

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Crewe Town Board**
held on Friday, 7th July, 2023 at Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Andy Butler, Rick Carter, Paul Colman, Jasbir Dhesi, Doug Kinsman (Chair)
Councillor Nick Mannion, Dr Kieran Mullen, Councillor Jill Rhodes and Simon Yates

ALSO PRESENT

Ellie Cox, Peter Turner, Lindsay Lewis

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director – Place
Dr Charles Jarvis, Head of Economic Development
Jez Goodman, Development & Regeneration Delivery Manager
Rhiannon Hilton, Communications Officer
Karen Shuker, Democratic Services Officer

Prior to the business meeting starting, the Chair informed the board that Carol Young, Cheshire East Council's Policy and Partnerships Officer had retired from the Council. The board thanked Carol for the support she had provided to the board and the communications subgroup and wished her all the best for the future.

As Cheshire East Council were the accountable body for the Towns Fund the board expressed their concerns and acknowledged the challenges facing Cheshire East Council now following the vacancies that had arisen at a senior leadership level.

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1 MINUTE)

Apologies for absence were received from John Adlen, Sally Hepton, Guy Kilminster, Mark Hills and Martin Wood.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (1 MINUTE)

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

12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (3 MINUTES)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the virtual meeting held on 2 June 2023 be approved as a correct record. The chair went through a list of actions from the

previous virtual meeting and updated members on the status of each action accordingly.

13 TOWNS FUND PROGRESS UPDATE & PROJECT REVIEW (30 MINUTES)

The board received an update which included the positive progress with the following projects:

- The planning application for Crewe Youth Zone had been successful
- Crewe Youth Club and Mirion Street planning application had been submitted and a consultation event would be taking place in July.
- Repurposing High Streets had given its first grant scheme out – and a Programme Manager been successfully appointed.
- The History Centre had some final conditions to finalise with Planning then hoardings would be erected with demolition works expected to start on the old library and Undercroft car park in August.

The board discussed what its role would look like now that the projects were moving into the delivery phase. It was agreed that the structure of the board would be reviewed and that the board required more detail on the projects to ensure it could provide adequate oversight and scrutiny so that the projects had impact. It was suggested that this may be in the form of board members being assigned one or two projects to allow them to get to know them in detail.

Officers would also have a look at how they report back to the board in a sufficient way now that projects were entering the delivery phase.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

14 STRATEGIC UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL (1 HOURS 10 MINUTES)

Peter Skates, the Director of Growth & Enterprise attended the meeting and gave a verbal update from Cheshire East Council.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

15 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT SUB-GROUP UPDATE, INCLUDING MARKETING CREWE (10 MINUTES)

The board received an update from Paul Coleman, South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce in respect of the requirement for an independent

'organisation' to be established to provide marketing and communications for Crewe. A more detailed plan and timeline would be presented to the board in due course and a working group was to be set up to discuss how the marketing vehicle would be developed.

It was requested that when looking at communications and key milestones it would be useful to have a forward look at communication milestones so that preparation could be done for events such as ministerial visits, requests for quotes etc.

A media release in respect of the Chair of the Board stepping down and details of the recruitment drive had gone out and board members were asked to share this with their networks.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

16 AOB (5 MINUTES)

Ellie Cox, Area Coordinator, Cities & Local Growth Unit announced that she would be leaving her current role in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The Chair congratulated Ellie on her promotion and thanked her for the support she had provided to the board.

17 DATE OF NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

RESOLVED

That the date of the next virtual meeting take place on Friday 4 August 2023 commencing at 9.30am.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 12.10 pm

Councillor D Kinsman (Chair)