

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL BOARD

Minutes of Finance Meeting held on 6 October 2023

ATTENDEE		ORGANISATION	APOLOGIES
Steve Coffey (chair)		Torus	Laurence Pullan Lucy Gardner Martin Woods
Claire Edmonds		Warrington Borough Council	
Steve Park		Warrington Borough Council	
Steven Broomhead		Warrington Borough Council	
Georgia Millership		DLUHC	
Nigel Schofield		Warrington Chamber of Commerce	
Caroline Lane		Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospital	
Stephen Fitzsimons		Warrington Chamber of Commerce	
Eleanor Blackburn		Warrington Borough Council	
John Laverick		Warrington and Co.	
Simon Foden		Langtree	
Kerry Hall		Warrington Borough Council	
Nichola Newton		Warrington & Vale Royal College	
John Adlen		Cheshire and Warrington LEP	
Christian Persoglio		Culture Warrington	
Stephen Hunter		Warrington Borough Council	
Oliver Paterson		Parliamentary Assistant House of Commons	
ITEM	SUBJECT		ACTION
1.0	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies Chair welcomed all to the meeting and confirmed the revised meeting schedule of every two months.		
2.0	Minutes of meeting held on 14 July 2023 & Matters Arising. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed as a true record. 		
3.0	Declarations of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received. 		
4.0	<u>Town Deal Project updates</u>		
4.1	<u>Advanced Construction and Civil Engineering Centre</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following Planning pre-commencement discharge being granted Construction works commenced on 29 August. Project remains 6 months behind original schedule. Project costs have escalated, request made to transfer budget from Health & Social Care Academy project – Approval received from DLUHC. Confirmation that the college has completed the required land acquisition. Business referrals have been made from the Chamber of Commerce to the college for construction/engineering support. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Update on business support referrals made at the next meeting. 		

	2. To discuss industry opportunities for construction and engineering.	NN NN & JL
4.2	<p><u>Health & Social Care Academy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Manager and wider college engaging with employers, undertaking a range of activities including business breakfast, guest lectures, live briefs. Priority is to continue to market the academy. The Academy last year generated £100k commercial income from bespoke employment training delivered in response to employer demand. About to launch the Health & Social Care Skills Bootcamp. The academy is prepared and taking the lead, this fits with the care economy which is substantially recognised in the Skills Commission. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
4.3	<p><u>Bus Depot & Zebra Funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus depot has successfully addressed most of its snags. Final settlement figure, taking time to negotiate. Charging solutions firm EO Charging has been awarded a contract by the council to provide the infrastructure to power its eBus fleet. The council have signed an agreement with Volvo Buses for electric buses. Expecting to have a demonstrator bus in the Spring and planning a launch event. Supporting the work of the Skills Commission, Warrington & Vale Royal College are discussing with Warrington Own Buses electric vehicle maintenance for the electric bus fleet and bus routes to encourage sustainable travel by students. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Report back on the final settlement figure at the next meeting. Share the images of the electric buses with Kerry to distribute. 	JL SH
4.4	<p><u>Sustainable Travel Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3G pitch is in full operation, funds remaining are being used to improve drainage on neighbouring grass pitches. First & last mile phase 1 – at a number of locations delivering a number of accessibility improvements. Further phase of improvements in design. Green Ring Enhancements – Bewsey Road cycleway consultation scheduled to start this, Autumn. Greenalls Avenue improvements completed, PR in planning. Cycle Hub, Invitation to Tender period closed, interviews with bidders on 31 October. Progress report accepted; issues raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflation risk, prompting the need to tailor schemes of work specifically the Wilderspool Causeway and the Cycle Cabins schemes. Eleanor advised if any changes to outputs are required then the process is to submit a Project Adjustment Request to DLUHC. 	
4.5	<p><u>Health & Wellbeing Hub</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Hub manager has been appointed, start date 1/11/23. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction progressing, fit out delay due to supply of lift from Europe. Site work complete 21st December with opening date in January 2024. Finalised collaboration and contribution agreement, going through each partner organisation governance process. This is a fallback position if unable to secure other funding. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
4.6	<p>Digital Enterprise Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning application for the new elevations and external work submitted and validated by the council. Hydra facility is complete, and the university are using the space. Finalizing stage 4 design for internals. Expect to start on site FY24/25 Q2. Programme Manager liaising with project lead and DLUHC on PR for Hydra facility. Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
4.7	<p>Pyramid Remastered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive period of work, signed of stage 2 designs approved with affordable QS estimates confirmed. Moving rapidly into stage 3. Pyramid is a listed property, recently had positive discussions with the conservation officer. Looking to submit applications for planning and listed building consent early November. Considering whether a pre briefing to committee members is required. The Arts Council have approved revenue funding. £600k for a two-year period that will focus on contemporary arts festival and enable the recruitment of 3.5 roles from January 2024. Stakeholder engagement planned for 16th October. Project Adjustment Request has been approved by DLUHC. Progress report accepted; issues raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project costs and timeline is tight – mitigation measure a project risk review session is planned for 2nd November. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Share details of stakeholder engagement activity with the Town Board members. 	KH
5.0	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 projects have been approved including Connected Communities, Connect Yourself, Care Leavers Academy, Living Well virtual hub which complements the Living Well Hub and continuing to work with Torus on New Leaf that provides employment support for individuals with multiple and complex needs. Several expressions of interest have been received which have been considered by both the Steering and Partnership Group and are progressing through internal processes. Projects include environmental support, more active travel that links to Town Deal, investment in green spaces and playing pitches which links to Warrington’s Playing Pitch Strategy. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other expressions of interest have been received that need more development as not enough evidence for the business case. • Team is working to collaborate and bring forward projects that align with the programme objectives. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
6.0	<p>Town Deal Directors Report and Programme Officer Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Deal Programme Manager in post, Kerry Hall. • Assurance statement request from DLUHC, submission deadline 20th October. • Already completed a second line of defence deep dive the submission due is a self-assessment essentially and update. • Visits are to be arranged with DLUHC. Kerry is liaising with project leads on visits Marcoms required and future planning. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
7.0	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Broomhead updated on the government’s announcement on HS2 phase 2b being cancelled, the government have announced plans to create Network North to fund a raft of transport projects. £36billion for rail, roads and bus networks. With £20billion dedicated to the north. Proposed that Network North be included on the agenda for the next meeting. • Eleanor informed that the Levelling Up Fund announcement (LUF) last week is not a replacement for LUF Round 3 and that we are expecting further details shortly. 	
8.0	<p><u>2023 Meeting Schedule</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerry updated on the work being undertaken on the review of Town Deal files and projects. • With projects being at different stages a review of reports and reporting requirements is underway. Looking to develop new reporting templates. • Future invites to Town Deal Board to be sent via Kerry at the revised frequency of every 2 months. • Next Meeting 15th December. 	