

Millom Town Fund

Minutes of Board Meeting held on Friday 30 July 2021 at 10:00am

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) – Beckside Construction Ltd
- Cllr Felicity Wilson (Deputy Chair) – Copeland Borough Council
- Trudy Harrison MP
- Jo Lappin– Cumbria LEP
- Jennifer Jakubowski – Around the Combe
- Cllr Keith Hitchen – Cumbria County Council
- Cllr Bob Kelly - Millom Town Council
- Pauline Preston – Morecambe Bay Health Trust
- David Savage – South Copeland Partnership
- Gavin Towers – As if by Magic Ltd
- Elliot Burrow - Youth representative
- Joe Martin - BEC
- Marion Giles – Millom Recreation Centre

Also Present

- Brittany Mason - BEIS
- Marc Watterson – Towns Fund Delivery Partner
- Mark Hampton – As if By Magic
- Diane Ward– Copeland BC
- Rose Blaney– Copeland BC

Apologies:

Apologies for Absence were received from Matt Savidge.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 22nd January 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd January 2021 were considered and agreed with ten votes for and two abstentions with a note to amend the start time shown from 10pm to 10am.

4. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items

No Declarations of Interest were made.

5. Millom Towns Deal Heads of Terms Offer

Councillor Keith Kitchen noted his concern that the County Council officers were not in attendance and had not received a copy of the paperwork. The Chair offered their apologies for any omissions. It was noted that Copeland Borough Council, as accountable body, rather than Cumbria County Council carries the risk for Millom Town Deal.

David Savage asked for clarity regarding the figure discrepancies between the previous meetings minutes and the offer paperwork received for the Reactivating Heritage Buildings. Diane Ward confirmed that the apparent discrepancy was due to the late inclusion of the social housing project within the Reactivating Heritage Buildings.

Jo Lappin noted the reduction of funds and the risk that that reduction can bring for deliverability.

Trudy Harrison commented that she was going to help look into closing funding gaps which appear within the process.

Marc Watterson highlighted the fantastic offer which has been received for Millom and noted that it was a credit to the board and the officers who have worked so hard on this.

A vote was then taken and it was,

RESOLVED: – unanimously that the Millom Towns Deal Heads of Terms Offer received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ('MHCLG') for the sum of £20.6m in respect of the Millom Town Deal bid be noted and the Chair be authorised to accept the offer.

**Marion Giles joined the meeting at 10:22am*

6. Next Steps

Diane Ward gave the board of an overview of the next steps for the board over the next twelve months. Highlighting that the next two months will be to confirm the projects. 85% of the funding ask has been offered, along with conditions being attached. Next steps is to explain how the conditions will be met, consider what they can realistically achieve within

the funding envelope, if any scopes need to be changed and explore the realistic opportunities for extra funding. The Board as a whole must be aware of the impact across all projects. Each project will have their own meeting, with an informal meeting to bring it all together and a formal meeting in September for final confirmation prior to submission to government. Following that, the Board have ten months to develop the business cases. They will need to provide proof that the projects are deliverable and sustainable. The business cases will then be independently verified before being submitted to government. Any match funding must be secured as that will show government that the project is achievable. Additional expertise will be required when going into more in-depth discussions.

The Terms of Reference will also be revisited with help from consultants to ensure that the Board is compliant and aligned with what is required. The Conflict of Interest discussion will also be going forward to help the Board. The whole process must be clear and transparent and the assurance framework which will be created will help.

Councillor Hitchen asked about funding to employ the specialists required, both previously and going forward, and whether there could be financial accounts shown going forward. Diane Ward confirmed that initially some of the funding for specialists came from the government and some came from CBC. Going forward, once the confirmation of the projects has been submitted, the government have announced that they're going to release five percent of the funding to help ensure deliverability. A note was made for the financial accounts to be shown to the Board when possible and appropriate.

Pauline Preston asked for and received confirmation that decisions for the projects will be made by the Board with input from the subject matter experts where appropriate.

David Savage asked for it to be noted that there is a significant risk, with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) that CBC may struggle with resources to help ensure deliverability.

Jo Lappin asked for a risk register to be produced and available at meetings going forward.

Meeting closed at 10:41 am