

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)