

WREXHAM CITY BOARD

Wrexham City Board (WCB) meeting on Microsoft Teams

Wednesday 28th January 2026 4.30 - 6 pm

ATTENDEES

Name	Role	Representing
Rachel Clacher	Chair / WCB Member	
Graham Williams	Vice Chair / WCB Member	Wrexham Community & Cultural Trust
Lt Colonel Nicholas Lock	WCB Member	Royal Welsh Fusiliers, British Army
Dawn Roberts-McCabe	WCB Member	AVOW
Daniel Edwards	WCB Member	Senedd yr Ifanc
Isobel Glover	WCB Member	Senedd yr Ifanc
David Clarke	WCB Member	Wrexham University
Ian Edwards	WCB Member	Service Sector in Wrexham
Steven Peacock	WCB Member	Coleg Cambria
Nigel Hughes	WCB Member	Caia Park Partnership
Caroline Mullen-Hurst	WCB Member	Wrexham Police
Dr Faye Sheldon	WCB Member	Public Health Wales / Betsi Health
Alex Jones	WCB Member	Business Improvement District
Aidan Miller	WCB Guest Contributor	Wrexham AFC (on behalf of Michael Williamson)
Amanda Evans	WCB Guest Contributor	Wreccsam 2029

Technical Advice and Support

Lisa Scully	WCB Programme Support	WCB Programme Manager
Ian Jones	Accountable Body	Wrexham CBC (Programme Support)
Andrew Harradine	Accountable Body	Wrexham CBC (Programme Support)
Mike Corcoran	Advisor to WCB	MA Corcoran (Programme Support)
Owen Davies	Advisor to WCB	Owen Davies Consulting (Programme Support)

These minutes are a summary record of discussion, decisions and actions arising.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Rachel Clacher (RC), welcomed attendees and reflected positively on the recent WrexChange Strategic Partners event and the collaborative energy across partners. She highlighted that 2026 marks a transition from planning into delivery and outlined the agenda focus areas:

- Pride in Place / UK Government clarification process
- Community Engagement
- Youth Zone site options

- Programme Manager update

For the benefit of new attendees – Caroline Mullen-Hurst (Wrexham Police) and Aidan Miller (Wrexham AFC) – each attendee introduced themselves by providing their name and which organisation / partnership / sector they were representing.

2. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from:

- Andy Dunbobbin
- Nigel Williams
- Freya Graham
- Andrew Ranger
- Mark Pritchard

It was noted by Rachel Clacher that Sam Regan may also join later if able to.

No declarations were made at the start of the meeting, however, during the Community Engagement / Wrexham Room discussion:

- Andrew Harradine (AH) (Council / Accountable Body) declared an interest as the accountable body representative and operator of Tŷ Pawb, noting that financial processing would flow through the Council.
- David Clarke DC) (University representative) declared an interest as an employee of the University connected to the Wrexham Room research project.

Both continued to provide factual clarification but did not influence the final decision where a conflict was present.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved - Ian Edwards (IE) proposed the previous minutes as a true and accurate record. Nick Lock (NL) seconded.

Update on the actions arising from the previous meeting were confirmed as follows:

Actions arising from previous meetings	Date of meeting	Status
RC to attend a future WCBC Scrutiny Committee on behalf of the WCB during 2026, following final approval of the plan from UK Government in April 2026 and final spend decisions being agreed by WCB.	21 st October 2025	Not started as final approval for plan not yet received.
The Chair to formally write to key partners to enquire about possible land sites that might be available.	28 th November 2025	Completed in December 2025
LS to liaise with DG from Public Health to arrange their support in facilitating a health impact assessment session.	28 th November 2025	Completed – exploratory meeting took place on 20 th January 2025.
LS to enable review as part of the Governance and PM Framework development (in relation to SE stepping down and having educational representation in future governance structure)	28 th November 2025	Ongoing at moment

4. PRIDE IN PLACE – UK GOVERNMENT PROCESS (Verbal Update)

The purpose of this item is to update the Board on the UK Government moderation and clarification process in relation to the draft plan that has been submitted. Lisa Scully (LS) reported that:

- The submitted plan passed initial checks.
- Clarifications had been requested in the last 2 weeks but were non-material and focused on evidencing existing content.
- Additional documentation was being uploaded to the online portal.
- Delegated authority agreed at the meeting on 28th November 2025 (Chair and Vice Chair to sign off non-material amendments) would apply.
- A formal moderation panel review was imminent.

RC asked whether further input was required from Board members. LS confirmed no further input was required at this stage.

LS to continue liaison with UK Government and update the Board if there are any further clarifications.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2026-2030

The purpose of this item is to seek approval of the engagement approach for 2026 – 2030 and a specific funding allocation.

LS presented the key points from the report that had been shared with the Board in advance of this meeting:

(a) Proposed engagement approach is a flexible “menu” of engagement activities for the Board to choose from on an annual basis, that would allow responsiveness and inclusivity. Supported in principle by the Board.

(b) Wrexham Room Initiative – Funding Request (£9,142.63):

- Nigel Hughes (NH) questioned whether this was a one-off payment and raised concerns about value for money and budget pressures. LS confirmed it was intended as a one-year contribution. RC acknowledged scrutiny was appropriate.
- Dawn Roberts-McCabe (DRM) raised concerns about accessibility to this initiative outside daytime hours. Mike Corcoran (MC) explained the space would mainly align with venue hours but could be supplemented with pop-ups and peripatetic engagement.
- IE asked for clarity on costs and contractual arrangements. LS confirmed the Board contribution related only to the first year’s physical space costs. MC clarified that universities were contributing approximately £100 k in staffing and research resource.
- Faye Sheldon (FS) requested clearer articulation of expected outcomes and added value. RC proposed circulating further written clarification post-meeting.
- NL supported approval in principle but noted the importance of stronger detail for future financial decisions.
- AH suggested the Board approve in principle, with the accountable body providing formal assurance and reporting back.

(c) Future Engagement Delivery Costs - LS confirmed that broader 2026/27 engagement delivery costs would be brought forward in March as part of a consolidated programme resourcing report.

Actions

- AH to provide written assurance and clarification.
- LS to circulate additional project information and mapping to Board principles.
- MC / DC to invite the lead academic researcher for the initiative to a future meeting.

Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that the Wrexham City Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the proposed approach to community connection and engagement for 2026–2030, presented as a flexible menu of engagement activity and building on principles previously agreed by the Board. 2. Approves the funding allocation of £9,142.63 for the Wrexham Room initiative to support engagement activity from April 2026. 3. Notes that engagement delivery costs for 2026/27 will be brought forward for consideration as part of the programme resourcing report in March 2026.
WCB Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved – Flexible menu-based engagement approach. 2. Approved in Principle – £9,142.63 Wrexham Room contribution, subject to accountable body assurance. 3. Noted – Engagement delivery costs to be presented in March.

6. PROGRAMME MANAGER UPDATE

The purpose of this item was to provide the Wrexham City Board with an overview of Programme Manager activity undertaken since the previous update presented at the Board meeting on 28 November 2025.

LS highlighted the following from the report that had been provided to the Board in their papers:

Governance & Programme Framework

- Draft operating model nearing completion.
- To be scrutinised by Governance Sub-Group in February and presented to the Board in March.

WrexChange Strategic Partners Event

- Reported as a success with 65 attendees.
- RC emphasised strong cross-sector collaboration and positive feedback.
- Public WrexChange event is proposed for May – volunteers from the Board were invited to support the planning process for this.

DRM described the event as “brilliant but intense,” highlighting the benefit of filming.

RC reinforced the importance of energy and visibility.

Key Meetings & Partnerships

- LS outlined brief details about meetings undertaken with cultural, health, ageing well, and community organisations.

IE asked how engagement would reach less confident young people and minority communities. MC responded that the engagement menu included youth-led groups and partnerships with culturally embedded organisations.

Action

- LS to circulate PDF copy of slides from the event and continue to seek volunteers to support planning process for a public WrexChange event.

Recommendation	It is recommended that the Wrexham City Board notes the progress made since the previous update report provided by the Programme Manager.
WCB Decision	Update noted with appreciation.

7. YOUTH ZONE SITE OPTIONS UPDATE (Verbal)

The purpose of the item was to provide the Board with an update on where the site identification process was at.

RC introduced the item and asked Owen Davies (OD), who was undertaking the site analysis on behalf of the Board, to provide an update.

OD summarised the following:

- The position had improved from one potential site to two or three viable city-centre options.
- Commercial and partnership sensitivities limited detail at this stage.
- A fuller briefing was expected within weeks.

IE expressed concern regarding transparency and the need for sufficient information for Board scrutiny. OD reassured that temporary confidentiality related to partner permissions, not lack of trust.

IJ added that governance and land ownership procedures required discretion at this stage.

DRM suggested that if detail could not be shared, updates should remain high-level.

Action

- OD and IJ to return with fuller site options and detail when available.

Recommendation	It is recommended that the Wrexham City Board note the verbal update provided.
WCB Decision	Update noted. No formal decision.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Community Engagement Inclusivity

IE reiterated the importance of reaching under-represented groups. MC responded that youth groups, multicultural hubs and third-sector partners were already being engaged, with further expansion planned.

Amanda Evans (AE) confirmed ongoing collaboration with LS and alignment with cultural consultation activity.

Next Meeting:

3 March 2026 – 4:30 – 6.30 pm

Venue: Stori Brymbo (site visit opportunity noted)

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