

Crewe Town Board

Agenda

Date: Friday, 6th December, 2024
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

1. **Apologies for Absence (1 Minute)**
To receive any apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest (1 Minute)**
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of Previous meeting (3 Minutes) (Pages 3 - 10)**
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous virtual meetings held on 01.11.2024 and 13.11.2024.
4. **Towns Fund Performance Update (15 Minutes)**
To receive an update on the Towns Fund projects.
5. **Strategic Update from Cheshire East Council (15 Minutes)**
To receive a Strategic Update from Peter Skates, Director of Growth and Enterprise.
6. **Midlands-North West Rail Link Project (15 minutes)**
To receive an update on the Midlands-North West Rail Link Project from Connor Naismith MP.
7. **AOB (5 Minutes)**
8. **Date of Next Virtual Meeting**
To confirm the date of the next meeting as 03.01.2025 commencing at 09:30am.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Crewe Town Board**
held on Friday, 1st November, 2024 at Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Tony Davison (Chair)
Simon Yates (Vice Chair)

Andy Butler, Paul Colman, Jasbir Dhesi, Guy Kilminster, Councillor Nick Mannion, Connor Naismith MP, Rick Carter and Graham McKnight

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Turner, Lindsay Lewis, Helen Paton, Damon Taylor Chief Executive of the OPCC, Dan Price Police and Crime Commissioner

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director of Place
Charles Jarvis, Head of Economic Development
Jez Goodman, Development and Regeneration Manager
Frances Handley, Democratic Services Officer

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1 MINUTE)

Apologies for absence were received from Doug Kinsman, Councillor Jill Rhodes, Sally Hepton, Kate Blakemore.

Councillor Nick Mannion was present from 09.45.

48 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (3 MINUTES)**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 04.10.2024 be approved as a correct record.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (1 MINUTE)

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

50 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (30 MINUTES)

The Board welcomed Dan Price, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

The Commissioner provided an overview on the work he had undertaken since becoming the Commissioner, which included: -

- Visiting the nine local policing unit
- Appointing two Deputy Commissioners to enable work to be undertaken at pace
- Visiting the Operation Hummingbird team
- Launching a Citizens' Assembly in the Crewe Local Policing Unit jurisdiction area
- Launching a new community fund - The SWAP Fund - Safety, Working Together, Action and Prevention, which was funded from the proceeds of crime

The relocation of the Crewe Policing Unit was discussed, and the Board emphasised the importance of maintaining a police hub in Crewe Town Centre

51 VALLEY BROOK PROJECT (15 MINUTES)

The Board received an update on the Valley Brook Project, from Chris Greenhalgh, on the options and next steps following the consultation.

A presentation was shared and it was agreed for the officers to explore various further options.

52 CUMBERLAND ARENA (15 MINUTES)

The Board received an update on the Cumberland Arena Project, from Dominic Crisp. A presentation was shared and it was noted that key deadline dates need to be met to ensure the progression of the project.

The Police and Crime Commissioner suggested joining up from a crime prevention perspective and to engage in conversations with the project team.

53 CREWE STEP CHANGE: MAKERFEST & CREATIVE HUB (10 MINUTES)

The Board received presentation on the Crewe Step Change: Makerfest & Creative Hub, from Helen Paton.

It was agreed that the presentation would be shared with the board.

The board agreed to join the Crewe Step Change consortium and would share the relevant information on the website.

54 TOWNS FUND PERFORMANCE UPDATE (15 MINUTES)

It was agreed that the presentation slides would be circulated to Board Members.

It was reported that delays to work on the Youth Zone were due to BT OpenReach not allowing the contractors to start on site. The matter had been raised with BT and a response was awaited from them.

55 STRATEGIC UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL (15 MINUTES)

The Board received an update from Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director of Place, on:

- Government's proposals for Devolution
- HS2 and the recent press surrounding this. This would be discussed at the December board meeting
- Cheshire East Council's financial position
- The opening of the Gypsy and Traveller transit site in Middlewich

56 AOB (5 MINUTES)

The following were raised under AOB:

- A new book, the first in a series, had been published called 'A Crewe Book of Days Part 1 Spring' by Mike Christelow on Crewe heritage with stories on events and people
- Crewe Town Council had been approached by a lecturer from Birmingham University, who was undertaking research on the impact of the cancellation of HS2 (phase 2). If there was anyone interested in speaking with them then to contact Simon Yates
- The Crewe Christmas Lights switch on would take place on 30th November

57 DATE OF NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

That the next meeting be confirmed as 13.11.2024 commencing at 12.00pm.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 11.30 am

Tony Davison (Chair)

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Crewe Town Board**
held on Wednesday, 13th November, 2024 at Virtual Meeting via Microsoft
Teams

PRESENT

Tony Davison (Chair)
Simon Yates (Vice Chair)

A Butler, R Carter, P Colman, S Hepton, G Kilminster, Councillor N
Mannion, Councillor J Rhodes, K Blakemore and G McKnight

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Turner

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Charles Jarvis, Head of Economic Development
Jez Goodman, Development and Regeneration Manager
Sam Jones, Democratic Services Officer

58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1 MINUTE)

Apologies for absence were received from Jasbir Dhesi, Martin Wood and
Peter Skates.

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (1 MINUTE)

There were no declarations of interest.

60 TOWNS FUND SIX-MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (30 MINUTES)

The Board received a presentation and update on the sixth-monthly Towns
Fund performance report for April 2024 - September 2024 from Daniel
Lindsay, Ekosgen, and Jez Goodman, Development and Regeneration
Manager.

Programme Level Considerations

The approval of PAR3 to remove Flag Lane Baths and reallocate its
funding to the remaining projects had reduced previously identified cost
pressures across the programme and provided an opportunity to reprofile
expected spend, which had reduced the forecast underspend for the latter
part of the programme.

Programme Level Risk Register

It was noted that some projects faced significant issues with relation to cost inflation, but there were mitigations in place to attempt to address these.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of the United Kingdom (MHCLG) RAG rating criteria differed from the standard approach. A project could be rated 'red' even when they continue to be deliverable within the towns fund programme period. On this basis, a number of schemes were identified as 'red' even where the view is that projects are on-track to deliver within the programme period and there were no serious concerns regarding affordability.

Project Level Updates

Cumberland Arena – Scheduled to complete by September 2025. Additional funding would allow for four sets of changing rooms to be included. There was a requirement to provide a sub-station for Scottish Power on site.

Mill Street Corridor – Scheduled to complete by September 2025. The project would deliver 0.7km of cycle ways.

Warm and Healthy Homes – Total number of homes included in the project was not currently confirmed and may be reduced from the original.

History Centre Public Realm – Scheduled to complete by March 2026.

Repurposing Our High Streets – Scheduled to complete by March 2026. Uptake in the projected to date had not been at the anticipated levels.

Pocket Parks – On track to deliver within the programme schedule. Two pocket parks were complete and there was an expectation to start two more ahead of schedule.

Valley Brook Corridor – Scheduled to complete by December 2026. There were potential implications on the provision of the cycle route.

Youth Zone – Additional funding had been allocated to the scheme. Scheduled to complete by March 2026. There would be 40 volunteer roles created at the Youth Zone.

It was noted that all projects were all on track to be completed within the funding period, and the vast majority of the Towns Fund allocation was due to be delivered within the next year.

RESOLVED:

The Chair agreed to approve the performance report.

61 AOB (5 MINUTES)

The Board were updated that there would be a Crewe Summit Roundtable on 06.12.2024 which the Chair would be present at.

The Board were updated that Motherwell would be presenting their research project findings on 12.12.2024 and it would be shared with the Board.

62 DATE OF NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting be confirmed as 6 December 2024 commencing at 9.30am.

The meeting commenced at 12.00 pm and concluded at 12.45 pm

Tony Davison (Chair)

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