

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Crewe Town Board**
held on Friday, 1st December, 2023 at

PRESENT

Simon Yates (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)

Guy Kilminster, John Adlen, Rick Carter, Paul Colman, Jasbir Dhesi,
Sally Hepton, Doug Kinsman and Councillor Jill Rhodes

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Martin Wood, James Kelly, Steve McGlade, David Macneilage, Daniel Lindsay

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director of Place
Jez Goodman, Development & Regeneration Manager
Dr Charles Jarvis, Head of Economic Development
Matt Atkinson, Consultant in Public Health
Rhiannon Hilton, Communications Business Partner - Place
Sam Jones, Democratic Services Officer

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1 MINUTE)

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Davison (Chair),
Councillor Nick Mannion, Andy Butler, Lindsay Lewis, and Dr Kieran
Mullan MP.

Board Member Sally Hepton left the meeting at 11:30, at the beginning
Item 8, which resulted in the Board attendees falling below the quorum
level. As a result and, in line with the Crewe Town Board Terms of
Reference, the meeting carried on as an Informal Discussion and no
Formal Decisions were made.

58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (1 MINUTE)

There were no new or updated Declarations of Interest, other than those
already on file.

59 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (3 MINUTES)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2023 be approved as
a correct record. The chair went through a list of action from the previous
virtual meeting and updated members on the status of each action
accordingly.

60 TOWNS FUND PERFORMANCE UPDATE (45 MINUTES)

The Board received updates from Charles Jarvis, Head of Economic Development, and Daniel Lindsay, Ekosgen, and individual project sponsors, on several the Towns Fund Projects.

Flag Lane Baths – The Concrete Repair Survey had been complete which indicated that the building was stable. Construction was scheduled to being in January 2024, with completion October - December 2024.

Cumberland Arena – The planning application had been approved, and the projected had been re-costed to be affordable within the adjusted budget. The target delivery date was September 2025.

Mill Street Corridor – The planning permission was expected February 2024, with completion by September 2025.

History Centre Public Realm – Development agreement with the Courts had been completed and the project was working to a September 2025 completion date.

Crewe Warm and Healthy Homes – A dedicated Project Manager had been confirmed.

Repurposing our High Streets – A project manager was now in place, and the first grants had been awarded, and a marketing and communications agency was in place. A number of market units had recently been put up for sale by the owner.

Pocket Parks – Two projects were almost finished, with another two scheduled to finish in early 2024. Public consultation would begin in the New Year for the next stage.

Valley Brook Green Corridor – Surveys were underway, and the project team were exploring alternative routes to avoid building on a United Utilities pumping station. The Environment Agency were hoping to start river works in the New Year.

Youthzone – The site had been cleared and the related Public Rights Of Way amendment had recently been approved at Highways & Transport Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the updates be noted.

61 REVIEW/APPROVE THE DLUHC PERFORMANCE MONITORING FORM (10 MINUTES)

The Board received a briefing from Daniel Lindsay, Ekosgen, and Jez Goodman, on the six-monthly Crewe Towns Fund Performance Monitoring Form. All projects were expected to be completed by 31 March 2026 and significant progress had been made across a number of projects linked to their planning approvals, design, development and costing.

A Repurposing Our High Streets grant had awarded its first grants and the Pocket Parks projects had started work on the first four projects.

The Government decision to cancel HS2 north of Birmingham was having a significant effect on confidence in Crewe from perspective residents, businesses, and investors – the Council and partners were seeking support from the Government to help mitigate this.

The importance of progression and openness between Cheshire East Council, Crewe Town Board and Partners was noted.

RESOLVED:

That the DLUHC Performance Monitoring Form be approved by the Board.

62 MARKETING CREWE (10 MINUTES)

The Board received an update on Marketing Crewe from Paul Colman, Chief Executive of South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce.

A PR Officer had been appointed who will be creating a plan, strategy, and mission for Marketing Crewe.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

63 STRATEGIC UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL (10 MINUTES)

The Board received an update from Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director of Place, on HS2, Royal Arcade, and Crewe BID.

As a result of the letter sent from Cheshire East Council to Central Government regarding the cancel HS2 north of Birmingham, it was noted that the Secretary of State for Transport, Mark Harper, had written to Kieran Mullan MP, and Cheshire East Council had also received a letter from MP Huw Merriman, which lead to a phone call with Cheshire East Council Leadership. There was commitment from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the Department for Transport, to work with Cheshire East Council to mitigate the effects.

Regarding Royal Arcade, it was noted that further engagement will take place on the Phase 2 site.

The Crewe BID gained approval and will be progressed.

RESOLVED:

That the updates be noted.

64 LIVING WELL IN CREWE (30 MINUTES)

The Board received a briefing from Dr Matt Atkinson, Public Health Consultant, on the Living Well in Crewe report and the Crewe JSNA.

It was noted that there are opportunities in the Centre of Crewe to host medical facilities.

RESOLVED:

That the update and recommendations be noted.

65 SPORTS FUND (10 MINUTES)

The Board received a briefing from Guy Kilminster, Head of Health Improvement, on the Sports Fund.

It was noted that two Cheshire East Wards will be in receipt of funding.

RESOLVED:

That the briefing be noted.

66 UPDATE ON THE BASFORD DEVELOPMENT (10 MINUTES)

The Board received a briefing from Steve McGlade and David Macneilage, Cheshire Constabulary, on the new Basford development to accommodate the new Policing provision, including CSI and other ancillary works.

It was noted that there would still be a Crewe Town Centre premises, but on a smaller scale, to assist with the patrol of the Town Centre, and to host the helpdesk.

It is hoped that the new premises would also be able to house the team who are currently located in Winsford and would be completed building end of 2026.

It was noted that the importance of the communications surrounding the rationale of the premises move be explained clearly to Crewe residents.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

67 AOB (5 MINUTES)

Councillor Rhodes provided an update on the consultation on the Cheshire Archives Brand and informed the Board that a Naming Strategy would be held in early December 2023.

It was noted that John Adlen would be leaving Crewe Town Board on 31 December 2023.

68 FUTURE ITEMS (5 MINUTES)

To note future items for agendas:

February 2024:

Review of Crewe Town Board Terms of Reference (10 Minutes)

To annually review, make any amendments and approve the Crewe Town Board Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED:

That the future items be noted.

69 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting take place on 2 February 2024 commencing at 9.30am.

The meeting commenced at 9.32 am and concluded at 12.08 pm

Simon Yates (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)