

# WREXHAM CITY BOARD

## MINUTES from Wrexham City Board (WCB) Meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 4-5 pm

Online MS Teams

### ATTENDEES

Name	Role	Representing
Rachel Clacher	Chair / WCB Member	
Graham Williams	Vice Chair / WCB Member	Wrexham Community & Cultural Trust
Isobel Glover	WCB Member	Senedd yr Ifanc Wrexham
Dawn Roberts-McCabe	WCB Member	AVOW
Jamie Edwards	WCB Member	Wrexham AFC
Freya Groom	WCB Member	Student Union - Wrexham University
Andy Dunbobbin	WCB Member	NW Police and Crime Commissioner
David Clarke	WCB Member	Wrexham University
Ian Edwards	WCB Member	Service Sector in Wrexham
Andrew Ranger	WCB Member	Member of Parliament for Wrexham
Steven Peacock	WCB Member	Coleg Cambria
Cllr Mark Pritchard	WCB Member	Wrexham CBC – Lead Councillor 1
Cllr Nigel Williams	WCB Member	Wrexham CBC – Lead Councillor 2
Dr Faye Sheldon	WCB Member	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Jess Tyrer	WCB Member Support	With MP for Wrexham
Caroline Bennett	WCB Member Support	Support with Senedd yr Ifanc
Emily Reddy	WCB Guest Contributor	Community Cohesion / Multicultural Hub
Spencer Harris	WCB Guest Contributor	Wrexham Civic Leaders Group

### Technical Advice and Support

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

## 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Chair, Rachel Clacher (RC) welcomed all and shared her personal thanks for all best wishes in recent weeks.

Apologies were received from Daniel Edwards, Sam Regan, Nicholas Lock and Nigel Hughes.

RC confirmed that no declaration of interests had been received for this meeting.

## 2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and accepted as a true record – proposed by IE and seconded by GW.

Update on the 2 actions arising from the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September were confirmed as follows:

Action arising from previous meeting	Status
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.	Complete
All Board members to be supplied with proposed approach for budget underspend, through which agreement can be made.	Ongoing <i>(to be provided at meeting on 28/11)</i>

## 3. “WORKING TOGETHER” PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Included in the Board papers, WCB Members were provided for consideration and approval a document setting out the partnership arrangements, necessary to ensure effective management and delivery the Vision Statement of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme in Wrexham.

The document is structured around the programme guidance issued by the UK Government through the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, [Plan for Neighbourhoods - GOV.UK](#) which sets out the roles and responsibilities of the parties.

GW explained that a draft version of this document had been reviewed in detail by the WCB Governance Group, from which feedback and proposed amendments had been given to AH. These had been incorporated into the final version that was being shared with the Board today.

Following its approval, this document will form part of the wider suite of previously approved policies and documents that are in place to ensure the effective governance of the Wrexham City Board.

A present position audit against the requirements outlined in this agreement will be undertaken in due course by the Wrexham City Board Programme Manager (LS) and Wrexham CBC Lead Contact (AH). Recommended actions to address areas identified for development, will be shared with the Governance Sub Group for their review and consideration prior to sharing with the Wrexham City Board.

RC invited WCB Members to approve the recommendation stated in the item cover note and shared in the MS Teams chat function:

<b>Recommendation</b>	It is recommended that the Wrexham City Board approve and adopt the document that sets out a partnership approach between Wrexham County Borough Council and Wrexham City Board.
<b>WCB Decision</b>	Approved by consensus agreement

#### 4. PRIDE IN PLACE – GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT

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. An addendum to the Board minutes from 24<sup>th</sup> September was included as initial update to WCB Members about this. Further guidance and information regarding this funding has since been provided and AH confirmed the following:

UK Government has announced the Pride in Place programme, which sees a further increase in places added to what we have been calling the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. This does not affect Wrexham's inclusion or commitment to the £20 m investment over 10 years. Wrexham should continue to progress its Neighbourhood Plan for submission by 28 November, as per guidance. It is likely that there will be a more formal re-brand for the existing places at some point, and suggestion is that if the Board wishes to retain the reference to Plan for Neighbourhoods at this time, it could also reference Pride in Place as a sub-text.

Also announced was the Pride in Place Impact Fund. This is separate to the £20 m committed through Plan for Neighbourhoods, and it will be administered by the Council. Officers are currently engaging with UK Government on the finer details and as more guidance is issued, then political discussions take place on how the £1.5 m awarded to Wrexham will be used. The funding is split £750 k in 25/26 and £750 k in 26/27. A forecast report is required to be submitted to UKG in February 2026 to confirm arrangements. There are three priorities: Community Spaces, Public Spaces and High Street and Town Centre Revitalisation.

#### 5. PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

OD updated the Board on activity undertaken since the draft Plan for Neighbourhoods was circulated, presented, and discussed by the Board at the 24<sup>th</sup> September meeting, a small number of non-material comments were received and incorporated into the revised version that was being presented today

OD also confirmed that draft had been shared with the UK Government Communities Directorate for informal review, which provided positive feedback and suggested a few minor improvements that have since been addressed.

The Plan had additionally been discussed with Wrexham Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and the draft version was presented to the Council's Executive Board for agreement and endorsement on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

OD reminded and reassured those present that the plan was not a commissioning document and therefore non-binding. The Plan provided the high-level vision and ambitions of the WCB and outlined how these might be achieved. OD stated that following approval and submission of the Plan, the next steps of the Board were to focus on moving from planning to delivery phase, with priority being given to the operationalisation of Youth Zone project group to support WCB decision making in respect of this ambition and subsequent mobilisation when funding is made available by UK Government late March / early April 2026.

MP and NW were invited by OD to provide feedback on behalf of the WCBC Exec Team following its consideration of the draft PfN at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

MP thanked the Board for its work and encouraged members to keep focused as it had been. MP stressed that it was the WCB plan and that WCBC would sit alongside the board, working through things together as a true partnership.

NW echoed what MP had said and highlighted that overall, the plan was received positively. NW highlighted that there had been some negativity in relation to the make-up of the board and confirmed there was a request from some non-exec members for the Plan to come to Scrutiny Committee.

IE asked if concerns had been raised by a particular Exec Board member.

NW responded that 1 or 2 members had commented that the make-up of the board was elitist and in response to this he had robustly defended the integrity of the Board and all of its members.

It was agreed that a focus on promoting the visibility and activity of the PfN was needed.

AH highlighted as a reminder that UK Government guidance had decided the boundary with regards to the PfN.

MP stated that there only 1 or 2 voices that were vocal at the Exec Board meeting and that the plan was fully supported and endorsed. MP noted positively that we were ahead with the plan's development and submission in comparison to other places.

RC advised that she would be happy to attend a future Scrutiny Committee meeting to talk about the Board and the PfN.

MP thanked RC and suggested that this would be good to do after the Board had made its spend decisions.

RC invited WCB Members to approve the recommendation stated in the item cover note and shared in the MS Teams chat function:

<b>Recommendation</b>	It is recommended that the Wrexham City Board formally approve the finalised Plan for Neighbourhoods for submission to UK Government.
<b>WCB Decision</b>	Approved by consensus agreement

**ACTION:** 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.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RC thanked all Board Members for their time and contributions.

RC confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 1 – 4.30 pm. The first part of this would be workshop sessions so the Board could consider its next steps as it moves from planning to delivery phase, as well as considering future opportunities. There would be a 1-hour meeting slot at the end for formal Board business items.

IJ wanted to note how well the Board has done to get to this point and the attendance and engagement from all. IJ thanked the Board on behalf of himself and AH and also his predecessor DF.

**END OF DOCUMENT**