

MINUTES AND ACTIONS

ATTENDEES

Board members:

Name	Organisation
Rachel Clacher	Moneypenny - Chair
Moss Garde (on behalf of Joe Yates)	Wrexham University
Hannah Lloyd	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Ian Edwards	Wrexham Business Professionals
Nigel Hughes	Caia Park Partnership
Graham Williams	Community Cultural Trust; Sports Wales
Jamie Edwards (on behalf of Michael Williamson)	Wrexham AFC
Reverend Canon Jonathan Smith	Christians Together in Wrexham
Katherine Prince (on behalf of Dawn Roberts-McCabe)	AVOW
Emily Reddy (on behalf of Iolanda Banus)*	Race Council Cymru/North East Wales Multicultural Hub
Nigel Williams*	Wrexham County Borough Council
Andrew Ranger (and Jess Tyrer)	Member of Parliament for Wrexham
Caroline Bennet*	Supporting youth members of Senedd Yr Ifanc
Steven Peacock	Coleg Cambria

*Joined on Teams

Technical advice and support to Board:

Name	Organisation
Andrew Harradine	Wrexham County Borough Council
Killian Troy-O'Donovan	Our Future
Owen Davies	Owen Davies Consulting
Mike Corcoran	Independent Researcher and Consultant
Natalie Edwards	Wrexham University Civic Mission

NOTES

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Rachel Clacher (RC) welcomed all present and online.

2. ACTIONS AND UPDATES

Action updates were distributed within the agenda, prior to the meeting.

Katherine Prince informed the group that the Get Ready for Funding event, taking place on 8th May at the Maes Gwyn Hall, had recently launched and 57 attendees had already signed up.

Action – Members to share the event with relevant parties. Email to be sent by NE.

3. WREXHAM CITY BOARD – A REVIEW

EXPLORING OUR LEADERSHIP ROLE

RC recapped the role and mission of the board (slides 4 – 9). Mike Corcoran (MC) explained the board structure on slide 10, using the WrexFactor and Just One Thing as examples of workshops and proposed 3 super groups comprised of local partners representing:

- Children & Young People
- Multicultural communities
- Engagement practitioners

The purpose of the supergroups will be to bring their expertise and lived experience to improve board proposals, propose new ideas to the board and ultimately, give them a voice.

It was confirmed that participants within the super groups had not been fully mapped out but it was stated that groups would be member led, and membership would be as inclusive as possible.

It was queried whether a third party could be awarded a financial grant in order to facilitate the super group discussions. Andrew Harradine (AH) confirmed that WCBC would work towards spending the money as agreed by the board.

AH mentioned the following points in relation to procurement and the boards funds:

- Procurement rules had changed across the UK in February 2025 resulting in a different and slightly longer process.
- Engagement work will run for 10 years.
- A further £200k of capacity funds will be released once the paperwork is sent in from the Board and approved by UK government.
- There is a retained balance from the previous year.
- £200k capacity funding doesn't have any restrictions but it may need ring fencing as capacity funding will cease in the future with only revenue funding remaining.
- Council procurement procedures are the only option at the moment.
- £120k of spend has already been approved by the board, currently £70k of that spend has been actioned by procurement.

Action – to investigate costs for the super groups and deliver proposal to the board for sign off.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURES

RC explained that Killian Troy O'Donovan (KTO) from Our Future has a lot of experience with governance and creating community structures and has been asked to create a plan. KTO discussed legacy, impact and what will happen after the 10 years is complete. The timeline on slide 11 was discussed. Establishing a governance taskforce would allow the board to investigate the number of legal structures that are included in the new prospectus from the UK Government. A number of members present, volunteered to join the task force – Graham Williams, Moss Garde, Ian Edwards, Andrew Rayner. It was suggested that Dawn Roberts McCabe would wish to be involved.

AH raised that additional guidance is due from UK Government.

Andrew Rayner volunteered to speak to other MP's to investigate what is happening elsewhere.

Action – anyone interested in joining the governance taskforce, please email wrexhamcityboard@wrexham.ac.uk

Action – RC to speak to individual members and key organisations, about the action piece now that the board is one year on, from the original plan.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS BOARD

RC explained that the board need to agree and send some information to the UK Government. MC asked the group to use their phones and connect to a Mentimeter poll asking a series of questions in regards to preferences about the meetings.

Results

- Wednesdays and Fridays preferred days to meet
- Morning meetings between 9-12noon preferred
- Papers to be sent a week before meetings
- Preferred activities were structured debates, guest presentations, formal votes, workshop activities, time for networking
- Custard creams were the preferred biscuit with Shortbread and Jaffa cakes as runners up.

MC explained that Mentimeter (or a similar poll software) would be used in the future to facilitate voting for the board in the future. MC reminded the group that members could contact him with ideas on how to improve the productiveness of the meetings.

A discussion was had on ways to improve the meetings, and the following will be actioned.

Action -

- A list of current members to be circulated to board members
- Confirmation of whether substitutes can be sent to meetings
- A list of meeting dates to be organised and sent in advance

4. YOUTH ZONE DISCUSSION

RC recapped the visit to the Youth Zone and the robust discussion on a Wrexham version, which was held at Wrexham University on 3rd April 2025. A potential Youth Zone would need to be accessible for every child in Wrexham and created in collaboration. The On Side model was discussed with pro's and cons identified, and it was agreed that due diligence was needed to identify the right site and model.

RC asked the board if an options appraisal could be commissioned. AGREED by the board.

Jamie Edwards suggested a mapping exercise regarding other organisations priorities towards children and young people. Transport was discussed and it was suggested that Transport for Wales could come in and speak to the board, regarding the £22 million which will be spent in Wrexham and Future. It was agreed that the options approval be completed, followed by a roadmap and consultation with children and young people.

Action – invite Transport for Wales to a future meeting.

Action – create a working group for the Youth Zone exploration work and send dates out for a future meeting.

Action – Owen Davies & David Fitzsimon to investigate costs for an options appraisal.

5. PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Owen Davies (OD) presented slides 13 – 17 to the board.

Key points

- From April 2026, there will be £7.5 million over 4 years provided to the Board.
- The Board can borrow against the Government's commitment.
- £200k is available for further consultation and planning through capacity funding.
- The previous plan can be shared to members.
- Winter 2025 is the deadline listed by UK Government, so 1st December has been selected as the hard deadline.

Action – Original plan submitted to the former Government, to be shared to members.

AH confirmed that the board could submit information to the UK Government after 22nd April however this will delay the capacity funding being received.

RC asked if the board were happy with the timeline proposed on slide 14. AGREED by the board.

CHAIR & VICE CHAIR ROLES

RC was nominated to remain as Chair of the Board, by Nigel Hughes and seconded by Andrew Rayner. AGREED by the board.

It was noted that Graham Williams had put himself forward as Vice Chair.

RC proposed and Andrew Rayner seconded Graham Williams becoming Vice Chair. AGREED by the board.

MEMBER LIST

AH explained that Government guidance had set out, the types of representative organisations and the board already had an approved list but that new organisations had joined in the meantime. It was agreed a single, up to date list was needed. AH suggested that the board detail that it is a core hub of well connected members, committed to working with other trusts and groups who are specialists and aligned to some of the new priorities.

Action – reconfirm the list of current members and send to UK Government.

BOUNDARIES

RC explained that the prospectus 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' received from the current UK Government, has a slightly different focus to the previous Governments 'Long Term Plan for Towns'. RC informed the group that Caia Park Partnership had written to a number of individuals regarding the difference of focus, who had in turn contacted RC, asking for the board to revisit the boundary to include Caia Park. RC explained that one of the Board's principles was a city centre first approach, as a thriving city centre benefits many communities.

OD discussed slide 15, taken from the original action plan submitted in July 2024 to the previous UK Government. It was explained that the city centre was represented by pink shading and the wider, dashed red line was the 'Built Up Area'. The Built Up Area was identified by the Office of National Statistics. Within the plan, the board detailed how they wanted to focus on the city centre but also retain flexibility to support areas within the BUA to support initiatives such as improved transport. OD highlighted that the new prospectus had a larger scope with eight target themes (slide 16) and AH reminded the board that it was not compelled to work on all 8 themes.

The proposal currently remains that the board retains the 'city centre first' approach but with flexibility to be involved in, and help support, initiatives in the built up area which included Caia Park. AH also highlighted that this only related to the geographical spend of the £20 million from the Government programme and that the board could be flexible in spending monies secured from elsewhere. The board has the ability to have wider ambitions and support projects in other areas, by resourcing in different ways. A thorough discussion was had regarding how the pink area was defined, whether it could be removed or altered.

It was confirmed that the Minister supported the original submission and by altering the boundary, this would result in a delay to capacity funding being released.

Nigel Hughes (NH) asked that Caia Park (Community Council and Caia Park Partnership) be included in the boundary, due to its high level of deprivation and included in discussions about how to tackle deprivation.

NH asked if the next board meeting could be held in Caia Park. AGREED.

Owen confirmed that the board has the flexibility to include communities such as Caia Park, Offa etc that falls within the dotted line on the map (Built Up Area).

RC agreed to visit and meet with the Community Council.

The Youth Zone was used as an example that if it was to be located 100m outside of the city centre area, it would be submitted in the final plan, with the evidence base, to the council in November and then submitted in December. Positive and clear communication to the public was agreed as vital, going forward.

RC asked the board whether it should continue with the current boundary plans and focus its investment on the city centre as previously defined, but the board retains the opportunity and flexibility to do more, outside of the area. It was agreed that the board could revisit the conversation if and when needed.

The boundary remaining unchanged, was proposed by Ian Edwards and seconded by Graham Williams. AGREED by the board.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wrexham City Board

Board Meeting 12 – 4th April 2025

MC and NE will propose 1 year's worth of meetings, members to accept and reject meeting dates asap and any that the majority can't attend, will be rearranged.