

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 3rd JULY, 2020**

PRESENT

S. Barnes (Chairman – in the Chair)

<i>A. Stephenson MP</i>	<i>Member of Parliament for Pendle</i>
<i>Councillor M. Iqbal</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor D. M. Whipp</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor Z. Ali</i>	<i>Nelson Town Council</i>
<i>A. Melton</i>	<i>Lancashire Enterprise Partnership</i>
<i>C. Bennett</i>	<i>Positive Action in the Community</i>
<i>C. Smith</i>	<i>Pendle Engineering Ltd.</i>
<i>K. O' Connor</i>	<i>Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</i>
<i>H. Murray</i>	<i>Department for Works and Pensions</i>
<i>D. Gordon</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>
<i>R. Bashir</i>	<i>Building Bridges</i>

Officers in attendance:-

<i>D. Langton</i>	<i>Chief Executive, Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>J. Whittaker</i>	<i>Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager, Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>N. Watson</i>	<i>Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager, Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>J. Stockton</i>	<i>Senior Regeneration Officer, Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from A-M. Parkinson, P. Hartley, S. Burns, D. Mendoros and Councillor N. Ahmed.)



1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any interest they had on any item of business on the agenda.

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the minutes of the 29th May and 4th June 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. TOWNS FUND FURTHER GUIDANCE AND PROPOSED BOUNDARY REVISION

J. Whittaker presented a report that summarised key points from further Government guidance on the requirements of the Towns Fund which had been issued on 15th June. Members were asked to agree a range of actions to progress towards a TIP. Also to consider revising the boundary for the Town Deal, which was set out at Appendix 2

(Nelson Town Deal 03.07.2020)

The new guidance stated that to take account of Covid 19 the deadlines for the Town Investment Plan (TIP) submission had been pushed back. All towns would now be expected to include in their evidence base how Covid had impacted on the town so that the strategy and projects would respond to future challenges.

Appendix 1 of the report set out the two phase process for bids. There were three dates for TIP submissions, July, October 2020 and January 2021. If not successful first time, then there was one further chance of submission. Officers wanted to delay the submission until January 2021 to give the best chance to put forward a well-evidenced proposal. Some Members thought it might be better to send it in October, if it could be ready in time, to give the opportunity of bidding a second time.

The guidance set out that the overarching aim of the Towns Fund remained sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth – inclusive growth where all sections of society could benefit from the growth achieved and clean growth. Officers were already in discussion with LCC about the new “Active Travel” funding available for walking/cycling initiatives/projects.

The report also looked at the option of revising the boundary for the Town Deal to include Lomeshaye and Whitewalls Industrial Estate, something that had been requested at the February meeting. As key centres of employment in the local area, and on the edge of the existing boundary, it seemed appropriate to include them. It proposed that additional areas around Seedhill and Halifax Road be included, as there were sites within the area that were owned by Pendle Council and Lancashire County Council that might be suitable for development of the period of the Town Investment Plan. It was also suggested that Victoria Park should be included, so that any opportunities for improving public green space could be optimised.

AGREED

- (1) That the Towns Fund Guidance be noted and reports submitted to future meetings on a revised Terms of Reference for the Board, development of the Town Investment Plan and project priorities.
- (2) As part of a broader commission for Pendle, that a piece of research work be commissioned to understand the impact of Covid on Nelson and how Towns Fund could support the town's recovery.
- (3) That a timetable of actions for developing the Town Investment Plan be brought back to the next Board Meeting on 31st July to decide whether to submit the Plan by October 2020 or January 2021.
- (4) That, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board, Pendle Council commission any further work required to develop an evidence base that meets the requirements of the guidance.
- (5) That C. Smith, P. Hartley, Councillor Z. Ali and one of the new Members from the Youth Council work with Pendle Council officers to develop a Community Engagement Strategy.
- (6) That Pendle Council's Policy & Resources Committee be recommended to agree that the Town Deal boundary be revised to include all of Lomeshaye and Whitewalls Industrial estates, some areas around Seedhill and Halifax Road owned by PBC and LCC and Victoria Park, prior to submitting the request for Government approval.

(Nelson Town Deal 03.07.2020)

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Invitations had already been sent out for the next meeting on 31st July to be held at a later time of 2.00pm. The Youth Service had been asked to nominate 2 representatives to sit on the Board and they would be invited to this and future meetings.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that the Government had announced an early advance of £96m for the Town Deal. Pendle Council had received a letter indicating that £750k was available for Nelson, requesting acceptance and details of how the funding would be used by August, and the money spent by the end of the year. The Chairman welcomed the early spend and momentum by government.

6. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

AGREED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business on the grounds that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information which was of a commercially sensitive nature.

7. FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND SUBMISSION FOR NELSON

An update on the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) bid for Nelson was submitted for information.

The business case had been submitted to Government on 22nd June. The total cost of the final scheme amounted to £27.3m. This was made up of funding from the FHSF and other public and private sector sources.

The methodology for appraising the schemes was very challenging. 50% of the assessment was based on Value for Money using the calculation of a benefit cost ratio (BCR) devised by HM Treasury. This considered the monetised benefits of a scheme and the uplift in land value resulting from the investment. In areas like Pendle where land values were relatively low compared to other parts of the country this made achieving a good BCR difficult.

The submission made it clear that the scheme had significant non-monetised benefits given the extent of public realm improvements and the proposed new “offer”.

It was expected that the outcome of the bid would be known in late summer.

AGREED

That the report be noted.