



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council  
**WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL BOARD**

**Minutes of Meeting held on**  
**Friday 24 July 2020 – 2.00 – 3.30 PM**  
**MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

<p><b>Attendees:</b> Steven Broomhead –Chair Steve Park Andy Carter MP Charlotte Nicols MP Martin Wood Bill Carr Lucy Gardner Ben Wakerley Nichola Newton Dan Bunstone Ted Adams Nigel Schofield Andy Hulme Stephen Fitzsimons Kathryn Green Laurence Pullan Cllr Tom Jennings Lisa Knowles Fayyaz Qadir Dave Thompson Steve Coffey Andy Hulme Simon Kenton Kim Cooper – Observer</p>	<p><b>Company</b> CEO Warrington Borough Council Warrington Borough Council South Warrington North Warrington Cities &amp; Local Growth Unit Carpe Diem Warrington NHS Warrington’s Own Buses Warrington &amp; Vale Royal College Warrington NHS Warrington NHS Warrington Chamber of Commerce Cheshire &amp; Warrington LEP Warrington Borough Council Warrington Borough Council Warrington Borough Council Warrington Borough Council Atkins Atkins Warrington Disability Partnership Torus Cheshire &amp; Warrington LEP Warrington Borough Council ARUP</p>	<p><b>Apologies</b> Simon Constable - NHS Ian Cox - Golden Square Matt Crompton – Muse David Boyer Jon Byrom – Homes England</p>
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Item	Subject	Action
1.0	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
1.1	<b>The Deputy Chair</b> welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted	
1.2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Nichola Newton declared interest in regard to the Education, Skills & Employment preferred project bid, as Head of Warrington & Vale Royal College as the project would be led by the College.	
1.2.1	Bill Carr declared interest in regard to the Digital Entrepreneurial Hub project of the Town Deal, due to his involvement with OPUS project run via Carpe Diem at	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

	Pyramid, which is also impacted by the potential Redevelopment of the Pyramid building Chaired by EB.	
2.0	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 10.07.2020</b> Agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.	
3.0	<b>General Progress Update</b>	
3.1	Steve Park presented an update on the Town Investment Plan (TIP). There are currently 12,000 words, so this will have to be cut to the required 10,000. The TIP contains a good amount of strategic content and widespread engagement has taken place and as a result a list of preferred projects has now been pulled together. SP thanked all those colleagues who have assisted in bringing the TIP together. An initial view will now be sought from ARUP.	
3.2	SB reiterated his thanks for all the hard work that has been done. All comments relating to the two documents circulated prior to the meeting are to be sent to SP/SF as soon as possible. The deadline date for receipt of comments is close of play next <b>Wednesday 29 July 2020</b> . Government guidance will also be incorporated, following which, a revised version will be issued on Monday 27.7.20	
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Charlotte Nicols MP North: No further comments</li><li>- Andy Carter MP South: Feedback will be sent over the weekend if any further comments are required</li></ul>	
4.0	<u>Work Stream Updates:</u> Each work stream lead updated the Board on the projects that are being submitted for consideration.	
4.1	<u>Education &amp; Skills</u>	
4.1.1	<b>Project A: Health &amp; Social Care Academy</b>  Key aims of the collaborative academy of excellence in Warrington: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Support and develop the skills of people who are already working in the health and social care sector</li><li>- Develop health and social care career pathways for young people to encourage them to work in the sector</li><li>- Develop pathways into health and social care roles for people not in work including those who require support to access employment</li></ul> The plan is to re-purpose Warrington and Vale Royal College's 'S' Block building to establish a Health and Social Care Academy (HSCA) hub, working collaboratively with key 'spoke' partners; Warrington and Halton Health Trust, the University of Chester, Warrington Borough Council and commissioned services including the Social Care Employers Partnership which is already well established. Placing professionalism, the evolving skills-set requirements,	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

	<p>employment opportunities and career progression in health and social care settings at its heart, the HSCA will be a 'cutting edge' facility dedicated to skills training from pre or first entry into the sector through to higher level up-skilling. The HSCA will drive collaboration between the hub, spokes and other partners to respond to the skills shortages articulated in the health and social care sector and to recruit and retain skilled staff into a growing number of hard to fill vacancies.</p> <p>The HSCA will deliver bespoke skills training packages and professional qualifications for partner employers and expand the range of technical qualifications and apprenticeships offered in Warrington to learners aspiring to progress into the health and social care sectors and allied professions e.g. biological and pharmaceutical science. The specialist equipment housed within the HSCA will enable learners to develop essential skills and meet skills shortages vital for the health and social care sector in Warrington.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the HSCA will be of national significance, a renowned centre of excellence and may be modelled on The Health Training Hub at Hugh Baird College, Liverpool, <a href="http://www.hughbaird.ac.uk">www.hughbaird.ac.uk</a></p>	
4.1.2	<p><b>Project C: Advanced Construction Training Centre (ACT)</b></p> <p>Placing the development of the relevant digital skills and competencies at their heart, the ACT centre based at the Winwick Road campus of Warrington and Vale Royal College and will drive collaboration between the college, employers and the local authority to develop, commercialize and promote digital technologies and sustainability for the construction industry (primarily for building affordable homes) and the in-parallel skills training that supports it. In so doing, the ACT will assist the industry to build high quality, smart, green and efficient homes and building infrastructures, faster, cheaper and more sustainably than ever before. The ACT activity will closely align with the aspirations of the government's 'Transforming Construction Challenge', CIOB and the Centre for Digitally Built Britain. It is envisaged that the ACT at Warrington and Vale Royal College will be of national significance, a renowned centre of excellence and modelled on the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, a link to which is found below: <a href="https://www.cs-ic.org/innovationcentre/">https://www.cs-ic.org/innovationcentre/</a></p>	
4.1.3	<p><u>Comments</u></p> <p>Feedback from WDP has been received and will be incorporated. Director of Adult Social Care WBC has also contributed and will also be included. NN thanked all those who have contributed to projects A &amp; C.</p>	
4.2	<p><u>Housing &amp; Infrastructure</u></p>	
4.2.1	<p><b>Project D: All Electric Bus Depot</b></p> <p>The new Depot, on land owned by WBC, has received planning permission. It involves the relocation of Warrington's Own Buses Depot from its current site to a purpose built new depot. This is complementary to the recently submitted All</p>	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

4.2.2	<p>Electric Bus Town Expression of Interest which seeks funding towards the extra over costs of making this depot suitable for an all-electric bus fleet powered by electricity generated by the Council's investments in Solar Farms.</p> <p><b>Project E: Warrington Town Centre Sustainable Travel Package</b></p> <p>improve the opportunity for sustainable travel in the town centre by: Improving sustainable travel in and around the town centre including the Green Ring &amp; other cultural trails would meet the needs of local residents and visitors to have a clean, green and safe environment. Walking and cycling have obvious benefits for health and the environment and the recent 100% increase in cycling figures in Warrington demonstrate the potential and clear opportunity for a local take up of these modes. The Central 6 Masterplan published in 2019 (<a href="http://www.warrington.gov.uk/central-6-regeneration-masterplan">www.warrington.gov.uk/central-6-regeneration-masterplan</a>) was based on a very comprehensive and widespread local consultation and there was a high priority given by local people to sustainable travel. There was further priority given to improving recreational activities, with culture and heritage walking trails, improved access to the River and enhancements in sports facilities all being raised as part of a holistic requirement to improve health and wellbeing in an integrated way.</p> <p>The Community Cycling Hub would encourage an increase of cycling to the town centre, for commuter and retail purposes, provide support and training for new and existing cyclists, and provide skills training and employment opportunities for Warrington residents. As a meeting place and source of advice and information, it could break down barriers to the take up of cycling (and other sports) and engender a culture of peer support.</p> <p>Regrettably the number of people choosing to travel by bus in Warrington has reduced significantly in recent years – from over 11m journeys in 2010/11 to less than 7m in 2018/19. There has been some levelling off since and small increases since 2015/16, addressing that decline, but the Covid 19 pandemic has seen patronage fall as low as 4% of that expected. This has since risen to 20% of 2019 levels. The benefits to Warrington of increasing bus use can only be felt if bus services are made more attractive and able to compete with private car travel. The project seeks to introduce bus priority measures which will improve journey time and reliability of services. A study has been commissioned to identify bus priority highway schemes that can be delivered in the short term, with a view to longer term mass transit network aspiration.</p> <p>The overall project aligns with Warrington long-term development strategy and policies, including the Local Plan, the Warrington Means Business regeneration strategy, the Warrington Town Centre Masterplan, Warrington Central 6 Strategy, and Local Transport Plan. Many of the schemes have emerged out of the Warrington First and Last Mile Study which aims to overcome the active travel barriers to/from the town centre. It also aligns with covid-19 specific social distancing requirements to support town centre activity and to provide local people with a clean, green and safe environment.</p>	
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# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

([www.warrington.gov.uk/changes-footways-and-cyclepaths-coronavirus-update](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/changes-footways-and-cyclepaths-coronavirus-update)). Therefore the projects addresses (i) town centre economic issues; (ii) health and wellbeing issues; and (iii) environmental targets.

## Comments

DT – Reference to the housing that will be built on the land of the old Bus Depot site should be included

SC – Need to strengthen up the link relating to housing and be more specific in the document

CN – Electric bus town: Is there a timeline on this project? BW confirmed the original DFT plan was to submit in June although this may be delayed so new timescale is not known at present.

AC – confirmed the project is still on track

4.3

## Health & Wellbeing

4.3.1

### **Project B: Health & Wellbeing Hub**

The hub would provide local residents with convenient access to the following services initially:

- Mental health provision, including low-level community intervention and prevention (24% of Warrington residents report low emotional wellbeing)
- Frailty – a combined assessment service for vision, ears, continence and foot care, with the added provision of a “pre-hab” service for people at risk of falls (Warrington is statistically worse than England as a whole for hospital admissions due to falls)
- Diabetes – an integrated service for assessment and treatment of diabetes and diabetes-related conditions (Warrington is an outlier for a number of “care processes” around diabetes treatment)
- Minor illness / injuries – triage, assessment and treatment  
A range of advice, signposting and delivery of other interventions, including exercise, obesity, and alcohol services delivered via primary care, social prescribers and voluntary sector partners (Exercise / Obesity: 70% of Warrington residents are overweight or obese; Warrington has a significantly higher number of alcohol-related conditions than England)

The hub service model is significant for conditions such as frailty and diabetes in the environment of Covid recovery. Both older people and those with diabetes are recognised as at higher risk of contracting Covid and having poorer outcomes if they do contract the virus. Provision of services for both groups within the community enables individuals to access services in a timely manner and in a convenient location and avoids the need for patients to visit a hospital.



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

4.3.2	<p><u>Comments</u>          SP: Confirmed economic strength will also be promoted in the TIP, albeit this has a H&amp;W link, it is about a healthy population in the town and a healthy workforce</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Arts, Digital &amp; Culture</u></p>	
4.4.1	<p><b>Project F: Digital &amp; Enterprise Hub</b>          The project will convert a Grade II listed building within the Bridge Street Conservation Area into a digital hub. This will have three functions: (1) support idea generation with research capability (Learn) (2) provide the tools to test the idea (Experiment) and (3) allocate incubator space to commercialise the idea (Employ).          The refurbished building will comprise a co-working area, a space for events and a lab. Short training programmes will be provided, with courses around STEM use, technology and business development so as to provide a fully-fledged accelerator space for entrepreneurs.          There is also the possibility to open the ground floor to visitors and make it a leisure destination in the town centre with exhibitions, cafes and conferences. More broadly, the project aims to increase the attractiveness of Bridge Street, which is located in the old part of the town centre, as the heart of Warrington’s Cultural Quarter. This means repurposing of further existing buildings and space for workspace on the street could be considered.          The hub will be aimed at all aspects of digital and disruptive technologies such as 3d printing, augmented reality and the 4IR. There will also be a focus on the gaming sector which is worth an estimated £123bn annually in the UK.</p> <p><u>Comments</u>          BC: Originally planned as one project. Projects F &amp; G are now split into two separate submissions</p>	
4.4.2	<p><b>Project G: Pyramid Remastered</b>          ‘Pyramid Remastered’ re-imagines Pyramid Arts Centre as an accessible, modern and flexible space for creative production, development, entrepreneurialism and industry growth. Pyramid will strengthen its position as a multi-disciplinary venue for the presentation of arts and culture, hosting high quality touring arts productions and presentation that inspire a love of culture and the arts. Alongside this, new focus will be on nurturing local creativity and accelerating talent development. Pyramid aims to be a home for Warrington’s creative community and a springboard for their careers – an environment that enables them to learn, collaborate and produce new and exciting multi-disciplinary work to be presented in a refreshed, fit-for-purpose and tech enabled venue.          There are two key strands: Programme development and creative engagement: Introduce a new management model which enables creative leaders to shape programming, form creative partnerships and collectively deliver the new aims</p>	



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

of Pyramid. Whilst overall management will remain with Culture Warrington, a new strengths-based partnership model will be developed, allowing for sector-led and dynamic programming and growth.

Building refurbishment: To enable the vision, the building requires capital investment to improve layout and functionality and support income generation to ensure sustainability. Investment will enable internal re-imaging focused on creating fit-for-purpose modern spaces that will enable delivery of the vision, including:

- Acoustic enhancements to allow flexibility of programming opportunities across multiple spaces.
- Reconfigure layout and increase capacity within main Performance Hall to create a much needed mid-level performance space (c.400 standing) and flexibility for creative development and workshop delivery.
- Improve technical facilities within performance and studio spaces to meet performance requirements, improve event production values and enable remote collaboration.
- Re-purpose under-utilised areas into flexible and digitally enabled 'Scratch spaces' and workshop rooms for practitioners to create and test new work, enable peer networking and deliver learning opportunities, both in location and virtually supporting national and international collaboration.
- Reconfigure Box Office, bar, entrance and circulation areas to create welcoming and flexible reception and exhibition spaces, including a small café/retail offer to enhance commercial income and establish Pyramid as a destination drop-in venue for informal and social meetings.
- Invest in energy efficiency improvements.

### Comments

NN: links between this Project and the college to be included. BC confirmed a note has been drafted back to SP/SF and will be included

DT: Training raised regarding forward futures. BC confirmed they are talking with them and have recently donated kit to them.

EB: Creative industry side raised, lacking on focusing down on the activities and the difference that will make creating the next cultural arts of the future.

Ludovico are a good example as a partnership model to take the building forward and make it a centre of creative development. Significant progress has been made on how this can be achieved. Clear outputs are included to hopefully demonstrate the growth expected.

NN: Interested to explore the skills piece within the project

BC: The link between Bridge St & Pyramid – worth looking at collaboration. Relationships are already in place



# WARRINGTON

Borough Council

5.0	<u>Next Steps</u>	
5.1	SB would like to thank Atkins for all their hard work. Atkins confirmed they have been working closely with WBC throughout the process and will be taking the views expressed today on board to include in the TIP.	
5.2	SP presented the process of the next steps contained in the government's Towns Fund guidance. We submit our final TIP on 31 July for Cohort 1 and then have up to 12 months to develop the detailed projects and business cases phase. The Chair asked for any comments. Both Warrington MP's were in agreement with the business case.	
6.0	<u>ARUP Feedback</u>	
6.1	Feedback was given by Kim Cooper. Warrington's TIP formal review will take place on Monday at 1.00 pm. A further meeting will take place following this to allow for a more detailed picture. There is a need to ensure both documents align and reflect. KC agreed both reports were well presented and read very well.	
6.2	SP confirmed once the review feedback has been received from ARUP then the updated document will be shared with the Board.	SP
7.0	<u>Any other business</u>	
7.1	SP: Confirmed any comments will be accepted until Next Wednesday 29.7.20. There is no further meeting currently scheduled in August, but if one is required then a meeting will be held second week in September to ratify the TIP.	