

CREWE TOWN BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Key Objectives of the Crewe Town Board

- 1.1. The Crewe Town Board will provide expertise, guidance and support to all key stakeholders (including Cheshire East Council and Crewe Town Council) to:
- Set a Vision and Strategy to secure the long term economic, physical, environmental, cultural and social development of Crewe.
 - Agree an action plan which includes the short and medium-term actions required to deliver the Vision and Strategy
 - Inform any key investment and funding decision to be taken by any individual stakeholder in the town

2. Main responsibilities of the Crewe Town Board

- Develop a long-term vision, strategy and plan for Crewe
- Review and advise on any partner strategies and plans that relate to economic, physical and social development in Crewe.
- Consider and advise on funding applications that support the key objectives of the Board
- Ensure all strategies/plans and investment proposals are aligned
- Influence new proposals so that they maximise their contribution to the key objectives of the Board.
- Influence the development and delivery of sub-regional and national policies and programmes that have a bearing on the key objectives.
- Promote and market the town to residents, partners, businesses, inward investors and visitors (existing and potential)
- Build and maintain strong effective relationships with key local, sub-regional and national stakeholders to help secure further investment and ensure a positive impression of the town.
- Ensure appropriate engagement arrangements are in place with all stakeholders
- Specifically, to ensure the voice of all groups is fed in to the vision and its strategy and delivery e.g. young people, vulnerable groups, BAME community.

3. Scope

- 3.1. The focus of the Board will be on the urban areas of Crewe. However, in some instances it may be appropriate to consider Crewe as having a wider economic geography extending across south Cheshire and/or the CW postcodes.
- 3.2. The Board's remit shall encompass the economic, physical, environmental and social development of Crewe. For purposes of clarity this should include the following:
- Physical development including buildings and infrastructure
 - The retention and creation of jobs and increased productivity through Crewe's employers
 - The skills, education, aptitudes and experiences of people that live or work in Crewe
 - The physical built and green environment of Crewe
 - The public health and broader welfare of Crewe's residents.

4.0 Membership

- 4.1 The Board will comprise up to 17 members, reflecting the different types of stakeholders required to support effective working whilst representing the different interests of the town. These will include the MP for Crewe & Nantwich and representatives from Cheshire East Council, Crewe Town Council and Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 4.2 Organisations represented on the Board will determine and review their own appointments in accordance with their internal arrangements.
- 4.3 Individual members of the Board will be responsible for the induction of new members as appropriate.

5.0 Chair and Vice Chair

- 5.1 The Chair will, unless otherwise agreed, be elected for a period of three years but this will be reviewed annually by the Board.
- 5.2 The Chair should normally be a private sector representative.
- 5.3 The Vice-Chair may be from any sector.
- 5.4 In the event that the Chair resigns or is otherwise unable to continue in office, the Vice-Chair will perform the functions of the Chair until the Board has elected a new Chair.

6.0 Lead Authority and Accountable Body Arrangements

- 6.1 Cheshire East Council will be the Lead Authority and will carry out the role of Accountable Body for the Towns Fund.

7.0 Secretariat

- 7.1 Cheshire East Council will provide secretariat support for the meetings of the Board.
- 7.2 The Deputy Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council will act as Secretary of the Board for the purpose of co-ordinating advice to the Board.
- 7.3 The Head of Democratic Services and Governance of Cheshire East Council will be responsible for providing secretariat support for the Board.
- 7.4 Agendas and reports will be published at least five clear working days in advance of a meeting and sent to all members of the Board.
- 7.5 Agendas, reports and minutes will be published on the Council's website, and will be publicly accessible documents, subject to the requirements of confidentiality.

8.0 Board Meetings

- 8.1 To be quorate, two thirds of members must be present, of which two must be from the private sector. No decisions may be taken by the Board if a meeting is inquorate.
- 8.2 Substitute members at a meeting will not be permitted without the prior agreement of the Chair.
- 8.3 Meetings are to be held at least four times per year.
- 8.4 Minutes of the meeting will focus on actions rather than provide a record of all discussion points
- 8.5 The board may invite appropriate organisations/individuals to give presentations on priority issues
- 8.6 At every meeting, the chair will confirm: all decisions taken; actions agreed; and media messages.
- 8.7 Where a decision is required, the Board will try to reach a consensus view. Where this is not possible, there will be a vote. Each member of the Board will have one vote and matters will be determined by a simple majority of those present at the meeting. In the case of an equality of voting, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- 8.8 A matter needing board approval can be considered by exception by correspondence if the matter is time critical. A majority of the board will have to approve the matter and copies of emails confirming the position and any comments will be kept by the Secretariat. The matter will then need to be formally ratified at the next board meeting and minuted.
- 8.9 The Board will make its governance structures, profiles on key stakeholders, meeting agendas and minutes (in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972) evidence and any supporting documents for Town Investment Plans publicly available (e.g. through the website of Cheshire East Council).
- 8.10 Where it is necessary for a matter to be dealt with in confidence, all relevant papers will be marked as confidential and shall not be disclosed outside the Board.

9.0 Declarations of Interest and Conduct of Members of the Board

- 9.1 Members must declare a personal, pecuniary, prejudicial or other interest in any matter under discussion at a meeting and this must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 9.2 Declaration includes stating the nature of the interest.
- 9.3 Where a pecuniary or prejudicial interest is declared, the member in question must absent themselves from the meeting for that item and take no part in the discussion or voting.
- 9.4 Elected members of Cheshire East Council who sit on the Board are bound by the Council's Member Code of Conduct.
- 9.5 The Board will establish a register of interests to be completed by all members of the Board. The register will be maintained by the Lead Authority.
- 9.6 All members of the Board are expected to adhere to the Nolan Principles: The Seven Principles of Public Life:
 - Selflessness
 - Integrity
 - Objectivity
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Honesty
 - Leadership

10.0 Changes to the Terms of Reference

- 10.1 These terms of reference will be reviewed annually or sooner if deemed appropriate.
- 10.2 Any changes to the terms of reference must be approved by a majority of the Board's membership.

Annex 1 : Board structure and membership

The number of positions on any board has to balance the need for operational efficiency in considering issues and taking decisions, with the need to be inclusive of a wider range of interests. Given that Crewe Town Board's remit is principally advisory, rather than decision-making, and that development of Crewe covers such a wide range of issues, the Board has been established with 15 'fixed' positions.

The Board comprises the following mix types of members:

Sectoral (5)- to address requirements of the Towns fund requirements and to ensure that key strategic decision-makers are well-placed to advise and act upon the advice of the Board.

Thematic (7) – to ensure that all key issues relating to Crewe's functioning as a 'place' are considered, with a key focus on how these impact on its people, with relevant professional inputs from a range of local organisations (may be public, private or voluntary sector).

Skills-based (5) – to ensure it is utilising the broader skills/knowledge of the local business community. This should include the Chair of the Board.

In addition, officers from relevant organisations will also be invited to attend Board meetings as advisers, where appropriate.

The Board therefore comprises

Category A - Sectoral

1. Member of Parliament
2. Cheshire East Council: Elected Cabinet Member
3. Crewe Town Council: Leader
4. South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry
5. Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership

Category B – Thematic Representatives from

6. Education & Skills
7. Environment, housing, infrastructure and transport
8. Healthcare
9. Sport and Leisure
10. Culture
11. Local community
12. Young people

Category C: - Business/Commercial

Up to five individuals with skills from industry such as commercial operations, marketing, property, retail and hospitality.