

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Crewe Town Board**
held on Friday, 6th August, 2021 at Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Doug Kinsman (Chair)

Andy Butler, Rick Carter, Paul Coleman, Jasbir Dhesi, Reverend David Edwards, Sally Hepton, Guy Kilminster, Adam Knight, Councillor Nick Mannion, Dr Kieran Mullan MP, Councillor Jill Rhodes and Simon Yates

ALSO PRESENT

Lindsey Lewis, Pete Turner and Martin Wood

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rhiannon Hilton, Communications Officer
Dr Charles Jarvis, Head of Economic Development
Karen Shuker, Democratic Services
Peter Skates, Director of Growth & Enterprise
Carol Young, Policy & Partnerships Officer

39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1 MINUTE)

Apologies for absence were received from John Adlen, Mark Hills and Frank Jordan.

Prior to the start of the virtual meeting the Chairman informed the Board of the passing of William Warwick, a partner in Caudwell Associates who had previously worked with the Board. The Chairman had passed on the Board's condolences to the family.

The Chairman also wished to extend the Boards best wishes to Frank Jordan, Director of Places, who was due to leave Cheshire East Council at the end of the month.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (1 MINUTE)

There were no declarations of interest.

41 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS VIRTUAL MEETING (3 MINUTES)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the virtual meeting held on 2 July 2021 be approved as a correct record and the minutes from the informal meeting held on 21 July 2021 be noted. The Chair went through the list of actions from the previous virtual meeting and updated members on the status of each action accordingly.

42 TERMS OF REFERENCE (2 MINUTES)

Following the letter received from the MHCLG the Boards Heads of Terms would need to be reviewed to reflect the changing role of the Board in stage 2 of the TIP.

RESOLVED

That further discussions would be held outside of the formal Board meeting to progress this.

43 LEIGHTON HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH CARE PROVISION PRESENTATION (45 MINUTES)

The Board received a presentation from James Sumner, CEO of Leighton Hospital around the development of the hospital and surrounding areas. The presentation detailed the following areas:

- The vision for the hospital;
- The investment required;
- The case for change including improving staff and patient wellbeing, tackling health inequalities, the inadequate digital infrastructure and the high backlog of maintenance.
- Highlighting the opportunities it would open up;
- A summary of the design.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of

- What the Board would be able to do to help support the trust with the business case for its bid for one of 8 additional places on the Hospital Health Infrastructure Programme;
- Following the relocation of office space had sites been identified for drop in centres;
- What difficulties had there been in planning;
- What other benefits would it provide i.e employment opportunities, carbon neutral;
- During the segmentation exercise had the economic impact been taken in to consideration.

The Chairman offered to write a letter of support on the Board's behalf to support the Trust with its bid for funding and a petition had been put in place by Dr Mullan MP. The link would be circulated to Board members to access the petition.

The Board thanked James for his presentation.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted and that

- (1) The chairman to write a letter of support on behalf of the Board;
- (2) The link to the petition would be circulated to Board members.

44 TOWNS FUND PROGRESS UPDATE (15 MINUTES) - DK

Dr Charles Jarvis gave a verbal update on the progress of the submission of the Heads of Terms which had been signed and submitted to Government on the 5 August 2021.

There was a discussion in respect of what work was required to review the projects over the next 8 weeks. This would include meetings of the project sub groups, a workshop with project leads and Hatch. Following the initial sum of £5,000 which had been allocated for work with Hatch, a business case for additional funding had been submitted to Cheshire East Council to help support the work around the Assurance Framework.

Due to the shortfall in the funding that had been awarded it was suggested that as part of the review process of the projects, match funding would be explored to make up the shortfall, along with scalability and enhancing projects from other investors.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

45 LY2 UPDATE (10 MINUTES)

Adam Knight provided the Board with an overview of the Lyceum Square project design and timescales. It was reported that planning submission was imminent and pre-application discussions had led to the requirement to produce a Heritage Impact Assessment.

Following stakeholder engagement building works would commence in January 2022. To coincide with Easter holidays the reopening would take place on 17 April 2022.

Work with Crewe Town Council was underway to look at ways of animating the square in the mean time which included a programme of weekend activities, Art Trail and a Winter Wonderland.

Thanks was given to Crewe Town Council for their support, in particular the funding of the outdoor digital screen in the square which would showcase the towns events.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

46 SUB-GROUPS UPDATE (10 MINUTES) DK/SY

The Chair provided an update in respect of the Sub-Groups which included:

Transport Green & Blue Infrastructure Forum – The chair and vice-chair had now been appointed and the agenda for the next six months had been set.

Sports and Open Spaces Forum – This had been given the go ahead and writing out to individuals was a priority action.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

47 COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT SUB-GROUP UPDATE (5 MINUTES) DE

Reverend David Edwardes provided a verbal update on the work the sub group had undertaken which included

- looking at development of communications for each project and working with the individual groups.
- Publishing the TIP
- Stakeholder engagement – Reviewing the guidance for what was required for stage 2.
- Looking at how to engage with unsuccessful projects
- Updating the communications and engagement plan for stage 2
- Youth engagement – looking at ways to communicate authentically

Lindsey Lewis informed the Board that training would be offered around communications to ensure there was consistency with branding, this would be in the form of a workshop.

Stakeholder engagement would need to be meaningful and affordable as there was no budget allocated for this. It would inform the way projects would be delivered and form part of the monitoring and evaluation programme.

Following the submission of the Heads of Terms the Board were informed that the TIP would be published at the end of next week.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

48 STRATEGIC UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL (5 MINUTES) PS

Peter Skates provided a verbal update on the Royal Arcade. A presentation had been received by Peveril Securities which had been circulated to Board members detailing the progress that had been made. A revised plan would then go out to public consultation prior to it being heard at Committee in September.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

49 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (5 MINUTES)

RESOLVED

Due to time constraints it was agreed that this item would be discussed at the meeting of the Crewe Town Board scheduled for 3 September 2021.

50 AOB - (5 MINUTES)

Board Transparency

A discussion was held in respect of Board transparency. Although the Board wasn't part of Cheshire East Council it was acknowledged that as an accountable body, Cheshire East Officers working with the Board were funded by public money.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following

- Legal advice would be required as commercial sensitivity would need to be considered;
- What form of governance did other Town Boards follow;
- In addition to the minutes which were already published on the Cheshire East website would a question and answer session with Board Members be welcomed by interested parties around the work the Board undertakes;
- Media training would be welcomed by the Board;

RESOLVED

- (1) That Cheshire East Council officers write a report to be considered at the 3 September Crewe Town Board meeting around Board Governance and guidance;
- (2) That a question and answer session on stage 2 be organised with Board members once the TIP had been published.

51 DATE OF NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

That the date of the next virtual meeting take place on Friday 3 September 2021 commencing at 9.30am.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 12.05 pm

D Kinsman (Chair)