP agreed it was a very good idea to send a feedback letter to MHCLG. He has spoken to Ministers on more than one occasion and they are keen to get feedback from those upfront as they are experiencing delays from other towns and Warrington’s experience is invaluable.	
3.1.7	The report was welcome and noted.	
4.0	Project Lead Updates	
4.1	Health and Social Care Academy (HSCA) Nichola Newton updated the Board on the progress of the HSCA as outlined in the Project Update Report provided. NN echoed around the grant funding being agreed	



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Item	Subject	Action
4.1.1	and this in the process of being signed over and thanked AR/SK for their support and work on this. NN continues to attend the joint oversight committee meetings with the Health & Wellbeing Hub and have set up a new steering group to take the project forward. A two page vision document will be presented in September. Currently moving forward as quickly as possible to get the Academy up and running. They will take stock and see what can be done to quicken up the pace without detracting from student's learning. Thanks to the stakeholders who have provided input via the steering group. An update position will be provided at the next Board meeting. DT agreed there is a lot of good work that has taken place and questioned whether there was any third Sector involvement in the steering group. NN believes there is involvement but will check and advise DT in due course	NN
4.1.2	The report was welcomed and noted.	
4.2	Advanced Construction & Civil Engineering Centre (ACCE) Nichola Newton (NN) updated the Board on the progress of the ACCE as outlined in the Project Update Report provided. The Business Case is due to be submitted on 24.9.21. There are two land options being considered with discussions ongoing. The preferred option is currently leased by TCAT commissioned by WBC. NN extended a huge thanks to the Property & Estates Team at WBC who have been incredibly supportive of the College in assisting them within the discussions and valuations. AA Projects have carried out a feasibility study on both land options with no concerns raised.	
4.2.1	NN will be presenting both projects to the Central 6 Board to keep them apprised of progress	
4.2.2	MC raised whether the Business Case will have a plan 'B'. NN confirmed this would be the case although hopefully TCAT will agree terms of the valuation for the preferred Land Option 1. NN confirmed both pieces of land would be suitable but would prefer to pursue the Option 1.	
4.2.3	The report was welcomed and noted.	
4.3	Sustainable Travel Package Steve Hunter updated the board on the progress of the HSCA as outlined in the Project Update Report provided. Good progress is being made on the Business Case across the piece and the Project is due to go to October Cabinet. An extension process has taken place for the shortlisted schemes contained with the update provided in the report. SH ran through the schemes for the Town Centre Improvements; Green Ring; Bus Priority and Cycle Hub. In terms of the Green ring a funding bid was submitted to Government in August for the Active Travel Fund. This bid is referred to the Town Deal and linkages of the schemes to hopefully give priority. Good progress is being made on all schemes.	
4.3.1	Andy Carter MP raised the Cardinal Newman Pitch flooding issue and whether the issues have been resolved. SH confirmed the footprint of the pitch lies within the flood protection. United Utilities (UU) are a consultee on the planning application and have been consulted for pre-application advice. The school have commissioned improvement works on a main drain that will service the 3G pitch and UU have agreed to build a pumping station at the outflow to act as a one-way valve that will prevent the river flowing back into the school pitch drainage system.	
4.3.2	DT raised how the schemes are assessed and prioritised and how it links in with the strategy for the town. SH confirmed they have looked to shortlist schemes to ensure they tie in with the existing Local Transport capital programme and to identify schemes	



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Item	Subject	Action
4.3.3	<p>were there are clearly identifiable issues to address to ensure each element has a strong business case. Priority is about what is the scale of the issue and value for money is also important to work within the funding available and tying it in with other existing schemes and targeted areas.</p> <p>MC raised whether match funding is available. SH confirmed this is contained within the £5.575m coming from the Town Deal and the Council have agreed to provide £800K match funding from its Capital programme and also around £540K from the football foundation contribution towards the Cardinal Newman 3G pitch. SH confirmed that as part of the Cabinet report in October is to fully formalise the Council match funding and would expect the funding from the Football Foundation would be in place at the start of implementation.</p>	
4.3.4	<p>The report was welcomed and noted.</p>	
4.4	<p>Health & Wellbeing Hub</p> <p>Steve Bennett (SB) updated the Board on the progress of the H&WBH as outlined in the Project Update Report provided. A significant amount of progress has been made in the selection of the preferred location. Two task and finish groups are working up options for the Hub model. The preferred option were arrived at by both the project team and consultants BDP. The three internal spaces were inspected by the consultants and the recommendation was that the building on Horsemarket Street was the preferred location. This has been ratified by the delivery and oversight groups. A design of this option has now been produced up to RIBA Stage 2. A Business Case is now almost complete and will have to go through an internal governance approval process by partner organisations and will be available for circulation by next week and then Cabinet approval for October. There are some technical issues around leasehold but this is being worked on to provide a solution.</p>	
4.4.1	<p>DT raised whether finances have been resolved around the funding model. SB confirmed this is covered by grant funding and are looking for volunteers to staff some areas and this is covered within the Business Case. DT raised the one of the fundamental issues raised within stakeholder engagements is that we have to do things differently and this will cost, but will have to be borne somewhere and if more funding was provided for prevention, eventually savings will come. DT requested we look at the Better Care fund outside of this meeting to fund services. SB confirmed this is the general ethos of what the Hub would provide and at this stage costs represent good value and will deliver long term benefits.</p>	SK/AR
4.4.2	<p>MC raised whether a summary of the Business Case can be circulated to the Board. SK confirmed the summaries do go to the Ministry and will share with the Board.</p>	SK/AR
4.4.3	<p>SP confirmed it is part of the assurance from Government that the summary documents are approved by the Board. SB confirmed it would be of benefit to strip out the executive summary from the Business Case.</p>	
4.4.4	<p>The report was welcomed and noted.</p>	
4.5.1	<p>Bus Depot</p> <p>John Laverick updated the Board on the progress of the Bus Depot as outlined in the Project Update Report provided. Good progress as per the report. The tender process for the four contractors have been narrowed down to two who were very competitive. There are still some issues around rise in construction material prices. Therefore a piece of work has been carried out with the preferred contractor to fix in as much as</p>	



Item	Subject	Action
4.5.2	possible. There is a need to tie in how long prices are held for and then this is put via Cabinet approval with a delegated agreement put in place to agree on any rise that may occur. The project is still headed for October Cabinet to keep the timelines on track for the Electric Bus Depot bid, if successful. Our lead contractor is working well with WBC. The prices have come back higher than anticipated but is still within budget, at the moment. SH gave an update on the ZEBRA Electric Bus second stage bid which has been submitted and is now with Government within the timeframe of four weeks. The expectation that an announcement will be made in the second half of September. There is a clear indication that the ZEBRA bid fits in with the Bus Depot Project and the programmes are extremely well linked.	
4.6	Pyramid Remastered Eleanor Blackburn (EB) updated the Board on the progress of the Pyramid Remastered as outlined in the Project Update Report provided. The Client design brief has been completed by Charcoal Blue. Culture Warrington have appointed Counterculture to support them with the Business Case development. Stakeholder engagement has taken place over recent weeks. The Tender pack architect-led feasibility team was been posted on the CHEST and 7 bids have submitted. Six were considered to evaluate. One has been selected but wider experience needs to be considered using either Counterculture or Charcoal Blue as Theatre advisor, prior to appointment. The Arts Council are working with the government on a number of capital funding opportunities and have taken the opportunity to submit an EOI for some match funding for the Pyramid and await confirmation if an application can be made. The project is a standalone project and therefore this would be additional funding to make phased improvement if required. The feasibility stage is tight in terms of final deadline for submitting the Business Case and team appointed is aware of this. The report will go to Cabinet in November.	
4.6.1	DT confirmed there are various Projects and the Town Deal itself will be represented and present at the Disability Awareness Day on 12 September to use the opportunity to engage and gain further feedback.	
4.6.2	The report was welcomed and noted.	
4.7	Digital Enterprise Hub Simon Foden updated the Board on the progress of the Digital Enterprise Hub as outlined in the Project Update Report provided. The Business Case is progressing and the Consultant's Mickledore are hoping to be in a position for full review and run through on 7.9.21. After which a version of the Business Case will be circulated. Currently working towards a November Cabinet for approval. Positive conversations are taking place with the University of Chester with regards to the relocation of their 'Hydra Facility' to the Digital Enterprise Hub. Further liaison has been ongoing with MHCLG with regards to the ERDF funding application with regards to the outstanding Article 56 aid calculation. Further work is being undertaken by both Wire and Mickledore on the 'Transparency Document' with regards to Subsidy Control in response to WBC's legal advisors, Geldards who set out the principles of Subsidy Control and how these will need to be met by the project.	
4.7.1	MC raised when the Subsidy control needed clearance. SF confirmed that it would have to be done prior to Cabinet approval.	



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4.7.2	The report was welcomed and noted.	
5.0	Town Deal Communications Briefing Update Laurence Pullen provided an update on the communications and engagement work which continues to progress and the report is taken as read. The broad public survey has now closed following a period of media activity, social media, website work and a paid-for media campaign with the Warrington Guardian. The Warrington Town Deal webpages are also continually updated. The survey has offered valuable insight and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Survey headlines were presented from 275 completions and 366 partial completions. An evaluation report will be provided once the survey feedback has been analysed.	
5.1	It is important that communications and engagement work will continue on a more detailed and bespoke basis in the form of dedicated surveys alongside media/public updates on the progress of each project. LP will be working with work stream leads. A full report will come to the next meeting. It is important to recognise this public survey sits alongside detailed stakeholder work and if you look at the raw data it is only a small part of the larger picture.	LP
5.1.2	The update was welcomed and noted.	
6.0	Any other business	
6.1	DT raised a general point on Electric Buses and sustainable transport and would like to raise that there is a danger around how visually impaired people are able to identify locations of electrical vehicles in general and how we can introduce conversations around silent engine vehicles. SP confirmed this is a national issue as well as a local one and there has to be some form of technology built into vehicles and maybe street scene furniture, or personal built in devices. C Considerations need to be made how this is addressed. SH confirmed we are keeping a close eye on what is agreed nationally and will take the comments on board and pass back to colleagues and continue to keep updated on national progress.	SH
6.2	Steve Park raised some matters arising; One being the Levelling Up Fund. We have a ready-made and active and partnership group of the Town Deal which is a perfect platform to share ideas as a sounding board. Andy Carter MP has confirmed that the Levelling up round 2 is imminent. SP confirmed he will keep the Board briefed.	SP
6.3	Added to this, SP confirmed that Warrington has applied to become City Status. EB will be contacting some of the Town Deal group to gain their thoughts. EB confirmed the deadline for submission is early December 2021 and would like to take to Cabinet and potentially full council for support. The application process is well structured, but the key element is an introduction of no more than 8 A4 pages of text around distinct identify, civic pride, etc., all types of areas that you would associate with a City. A Consultation has been appointed to work with WBC to pull together the bid who has previously assisted in the RLWC 2021 bid. EB would welcome input from around the table but will be contacting individuals directly.	EB
6.3.1	Charlotte Nichols MP questioned what would City Status actually mean, by virtue of being a City for Warrington other than a change from a town to a City. SP confirmed it would bring us recognition in line with Liverpool and Manchester and that Warrington is something more than a town and would give us a status and give pride in the borough.	



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Item	Subject	Action
6.3.2	DT echoed the word 'Civic pride' in the town, and the growth in the town, particularly over the last few years has been tremendous.	
6.3.3	MC raised the contribution Warrington has made to the UK in terms of innovation, Nuclear and more recently logistics and would be a good recognition of what Warrington has to offer the UK.	
6.3.4	John Adlen reiterated these views and added the recognition received from Government in line with Manchester & Liverpool as to the economy of the North West and from a sub-regional perspective, reflects the reality that Warrington is bigger than Chester economically and physically is currently the only other City in the North West. Being able to identify two cities Sub-regionally would be of great benefit.	
6.3.5	EB confirmed it is important we consult with communities, our residents and Laurence Pullan will be looking at this closely from a communications point of view and promotion.	LP
7.0	Date of next meeting	
7.1	KG to schedule the next meeting in liaison with the Chair.	KG