



Millom Town Deal Board

4 March 2026, 14:00 – 16:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Actions	Owner/Date
PS to review the Q3 Town Deal Update Report against the Q1&2 report presented to the board at the previous meeting, to confirm that action no.49 has been achieved.	(PS) 21/05/2026

Board Recommendations	Owner

Agenda Item No	Agenda Item
1	<p>Welcome and introductions / apologies / declarations of interest David Savage welcomed the board to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Present</u> David Savage (DS), Paul Skelton (PS), Simone Faulkner (SF), Adam Connelly (AC), Nick Lancaster (NL), Bob Kelly (BK), Andrew Hobson (AH), Marion Giles (MG), Tracey West (TW), Debbie Kavanagh (DK), Steve Robinson (SR), Luke Leathers (LL), Victoria Kelsall (VK), Wendy Devlin (WD), Ellie Richardson (ER).</p> <p>Guests: Adam Mundy (AM), Caroline Barber (CB).</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> David Glover (DG), Simon Bremer (SB), Paul Foster (PF), Stephen Olliver (SO).</p> <p>Paul Foster to formally represent Enterprising Cumbria as the nominated board member.</p> <p>Updated Conflict of Interest's shared with the board as part of the agenda pack. No further conflicts declared.</p>
2	<p>Review of minutes The Board ratified the draft minutes from the meeting dated 20 November 2025. The minutes will now be uploaded to the Town Deal webpage.</p>
3	<p>Actions from previous meeting No. 35 – In progress. Looking to conclude by end of financial year (31st March 2026). Reporting to next board/informal board after 31st March. No. 44 – Complete. Visit was offered and up taken by BK. If any further board members want to view in the future, please contact Natalie and she will facilitate with Story. No. 49 – Complete. If the board have any further issues following the report, a further action will be created.</p>
4	<p>Leisure Centre Operator LL introduced the new leisure centre operator, Everyone Active, who will begin their contract on 1st April 2026.</p>

	<p>AM, attending as representative for the operator, shared an insight into the organisation, their values, activities available, courses and lessons, and targeted initiatives.</p> <p>MG expressed a strong request for Everyone Active to liaise with Millom Recreational Centre to discuss how they may operate alongside each other.</p> <p>LL confirmed it has been written into the contract that the operations at the new Leisure Centre should complement Millom Recreational Centre, and they will be making contact to discuss.</p> <p>AM also provided assurance that, as a company, they always operate to complement, not compete and would be keen to discuss how they may work alongside each other.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Millom Town Deal Performance Report – 1 October to 31 December 2025</p> <p>DS emphasised that the report is for the period October to December 2025. The board has received the report in the agenda pack and is expected to have read it in advance of the meeting, ready to sign off or raise queries during the meeting.</p> <p>DK presented the report to the board, highlighting the salient points. This report will not be submitted to MHCLG so is provided to the board for information and to allow opportunity to query.</p> <p><u>Iron Line:</u> Delivery RAG 4, Spend RAG 5, Risk RAG 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays due to value engineering exercise and issues with planning. • Possibility of a change control to adjust milestones and improve delivery RAG. <p><u>Activating Community Health:</u> Delivery RAG 2, Spend RAG 3, Risk RAG 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project has undergone a change control which has improved the delivery RAG rating. <p><u>Reactivating Heritage Buildings:</u> Delivery RAG 5, Spend RAG 4, Risk RAG 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DK asked the board to consider whether a change control is needed to adjust the milestones or if the project is too far underway. <p><u>Connected Millom and Haverigg:</u> Delivery RAG 1, Spend RAG 5, Risk RAG 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project has undergone a change control which has improved the delivery RAG rating. <p>PS queried why change control request's are being pursued to baseline duration but not spend. WD clarified we cannot rebaseline the spend as it has already been drawn down from MHCLG.</p> <p>The Q3 Town Deal Update Report was accepted by the board.</p> <p>ACTION: (PS) to review the Q3 Town Deal Update Report against the Q1&2 report presented to the board at the previous meeting, to confirm that action no.49 has been achieved.</p> <p>Change Control</p> <p>DK presented the approved Change Control Request Forms for Activating Community Health (TD.03) and Connecting Millom & Haverigg (TD.04) mentioned above.</p> <p>Proposed change control's are discussed with the board during project updates. Change control requests go through the Council's internal governance process for approval from the SRO, and the approved documents are brought to the board for transparency and oversight.</p> <p>Although these requests have already been approved, the board can ask questions and suggest further consideration.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Programme Progress Report</p> <p>WD presented the update.</p> <p><u>Activating Community Health</u></p>

- Planning approved for new access road.
- New playground area complete. New substation installation complete. Bungalow demolished.
- Excavations complete and construction work underway.
- Health and Wellbeing Workshop held in February. Planning the next Leisure Workshop in April.
- On track for completion and handover in October 2026.

Iron Line

- Planning application supported at planning committee. Approval subject to further ecology information being provided. Expect to receive formal approval next week.
- Working through pre-commencement conditions.
- Start on site 1st May.
- Permission to tender for an operator approved at Executive in February.
- TRO on BOAT consultation to commence 23rd March.

Reactivating Heritage Buildings

- Lift shaft created, new staircase installed, groundworks for new extension commenced, and decoration now mostly complete.
- Project is moving forwards, with completion expected in July 2026.
- SR added: Old Bank Operator
- Three EOI's received. Clarification process underway in preparation for initial review. Interviews to commence w/c 16th March.
- Will be sharing the materials and subject topic for the interviews with the subgroup for comment.

Connecting Millom and Haverigg

- Engagement on Market Square complete following two engagement events.
- Stage 4 designs complete, and costings have been received from internal highways team who will deliver the work.
- First improvements to commence April 2026 (Haverigg lights).

SR gave an update on Market Square Engagement.

- Two engagement events have been held for the Market Square public realm improvements in February, with businesses contacted prior to this in January.
- 185 people contributed online and in person.
- Two options were proposed, and public consultation showed a preference for option 2.
- Option 1 aligns most closely to the business case and the strategy for enhancement of Millom, increasing the public realm area for pedestrianization and events space. It is labelled as best for long-term regeneration.
Critical dependency: Option 1 is only viable if school bus operations are relocated to a safe, alternative site elsewhere in Millom.
- Option 2 maintains the current bus route and a familiar layout with minimal enhancement. It is labelled as best for short term operational safety and practicality.

The board were presented with a comparison table, comparing how each option met certain criteria.

Recommendation consideration for the board:

1. Is the projects primary purpose regeneration or operational improvement?
2. Can a suitable bus site be secured?
 - If yes > Option 1 becomes viable and preferred.
 - If no > Option 2 is the only safe and functional option.

Multiple board members suggested that although they may personally favour option 1, if the public consultation favours option 2 this should be the option pursued so as to not impose an unsupported change on the community.

	<p>If option 2 is to be pursued, MHCLG will need to be consulted to ensure the funds can be used to tidy up the area rather than create public realm. An option to do nothing may need to be considered.</p> <p>Board members emphasised the need for proposed solutions to the bus route issue to aid in identifying a suitable board recommendation. Request for the Council to produce proposed solutions before final board decision.</p> <p>Suggestion to explore an option to transition from option 2 to option 1.</p> <p>Suggestion for the Council to explore links between St Georges Terrace and Market Square. Explore possibility to utilise St George’s Terrace for public realm events space instead.</p> <p>More information needed from the Council to allow the Board to agree on their recommendation at the next informal board meeting on 12th March.</p> <p><u>Programme Budget</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Activating Community Health</u> - healthy contingency remaining. • <u>Connecting Millom & Haverigg</u> - overspend of £1.317million estimated. Exploring how Cumberland Council may bridge the gap. Exploring possibility of highways funding. Quantity surveyor to look at internal costs for due diligence. • <u>Iron Line</u> - has 9% contingency but require further 750k to ensure healthy contingency. • <u>Revitalised Town</u> - (Old Bank) overspend of 300k estimated. <p>Suggestion for the board to consider how we may prioritise the work in the Connecting Millom & Haverigg project.</p> <p>DS suggested considering safety interventions first, then enhancement work. Council to collate information to help board recommend a suggestion.</p>
7	<p>Comms and engagement update <u>Comms update</u> – presented by WD. Printed newsletters, e-newsletters, press releases, and social media used for communications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activating Community Health – Steel Signing, Leisure Centre, Workshop, Stakeholder Engagement Event. • Iron Line – funding approval, support of new planning application, FAQ’s. • Reactivating Heritage Buildings – Old Bank update, sub-contractor spotlight, expressions of interest open for Old Bank, Old Bank progress update. • Connecting Millom & Haverigg – multiple comms on engagement for Market Square. <p><u>Engagement update</u> - CB shared an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activating Community Health (ACH) engagement event was held on Thursday. • Working group to be set up for ACH. • Looking at organising another event for ACH to engage with sports, leisure and activity clubs in the area to connect them with the operator. • Public vote on naming of leisure facility. • Working on next edition of community newsletter. <p>DS suggested holding a meet the contractor event.</p>
8	<p>Revenue and board priorities To be discussed at informal board on 12th March.</p>
9	<p>Any other business / next steps</p>

- Next informal board meeting scheduled for 12th March 2026.
- Next Millom Town Deal Board meeting will be held on 21st May 2026. During this meeting, the annual re-election of the Town Deal Board Chair and Vice Chair will occur.
- Chair will schedule brief one-to-one check ins with board members.

Chair closed the meeting at 15:58.