

**Workington Town Deal Board Meeting
Friday 17th March 2023 - 2.30pm**

Draft Minutes

Attendance

Board Members

Cllr Alan Barry	Cumbria County Council
Valerie Hallard	Churches Together in Workington
Jo Lappin	Cumbria LEP
Jonny Lowe	Iggesund
Chris Natrass	Lakes College
David Taylor	Allerdale Investment Partnership
Cllr Denise Rollo	Workington Town Council
Tony Wareing	Workington Heritage Group
Jack Gordon	Sovereign Centros

Officers/Support

Elosie Abbott	CLGU
Kevin Kerrigan	Allerdale Borough Council
Brittany Mason	CLGU
Lizzy Shaw	Cumbria County Council
Calum Ward	CLGU

1. Apologies

Board Members: John Coughlan, Cllr Mike Johnson, Cllr Mike Heaslip, Cllr Paul Scott, Bridget Johns
Officers: Michael Barry

John Coughlan had asked Chris Natrass to chair the meeting in his absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Chris Natrass – Digital accelerator – College Hub
Denise Rollo – Board member at Lakes College.
David Taylor – AIP – Logistics Hub and Sports Village

3. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The Board agreed the minutes of the last meeting (2 December 2022).

4. Project Updates

Written reports produced by the relevant project teams were circulated prior to the meeting.

Digital Accelerator

Chris Nattress provided an update and confirmed that work was proceeding in line with the project plan with completion due by 31 May 2023.

Eloise Abbott queried the mitigation dates in the risk register. Chris noted there was a typo (with reference to 2022) and this will be updated.

Public Realm and Connectivity Project

Project is proceeding on plan.

Jo Lappin asked whether LGR represented a risk to the project. Kevin Kerrigan noted there would be continuity in terms of the project team for this project so any risk would be limited. Jo Lappin queried whether in this case the noted risk in relation to TRO's was relevant (uncertainty around internal process). Kevin Kerrigan noted the risk around this related more to the disaggregation of teams within the highway authority rather than the project team.

Alan Barry asked about links to the Levelling Up Fund and the Workington Gateway Project and the role of the Town Deal Board. Kevin Kerrigan advised the Town Deal Board had no formal role in terms of the governance for the Workington Gateway Project but that as had been done previously updates can be provided to the Town Deal Board.

Clean Energy and Logistics Hub

Significant progress has been made in relation to CCC securing vacant possession of the CSL site. Ecological surveys are planned.

David Taylor updated on discussions relation to a potential future development at the site which could include an initial 100,000 sq. ft. logistics facility.

Jo Lappin asked how the town deal project addresses strategic issue including around access to the Port. David Taylor noted the importance of access including rail in the ongoing discussion. Kevin Kerrigan noted that the project should be viewed in conjunction with other ongoing work including the Workington Gateway project and work being undertaken by CCC in relation to the rail network.

Cumberland Sports Village

Progress is ongoing in relation to the further business case development requested by ABC Executive.

Alan Barry sought confirmation that funding commitments from Allerdale Borough Council would be honoured by Cumberland Council. Chris Nattress commented it would be appropriate for the Board to request confirmation from Cumberland Council in this respect

Kevin Kerrigan advised that the funding commitment from ABC is approved within the capital programme which will be transferred to Cumberland but that it should be noted that the funding commitment has always been subject to the approval of the further development of the business case and this would now be for Cumberland Council to approve.

Jo Lappin asked for clarification as to the revenue position and who would underwrite any revenue shortfall. Kevin Kerrigan advised that the business case had been approved in principle on the basis that the project will be self sustaining and require no revenue support is required from the Council. The further business case development was required to provide reassurance on this point and as this work has not yet been completed the likely revenue position cannot yet be fully quantified.

Innovation Centre

The Board were advised that despite a reduction in floorspace and further value engineering and design development estimated construction costs were still in excess of budget. ABC Executive have agreed a further capital contribution of circa £1.78m to allow the project to proceed. ABC Executive has also approved the award of a contract to an operator for the Innovation Centre. Both decisions required the approval of the Cumberland Shadow Authority. The Innovation Centre is not anticipated to require any revenue subsidy beyond that allocated through the Town Deal.

Jo Lappin proposed that further detail around the mitigation in relation to the risks of revenue shortfall be provided in the risk register.

5. Approval of Project Management Request for Workington Innovation Centre

The Board were asked to approve the submission a PAR to DHLUC.

Jo Lappin queried whether a PAR could be submitted prior to approval by Cumberland Council. Kevin Kerrigan advised that this has been discussed with DDLUC and as the requirement for approval from the accountable body (ABC) has been met subject to the agreement of the Board the PAR could be submitted to allow the review process to progress. The requirement for Cumberland approval can be noted in the submission to DHLUC and if this is not forthcoming the PAR can be withdrawn.

Alan Barry formally moved that the Board approve the submission of the PAR. This was agreed unanimously.

8. Any other business

Alan Barry noted that as he would no longer be a County Councillor after the 31 March this would be his last meeting. He wished success for all the projects.

Valerie Hallard proposed that the thanks of the Board for the contribution of Alan and other local authority members be noted.

The meeting ended at **3:45pm**