

WREXHAM CITY BOARD

MINUTES from Wrexham City Board (WCB) Meeting

24th September 2025 (deferred from 19th September)

Documents referenced: Board Papers Pack and Meeting Slides

(Hybrid Meeting – IP = In Person and OL = Online)

ATTENDEES

Name	Role	Representing
Graham Williams (OL)	Vice Chair / WCB Member	Wrexham Community & Cultural Trust
Daniel Edwards (OL)	WCB Member	Senedd yr Ifanc Wrexham
Dawn Roberts-McCabe (OL)	WCB Member	AVOW
Jamie Edwards (OL)	WCB Member	Wrexham AFC
Nicholas Lock (OL)	WCB Member	Royal Welsh Fusiliers, British Army
Andy Dunbobbin (OL)	WCB Member	NW Police and Crime Commissioner
David Clarke (IP)	WCB Member	Proxy for Moss Garde, Wrexham University
Ian Edwards (IP)	WCB Member	Service Sector in Wrexham
Andrew Ranger (IP)	WCB Member	Member of Parliament for Wrexham
Jess Tyrer (IP)	WCB Member Support	With AR (as above)
Caroline Bennett (OL)	WCB Member Support	Support with Senedd yr Ifanc
Emily Reddy (OL)	WCB Member Support	Wrexham Multicultural Hub
Spencer Harris (IP)	WCB Guest Contributor	Wrexham Civic Leaders Group
Lisa Scully (IP)	WCB Programme Support	WCB Programme Manager
Andrew Harradine	Advisor to WCB	Wrexham CBC (Programme Support)
Ian Jones	Advisor to WCB	Wrexham CBC (Programme Support)
Mike Corcoran	Advisor to WCB	MA Corcoran (Programme Support)
Owen Davies	Advisor to WCB	Owen Davies Consulting
Adam Greenwood	Advisor to WCB	Owen Davies Consulting
Trupti Patel	Advisor to WCB	Our Future

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Vice Chair, Graham Williams (GW) welcomed all present and shared thanks with Natalie Edwards for all her support to the Board, as she leaves her post. GW shared the Board's best wishes with Rachel Clacher (WCB Chair), who had to send apologies for the meeting.

Further apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Williams, Dr Faye Wheldon, Simon Ellis, Cllr Mark Pritchard, Steven Peacock, Freya Groom, Sam Regan and Nigel Hughes.

2. BEING BOLD

(See photos on slide no. 3)

Emily Reddy (North East Wales Community Cohesion) shared feedback from the 'Cultural Communities' event which took place in Coleg Cambria on 18th September, with over 120 attendees from across all of Wrexham's communities.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

(See pages 3-7 of WCB Board Papers and actions summarised on slide no. 4)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Jess) and seconded (Ian).

With regards to ongoing actions, the Board were given updates with regards to the 'WrexChange' event (with an intention to deliver in November) and their new website (with an intention to launch in October).

4. PROGRAMME MANAGER UPDATE

(See slides 5 -8)

Lisa Scully, the new programme a manager, was welcomed to the Board, and introduced her background, experience, and the roles and responsibilities associated with the new Programme Manager position.

5. PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

(a) Draft Plan for Neighbourhoods

(see pages 8-64 of Board Papers Pack)

Owen Davies (Advisor to the Board) provided a detailed overview of the Board's Draft 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' document. Key points:

- Comprehensive document outlining Wrexham's vision, evidence base, priorities, and proposed interventions
- Focuses on 4 key pillars: young people, city centre safety/public realm, transport/connectivity, and cultural/economic growth.
- Aligns with UK government priorities of thriving places, stronger communities, and local control.
- Extensive community engagement has informed the plan's development
- Flexibility built in to adapt over the 10-year program period

It was stressed that this is not a commissioning plan (committing the Board to specific spend with specific contractors/partners) but rather a plan presenting a clear vision, priorities and direction of travel.

ACTION: *Board members were encouraged to further review the draft plan following the meeting and provide feedback to Owen and Adam on by end of week.*

Question	Response
Spencer – Very clear. On page 32 further examples could include Wrexham Uni Campus 2025 investment, and Kellanova £75M investment (at Wrexham Industrial Estate).	All points acknowledged.
Trupti – How is sustainability factored into the plan (e.g. how would wardens be funded beyond the confines of this plan).	Owen – The fund (10 years) by definition is long-term – from a funding perspective as sustainable as it comes. But it's a fair question and some projects (e.g. youth zone) are being developed with route to long-term financial sustainability in mind.

Question	Response
Andy – Wrexham Uni have been awarded a piece of work regarding the effectiveness of CCTV (in Wrexham and beyond). Report is to be concluded by March 2026. Working with Wrexham AFC on a 3-year programme 'Street Dragons'. Further opportunities relating to wider police precept.	All point acknowledged.
Dawn – If Owen can contact Dawn she will ensure third sector is appropriately represented / supported through the plan (including for example, through the proposed 'Wrexham Fund'. Also keen to ensure values of WBFGA and our 'Welshness' are conveyed.	All point acknowledged.
Ian – Re. Youth Zone, where is progress at (including regarding securing match funding).	Owen – 3 working group meetings have taken place (or relevant local stakeholders), and OnSide have developed a business case for a potential Youth Zone for Wrexham. OnSide are now preparing a paper which will be brought to the Board, and will contain information regarding costs. Expectation is for WCB to fund 50% of £8M capital investment for build. Operational costs estimated to by £300K/PA. This is based on successful funding model employed across 12 other Youth Zone sites in the UK.
Faye (in absentia – shared by Lisa) – Are we looking at active travel options (within transport)?	Owen – Yes we are.

(b) Investment Plan Structure (Years 1 -4)

(see pages 65-66 of Board Papers Pack)

Adam Greenwood (Advisor to the Board) provided an update regarding the spend forecast relating to the draft 'Plan for Neighbourhoods', inclusive of all projected 'revenue', 'capital' and 'capacity' funding. Key points:

- Total £20 million program funding over 10 years, with £7 million in first 4 years
- £5.3 million capital funding available in first 4 years
- £4.5 million proposed for youth zone project, £800k for other youth facilities
- £1.35 million revenue funding available in first 4 years
- Proposed allocations for crime prevention, cultural initiatives, and board management costs

The forecast was presented as a 'reasonable starting point' and it was stressed that this would be expected to evolve through delivery.

Question	Response
Ian – Re. Youth Zone, how far away from me are we from identifying sites (etc.). How far are we along that journey. Are we on track for opening in 2029?	Owen – 2029 remains the ambition. WCBC are supporting site appraisal. No final decision is made on a site as yet. However, the current four-year period is inclusive of the time required to secure a site etc. Broadly speaking everything is pointing in the right direction.

Question	Response
Things have been announced and not happened in Wrexham in the past.	<p>Adam – We're awaiting a business case to be provided by OnSide. UK Government understand that big capital project's take time, and there would be scope for timescales and details to change following submission of the plan to UK Government if required.</p> <p>Trupti – UK Government have suggested funding can be rolled over from one year to another if necessary.</p>
Spencer – Have we built procurement inflation risk into projections?	<p>Owen – The fund and headline investment plan are headline figures and inflation will need to be examined at the individual project commissioning level.</p> <p>Adam – the £20M doesn't grow with inflation so front-loading provides greater value.</p>
<p>Andrew – Track record of delivery in Wrexham is improving. In this case getting the right site is key.</p> <p>OnSide's model is predicated on a clean site. We may wish to explore alternatives (i.e. re-purposing existing properties).</p> <p>UK Government have provided new information regarding how submissions will be assessed. We will need to demonstrate 50% spend by Year 7 and 25% spend by Year 4. Even if we don't forecast until Year 7 we will want to demonstrate that we are anticipating this.</p> <p>In terms of the spending profile – WCBC are comfortable, but in terms of existing project, we need to demonstrate spend (or de-commit existing budgets).</p> <p>At this moment in time, UK Government are considering an MOU for money to move from Government to WCBC (as Accountable Body).</p> <p>A coordinated response (Board, MP, WCB) regarding importance of multi-year funding commitment would be welcomed.</p>	All point acknowledged.

6. WREXHAM CITY BOARD BUDGET

(see page 67 of Board Papers Pack)

Lisa Scully (Programme Manager) provided an update the Board's current budget and spend. Andrew Harradine advised that underspends within the existing budget would require board approval to be de-committed and re-committed. Graham agreed that all current underspends should be decommitted.

Question	Response
Ian – Until Governance processes are established we don't have a procedure in place for voting and approving. And if we do have to publish minutes, could that create issues (if a full process is not in place).	Andrew – Government requirement is 'consensus approach' – with no official quorum requirements. But the issue is right to be flagged.
Mike – Is the Board happy to extend the budget for the forthcoming youth event from £4,900 to £6,038? (As a max spend).	Graham – Unless there are objections, we can proceed.

ACTION *All Board members to be supplied with proposed approach for budget underspend, through which agreement can be made.*

DECISION *Approval granted for additional Youth Event spend (up to £6,038 as required).*

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked members for their participation, and the meeting was closed.

Next meeting date to be confirmed (for review and approval for finalised draft plan prior to its submission).

Since the meeting this has now been confirmed as 4-5 pm on Tuesday 21st October 2025. The meeting will take place via MS Teams. A calendar invite was circulated on 29th September.

ADDENDUM

On Thursday 25th September, WCBC received notification via a UK Govt press release about a Pride in Place Fund allocation of £1.5 m, in addition to the £20 m allocated through the Plan for Neighbourhoods process.

On 30th September a Prospectus for this fund was made available via [Pride in Place Impact Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#). Upon reviewing this, it does appear that this is an allocative grant made to Councils, rather than a formal / direct addition to the existing £20 m Plan for Neighbourhoods, and therefore it is not under the purview of the City Board. A verbal update with regard to this will be given at the WCB meeting on 21st October.

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