

Millom Town Deal Board

27 February 2025, 14:00 – 16:00

Draft Minutes



Actions	Owner/Date
Declarations of Interest forms. These will be reviewed, highlighting any new interests. Summary to be brought back to the next Town Deal Board meeting.	DK
Wendy to re-baseline the Connected Millom & Haverigg project and bring back to the next Town Deal Board meeting.	WD
WD to create an opportunities list. Re: exploring monies left over from the Connected Millom & Haverigg project for spending on a further project.	WD
MHCLG 6 monthly report & monitoring return to be included on the agenda for the next informal Board Meeting on 13th March.	WD/DK
CCC to pick up a discussion with Sellafeld to discuss and to re-profile the grant funding.	SR
Comms support to be brought in to develop an engagement plan for Millom – it was noted this was urgent. To report back to the next Informal Board Meeting.	SR

Decisions	Owner/Date

Agenda Item No	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions / apologies / declarations of interest</p> <p><u>Present</u> David Savage (DS), Debbie Kavanagh (DK), Marion Giles (MG), Helen Mconville (HM), Liz Fitzsimons (LF), Wendy Devlin (WD), Cllr Bob Kelly (BK), Victoria Kelsall (VK), Ruth Ollis (RO), Matt Savidge (MS), Steve Robinson (SR), Jobert Fermilan (JF), Nick Lancaster (NL), Cllr Simone Faulkner (SF), Adam Connolley (AC)</p> <p><u>Guests</u> Andrew Harper (AH), Tracey West (TW), Mark Thorn (MT), Christian Judd (CJ), Rod Hughes (RH), Cath Lester (CL), Matt Warner (MW), Gareth Jones (GJ)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Paul Skelton (PS), Erini Etoimou (EE), Simon Bremer (SB)</p> <p>DS welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest forms. These will be reviewed, highlighting any new interests. Summary to be brought back to next Town Deal Board meeting (DK)</p> <p>Awaiting Board membership forms to be returned from new Board Member Laura Lake (BAE).</p>
2.	<p>Review of minutes</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting, held on 21 November 2024, were ratified by The Board. Board meeting minutes will be uploaded to the Town Deal webpage.</p>

3.	<p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <p>No. 10 – Completed. Managed through a PAR.</p> <p>No. 19 – Completed. Laura Lake identified and approached as a BAE representative.</p> <p>No. 21 – Completed.</p> <p>No. 27 – Completed. Agenda item 4.</p> <p>No. 28 – Completed. WD to re-baseline the programme and bring back to the Board.</p> <p>No. 29 – Completed. Agenda item 8.</p> <p>No. 30 – Completed. Meeting was held mid-Jan 2025.</p> <p>No. 31 – Ongoing. WD to explore monies left over from the Connected Millom & Haverigg project for spending on a further project. To create an Opportunity List.</p>
4.	<p>MHCLG 6 monthly report & monitoring return</p> <p>DK explained the report includes information sent to MHCLG on a 6-monthly basis. For this cycle reporting from the PMO, Assurance and Client-side ran smoothly, but apologies were given as the reports are not yet ready to share with the Board due to section 151 sign-off delays from finance.</p> <p>MHCLG 6 monthly report & monitoring return to be included on Agenda the next informal Board Meeting on 13th March. (WD/DK)</p> <p>MHCLG Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reprofitting Exercise <p>DK shared that we were asked by MHCLG to reprofile spend for Iron Line and Connected Millom and Haverigg into 2026/2027. This was submitted on 23 January and approved on 30 February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Compliance Reporting <p>DK updated that an email has been received which stipulates reporting will need to continue for a minimum of 2 years post-project end and that reporting would be reduced to simplified outcomes and outputs.</p>
5.	<p>Iron Line Design options</p> <p>DS noted this is a significant project incorporating a SSSI site and a RSPB reserve.</p> <p>WD and JF gave a project update presentation, with input from the wider project team.</p> <p>JF commenced and gave the context and overview on: Costs, Environmental and Ecological concerns and Planning objections.</p> <p>GJ (Story) provided an overview on feasibility budget costs, overspend, the value engineering exercise, revised design and new cost plan.</p> <p>CJ and RH (Architects Plus) presented on the revised visitor centre design. This will deliver the same level of community and visitor benefit, while remaining within budget and preserving the Iron Line's core vision: a nature-based attraction that celebrates local heritage and promotes sustainability.</p> <p>Re-design now meets the budget which is balanced at £10m.</p> <p>It was noted the design should also achieve Passivehaus status.</p> <p>KL (Layer Studio) Gave an overview of the site map, visitor experience, wildlife engagement and Heritage Focal Points.</p> <p>An overview of the comms engagement that had taken place along with a summary of the feedback received was given. It was highlighted that three main topics had remained key for stakeholders: wildlife, financial sustainability and maintaining the natural environment.</p> <p>JF highlighted the next key project milestones, with a projected opening date of Summer 2026.</p>

DS- thanked the team for the overview and noted the Iron Line project has progressed to a good place.

Questions were raised, and answered, in relation to the presentation:

- Will the new materials for the walking and cycling infrastructure be adequate?

Yes, the change of materials would still be suitable, these are the same spec as those used within the LDNP, and they still meet the aspirations of the proposal.

- Will the café exist?

It was confirmed the café will function as stated in the original business case. An operator will be procured, and that soft marketing has shown an initial interest.

- How will the change to original design be communicated?

Communication to the wider community will be covered via the comms strategy and community feedback events.

- Will the lighthouse be refurbished as part of the project?

The lighthouse area will be refreshed. CCC don't own the structure itself so there is no scope to refurb this, but improved paths and seating will be provided.

-DS noted there is a possibility to link in with a charity for further funding.

- Will the design and layout be DDA compliant, including for sensory and cognitive impairment?

Yes, all standards will be adhered to

- Will the net biodiversity gains be met?

The current proposal is achieving 20% BNG so we are confident it will be achieved.

- Will the reduction in the art expenditure be an issue for the visitor experience?

No, we still have a budget and have gone out for an art commission plus the wider visitor experience a whole will be incorporated into the wider project.

It was noted it was disappointing that the Arts funding had been cut back but there was the potential to look at what's next for Millom in terms of future funding.

NL as project sponsor wrapped up the session by saying community input had addressed a lot of planning queries. It has been designed for everyone to use and if we get the bones of the project correct, we can then build on this for the future.

JF Asked the Boards approval in principle for the x3 asks:

1. Approval in principle for the refinement proposal.
2. Agreement to continue design work.
3. Commitment to keeping momentum, avoid further delays

DS asked for the Board's decision.

Approval was given

6.

Review of Additional Funds

SR presented a summary of findings in relation to the queried £620k under spend on Sellafeld funding.

It was clarified these funds should have been spent against the delivery costs of the project and a general discussion followed around how, and if, the funds could be allocated elsewhere whilst remaining in alignment with the grant agreement.

SR confirmed that a report had been submitted to Sellafeld, and they were aware of the underspend.

The Board agreed the funds should be allocated to the following x4 areas:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comms and Engagement 2. Developing Marketing Plan 3. Millom Prospectus 4. Delivery Support <p>CCC to now pick up a discussion with Sellafield to discuss, and to re-profile the grant funding (SR).</p> <p>Comms support to be brought in to develop an engagement plan as it was noted this was urgent. To report back to the next Informal Board Meeting (SR).</p>
7.	<p>Programme Progress Report</p> <p>Slide deck on programme updates to be circulated with the minutes.</p>
8.	<p>PAR Submission</p> <p>The Board had been briefed pre-meeting regarding the declined submission for Railway Station improvements. The Board had discussed other opportunities for the funding.</p> <p>WD confirmed that a Project Adjustment Request (PAR) had been actioned. The benefit-cost ratio has been reviewed and MHCLG have viewed the draft submission and have given an initial indication they are happy. WD is working with DK to formally submit the PAR for decision. Once approved this will allow for funds to be transferred to the Activating Community Health project to aid with the increased material costs.</p> <p>DS noted a sub-group of the Board had reviewed the detail of the PAR, and executed their duty, from a governance point of view, to sign in agreement on this.</p>
9.	<p>Any other business / next steps</p> <p>DS thanked everyone for the meeting.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 15:55</p>