

Millom Town Deal Board
11 September 2025, 14:00 – 16:00

Draft Minutes



Actions	Owner/Date
To review the Dol matrix and report back to the next board meeting any amends or additions needed.	ALL
Programme Status Report: To share update report on operator procurement, engagement etc with the chair ahead of the next meeting so this can be reviewed for feedback and comments.	DK/SR
Activating Community Health: To provide a cost update at the next informal board meeting 04.10.2025	WD
Iron Line: To provide the link the planning portal, for circulation to the board.	JF
Reactivating Heritage Buildings: To organise the site visit for Reactivating Heritage Buildings prior to October informal board meeting	WD
Comms and Engagement: To check the cascades are being sent to 32 West.	WD
Comms and Engagement: Programme team to sense check the timeline from 32 West to make sure everything is included from a project perspective.	WD
Revenue & Board Priorities: to pick up a separate conversation with SR so these can be discussed at the informal board on the 4 th of October	DS
To arrange for PF to come along to Millom so that Enterprising Cumbria has line of sight of all the projects.	DS

Board Recommendations	Owner
Market Square Junction Access: The board agreed on option 2 as their preferred option.	Lewis Casson
Materials to use on the Market Square: The board confirmed they were happy to move forward with the proposal made by the Project Manager	Lewis Casson
Restoration of the Iron Worker: The board confirmed they were happy to move forward with a full restoration of the Iron Worker.	Jobert Fermilan

Agenda Item No	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions / apologies / declarations of interest</p> <p><u>Present</u> David Savage (DS) Chair, Debbie Kavanagh (DK), Marion Giles (MG), Liz Fitzsimons (LF), Wendy Devlin (WD), Ruth Ollis (RO), Jobert Fermilan (JF), Nick Lancaster (NL), Adam Connolley (AC), David Glover (DG), Paul Skelton (PS), Andrew Hobson (AH), Ellie Richardson (ER), Andrew Harper (AH), Victoria Kelsall (VK), Paul Foster (PF), Steve Robinson (SR), Tracey West (TW)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Michell Scrogam (MS), Sarah Irving (SI) Simon Bremer (SB), Cllr Simone Faulkner (SF), Cllr Bob Kelly (BK), James Higgin (JH)</p>

	<p>Guests Caroline Barber (CB)</p> <p>Erini Etoimou has stepped down as the Sellafield representative.</p> <p>No new declaration of interests to report.</p> <p>DS welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked board members to review the DoI matrix. Action: (ALL) to review the DoI matrix and report back to the next board meeting any amends or additions needed.</p>
2.	<p>Review of minutes The Board ratified the draft minutes from the meeting dated 15.05.2025. Minutes will now be uploaded to the Town Deal webpage.</p>
3.	<p>Actions from previous meeting No.31 - Closed. (WD) to report back as part of Millom & Haverigg updates going forward No.33 - In Progress. The re-baselining process has started. No.35 - In Progress. (SR) to pick up a conversation with TW. No.37 - In Progress. (ALL) to review the DoI matrix and report at the next board meeting back any amends or additions needed. No.38 – In Progress. No.39 – In Progress. No.40 – Closed.</p>
4.	<p>Programme Quarter 1 Status Report LF presented the report which had been previously circulated to board members and explained the report covers the period 1st April 2025 – 30th June 2025, noting there is no return to MHCLG this quarter but the information within this report will be used as part of the next 6 monthly MHCLG return. All spend figures provided in the report are provisional at the moment, but full assurance will be provided on these by the end of Qtr. 2.</p> <p>Iron Line Delivery 4, Spend 5, Risks 3 Issue with BOAT width and members of public objecting with Section 1 Highways Act.</p> <p>Activating Community Health Delivery 5 Spend 5 Risk 3 Issues around the approval of the new access road and utility connections.</p> <p>Reactivating Heritage Buildings Delivery 5 Spend 5 Risk 3 Issues – none</p> <p>Connecting Millom and Haverigg Delivery 4 Spend 5 Risk 3 Issues around the creation of new highway assets ensuring that they are designed and delivered in such a way that they do not place additional pressure on the Cumberland Council highways maintenance budget following their adoption.</p> <p>Report was received by the Town Deal Board. No formal reporting to MHCLG is required this quarter.</p> <p>DS asked where the procurement Activity relating to acquisition of an operator for the new Leisure Centre is to be reported.</p>

It was confirmed a new update report will be included going forward, so next quarter there will be a dedicated update on operator progression and engagement.
The importance of this was stressed as operator arrangements are now becoming critical to overall success of projects.

Action: (DK/SR) to share the new reporting template section with the chair ahead of the next meeting so this can be reviewed for feedback and comments.

5.

Programme Progress Report

WD provided a project update for the Board.

Activating Community Health

- Good progress is being made on site.
- All weather pitch handed over in April 2025.
- Long Jump completed as part of Thomas Armstrong's Social Value.
- Enabling works complete: Playground and demolition of Caretaker's cottage.
- Steel signing event took place today.
- Completion expected August 2026

Action: (WD) to provide a cost update at the next informal board meeting 04.10.2025

Iron Line

- New planning application has been submitted.
- Completion of stage 4 design was achieved, and operator lease opportunity is now advertised.
- Natural England and RSPB Workshops were held prior to planning application submission.
- Proposal for BNG in agreement for credits to be purchased outside of Hodbarrow reserve.
- Construction costs received from Story, decision for award going to Exec committee.

It was confirmed we had received a positive response from Natural England giving us an opportunity to justify why wardens wouldn't be needed. This response is listed and available to view on the planning register.

Action: (JF) to provide the link the planning portal, for circulation to the board.

Reactivating Heritage Buildings

- Works have now commenced on site, project is underway.
- Operator lease now advertised
- Budget pressures are being carefully monitored.
- Completion due April 2026.

It was suggested a site visit for board members could be organised.

Action: (WD) to organise the site visit for Reactivating Heritage Buildings prior to October informal Board meeting

Connecting Millom and Haverigg

- Now finalising Stage 4 design.
- Aspiration for CCC to deliver the majority of the project.
- Discussion with Story regarding on Public Realm works, to be concluded by end of Sept 2025
- Decision taken re: approval of the project adjustment request moving £920k over to Activating Community Health scheme.
- Funding deadline extended to March 2027 to ensure flexibility for internal delivery.

DS noted that where there is an intention for CCC to self-deliver, this must be benchmarked against the private sector to ensure value for money, and that CCC have the resources and capacity to undertake the work. DS highlighted this issue has been raised at a previous Board

Meeting and remains an important step in maintaining strong cost-control discipline to project spend.

It was confirmed that CCC would be commissioning an external quantity surveyor to look at the designs and test the costs against the current market value so we can ensure undertaking the work internally would be the best option.

Slide Deck to be shared.

6.

Market Square Update

Slide deck presented by JF

- WSP are now working on the refinement of the design
- Discussions ongoing with Story regarding public realm works at Market Square and costs.
- St George Terrace considered as part of the package.
- The Iron Worker figure is to be considered for restoration.

Approval is currently being sought to increase the parking allowance from 1 to 2hrs to help unlock economic growth.

x3 options were presented for the access across the market Square.

- option1: fully pedestrianised.
- option 2: allowing buses to enter from the left, cross over to the exit, on the right-hand side.
- option 3: continue with the current use, with no increase in public realm space.

Feedback from the sub-group has been to increase public realm space. Option 2 has been identified as the best option to pursue.

It was clarified approval in principle was required from the board first. The last consultation showed the Market Square as fully pedestrianised, but the bus operators objected to full pedestrianisation as the service has since increased the level of services, and this has impacted on the approach shared at the last public consultation.

Material options were presented.

- Feedback was that a high-quality quartz material wouldn't sit well against other materials used in the Market Square.
- A natural sandstone material has been identified that fits well.
- Case studies are currently being gathered to show how the material weathers over time.

Costs were not shared at the working sub-group to make sure costs would not be the only deciding factor in the decision making, as safety and maintainability were also a deciding factor.

It was confirmed that sandstone will only be used on pedestrian areas, and not any vehicular areas, with additional sandstone slabs purchased to allow for future maintenance.

Iron Worker restoration

- This is a significant sculpture in Millom's heritage.
- The question is do we restore this as it was not covered in the original business plan.
- It is estimated to currently only have an existing lifespan of 5 years.
- Restoration could deliver an extended lifespan of 30 years costing £20k.
- Partial restoration would deliver 10-15 years extended life-span costing £14k.

DS suggested restoring for 30 years to secure its longevity and value for money in line with the other Market Square projects. This proposal was supported by the Board.

Slide Deck to be shared.

	<p>Three key recommendations were requested from the board:</p> <p>Market Square Junction Access The board agreed on option 2 to be presented as their preferred option.</p> <p>Materials to use on the Market Square The board confirmed they were supportive to move forward with the suggestion of sandstone.</p> <p>Restoration of the Iron Worker The board confirmed they were supportive to move forward with a full restoration of the Iron Worker.</p>
7.	<p>Comms and engagement update A side deck presented by Caroline Barber from 32 West showing the engagement activities of the programme through to summer 2026, along with an overview of the new website navigation</p> <p>Action: (WD) to check the cascades are being sent to 32 West, to both JC & CB Action: (WD) Programme team to sense check the timeline to make sure everything is included from a project perspective.</p> <p>Slide Deck to be shared.</p>
8.	<p>Revenue and board priorities DS explained this was regarding the funding pot provided by Sellafield for the Town Deal Programme, to be allocated on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms and Engagement • Developing a marketing plan • Developing a Millom prospectus • Delivery support team resourcing <p>Action: (DS) to pick up a separate conversation with SR so these can be discussed at the informal board on the 4th of October.</p>
9.	<p>Any other business / next steps</p> <p>DK noted the upcoming realigning of MHCLG guidance and reporting. This should make reporting more streamlined, but more detail will be provided on the changes once full instruction has been received in October.</p> <p>Action: (DS) - to arrange for PF to come along to Millom so that Enterprising Cumbria has line of sight of all the projects.</p> <p>DS thanked everyone for the meeting.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 15:50</p>