

Millom Town Deal Board

Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 14:30pm

1. Meeting Protocol

All participants were reminded of the virtual meeting protocol, to remain on mute unless speaking and to use the 'hand up' function to indicate a wish to speak. Board members were also requested to think before committing anything to social media as it was important to ensure that a consistent message was put forward and the advisors were here to help with that.

2. Attendances and Apologies

- Robert Morris-Eyton (Chair) – Becks Construction Ltd
- Cllr Felicity Wilson (Deputy Chair) – Copeland Borough Council
- Leanne Bolger – Deputising for Trudy Harrison MP
- Jennifer Jakubowski – Around the Combe
- Cllr Doug Wilson – Cumbria County Council
- Cllr Bob Kelly – Millom Town Council
- Pauline Preston – Morecambe Bay Health Trust
- David Savage – South Copeland Partnership
- Mark Hampton – As if by Magic Ltd – Deputy for Gavin Towers
- Elliot Burrow – Youth representative
- Marion Giles – Millom Recreation Centre
- Isobel Park – Pellymounters
- Matt Savidge – Millom School Head Teacher

Also Present

- Brittany Mason – BEIS
- Sami Falou – BEIS
- Marc Watterson – Towns Fund Delivery Partner
- Gillian Elliot – Cumbria County Council
- Allison Hatcher – Cumbria County Council
- Mike Starkie – Elected Mayor of Copeland
- Pat Graham – Copeland BC
- Sarah Mitchell – Copeland BC

- Diane Ward– Copeland BC
- Rose Blaney– Copeland BC

Apologies:

Apologies for Absence were received from Jo Lappin (Cumbria LEP) and Joe Martin (BEC).

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 30th July 2021

Board members reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.

It was noted that an amendment was needed for Marc Watterson, to change the association from Hatch to Towns Fund Delivery Partner.

RESOLVED: – That, with a unanimous vote for, the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July be agreed as a true and accurate record with the amendment.

4. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items

Marion Giles noted a declaration of interest in relation to the Millom Recreation Centre.

Mark Hampton noted a declaration of interest in relation to the Iron Line tender/competition.

Pauline Preston noted a declaration of interest in the Reactivating Heritage Buildings project in relation to an NHS building.

Alison Hatcher noted Cumbria County Council interests.

5. Millom Towns Project Confirmation

Sarah Mitchell gave a presentation detailing the project confirmation which will be sent to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Included within the presentation was; an overview of the Towns Fund allocations across projects, with an update on the total project financial breakdown, including match public funding/investment, plus key conditions relating to the Reactivating Heritage and Activating Health projects. The Board

were asked to note that the assurance framework will be drawn up for the Board, Project Owners and the Accountable Body to support governance. There was a discussion around the funding available to projects. Once more information is known it will be relayed to the Board so that the Board can be clear and understand the sources of money available and how they will be accessed.

Pauline Preston asked for clarification around the café at Haverigg, noting that transparency was key for the project, in relation to Copeland BC's ownership of the building. Concern was also raised regarding three cafés within the one plan. Sarah Mitchell noted that no works have been agreed and that the mix of elements will be determined through development of the business case. It would therefore be wrong to assume any details until this work is complete. Point of correction for the minutes: Copeland BC does not own Haverigg Beach Cafe

Alison Hatcher noted that this was not an easy decision and that the work done is evidence based, rational and was completed collaboratively. But there is still a significant amount of work to be done on the projects. While there has been a degree of robustness in making the reductions, there is currently a period of volatility in terms of market conditions and cost which is a risk and may need to be re-evaluated when the time comes.

Pauline Preston noted that costs are changing daily, and that the Board should be open to alternative ways to access funding.

There was a discussion around the risk register, noting that the management of it was key, there are project level and programme level risk registers.

Another discussion was had around the role of the Board going forward with it being noted that, while important, there was much more that needed to be discussed before those roles could be clearly outlined. The current timescale for that discussion is throughout October but in the meantime, the focus will be on project confirmation.

A vote was then taken, and it was,

RESOLVED: – unanimously that Millom Town Deal Board,

- a) Agree the updated Towns Fund investment summary (based on Scenario 1) for submission to MHCLG;

b) Delegate authority to the Chair to sign the four Project Confirmation forms on behalf of the Millom Town Deal Board.

6. Overview of Monitoring and Evaluation process

Diane Ward gave the Board a presentation on the draft Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan. The plan includes the mandatory indicators against the programme to be reviewed separately at six months and twelve months, as well as indicators against each project. It also included information around accelerated funding to monitor against the spending and immediate outputs. The draft plan will be submitted for feedback and the final plan will be submitted with the summary document next year.

David Savage commented on the lack of indicators around the 'Green Agenda', this was echoed later on in the meeting by Mark Hampton regarding environmental impact, but it was noted that these can be added to the list if confident that the required information could be collected.

Pat Graham asked about the next stage and lifting the information off the page. Diane Ward commented that the current focus is on project outputs and delivering the longer-term benefits with more work to be done on how to measure and record factors. Sarah Mitchell noted that the economic case will highlight the benefits of projects. Pauline Preston voiced that Morecambe Bay Trust working with the Health & Wellbeing Hub in Millom have access to local wellness data.

Allison Hatcher noted the difference between monitoring (quantifiable outputs) and evaluation (outcomes) and that evaluation will pick up on those social, wellbeing and environmental objectives within the business case. Distinction between the two can often help regarding contracting projects with funding.

A query was also raised regarding the mandatory indicator for regeneration staff which was noted that it was around growth and capacity.

The Chair noted that a Communications team had been brought in to help Copeland with the Towns Deal communications.,

Felicity Wilson commented, in relation to the accelerated funding, that Nicholson House had now been given funding to help restore the building, and

that the App the Board commissioned helped with that success. Which is a positive reflection on the impact the Town Deal can have.

Meeting closed at 15:46 pm