



**REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER**

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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NELSON TOWN DEAL – BOUNDARY EXTENSION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To ask that an extended boundary for the Nelson Town Deal is put forward to Government for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee agree to put forward a revised Town Deal boundary for approval by the Cities and Local Growth Unit at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To agree and define the boundary upon which the Town Investment Plan and subsequent potential Town Deal for Nelson will be based. To ensure that all potential assets and opportunities for investment and growth are included.

Background

1. At its meeting in November 2019, it was reported to this Committee that Nelson was one of 100 towns being invited to develop proposals for a Town Deal.
2. A Town Deal is an agreement in principle between Government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board. The 'Deal' will establish the Government's in principle agreement to provide up to £25mill of funding from the Towns Fund in order for a number of strategic

regeneration/ growth projects to be delivered, overseen by the Town Deal Board.

3. The overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth, through:
 - **Urban regeneration** – ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work by, e.g. strengthening cultural and economic assets, site acquisition, preparation, remediation and / or development,
 - **Skills and enterprise infrastructure** – e.g. driving private sector investment and small business development, ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development,
 - **Connectivity** – improving transport networks and digital connectivity.
4. In order to agree a Town Deal, Town Deal Boards must prepare a Town Investment Plan. This should set out a clear vision and a strategy that will set the direction for the economic turnaround of the town over a decade, including economic recovery from the current COVID crisis. The Plan must be based upon robust evidence of need and opportunity, should reflect local priorities and be designed with the involvement of local businesses and communities.
5. The Nelson Town Deal Board was established earlier this year following the agreement of this Committee. The Board has now met 4 times and is working well.

Town Boundary

6. When the Towns Fund prospectus was launched in November last year, the Government used data from the Office for National Statistics to define the boundaries of each town. It was acknowledged that there was scope for this boundary to be amended, subject to a sound rationale for doing so and Government approval.
7. At the last meeting of the Nelson Town Deal Board, amendments to the boundary for Nelson were discussed. The Board has put forward a recommendation to this Committee that the boundary is revised in line with the plan in Appendix 1.
8. The amendments include an extension of the boundary to take in both Lomeshaye (existing estate and proposed extension) and Whitewalls Industrial Estates. The estates are on the edge of Nelson and provide major employment opportunities. Around 3,500-4,000 people are currently employed in Lomeshaye with a further 1500-1600 jobs expected when the extension of the estate is fully delivered. Whitewalls employs around 1700 people. As these are key centres of employment in the local area, and are on the edge of the existing boundary, it seems appropriate to include them.
9. Additional areas are also included around Seedhill, Victoria Park and Halifax Road, where there are sites owned by Pendle Council and Lancashire County Council that may be suitable for investment over the period of the Town Investment Plan.
10. Including these additional areas would mean that there is the opportunity for Towns Fund to be invested in them in the future, if it was felt appropriate. This would be considered as part of the development of the Town Investment Plan and project proposals.

11. It is therefore recommended that this Committee agree to this revised boundary being put forward to Government for approval. This will provide the basis for all future work on the Town Investment Plan.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Town Investment Plan for Nelson will set a clear vision and a strategy for the economic growth of the town over the next decade. The Plan will be focused upon the area within the agreed town boundary.

Financial: Investment from the Towns Fund can only be made within the agree town boundary, therefore it is important that due consideration is given to the boundary at this stage in the Town Deal process.

Legal: None as a result of this report.

Risk Management: None as a result of this report.

Health and Safety: None as a result of this report.

Sustainability: Town Investment Plans will be guided by sustainability - economic, social and environmental. 'Clean growth' is also a core principle of the Towns Fund and will be considered as part of the development of the Town Investment Plan.

Community Safety: None as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity: None as a result of this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Plan of proposed additional areas for Nelson Town Deal boundary

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS