

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

PRESENT

S. Barnes (Chairman – in the Chair)

<i>Councillor M. Iqbal</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>Councillor D. M. Whipp</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>C. Bennett</i>	<i>Positive Action in the Community</i>
<i>D. Mendoros</i>	<i>Pendle Vision Board</i>
<i>C. Smith</i>	<i>Pendle Engineering Ltd.</i>
<i>A. Melton</i>	<i>Lancashire Enterprise Partnership</i>
<i>D. Gordon</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>
<i>R. Bashir</i>	<i>Building Bridges</i>
<i>P. Hartley</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>
<i>L. Newby</i>	<i>Hatch</i>
<i>D. Wisner</i>	<i>Hatch</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>J. Stockton</i>	<i>Senior Regeneration Officer, Pendle Borough Council</i>
<i>S. Madigan</i>	<i>Pendle Leisure Trust</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from A. Stephenson, T. McDonald and H. Murray.)



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 7th August 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN TIMETABLE/WORKPLAN

J. Whittaker submitted a report outlining the timetable and workplan for submitting the Nelson Town Investment Plan by the end of January 2021. The key stages of work for developing the Plan within this timeframe was set out at Appendix 1. It included a schedule of Board meetings for the next few months and allowed for 3 key phases of stakeholder engagement.

AGREED

(Nelson Town Deal Board 04.09.2020)

That the timetable and the key stages of work for developing the Town Investment Plan be agreed.

4. TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN CONTEXT ANALYSIS

L. Newby from Hatch gave a presentation on their approach to developing a successful Town Investment Plan and the key milestones to its submission. She picked out some of the main socio-economic headlines for Nelson building a picture of the people who lived in the town: their skills; the labour market; employment and business composition; well-being; housing; use of the town centre; and digital connectivity. She also touched on the recent high level of economic exposure as a result of Covid-19. There was a summary of some of the strengths and opportunities, weaknesses and threats to emerge from this initial work. More detailed information would be sent to Members in the next few weeks.

The Board was asked if they felt this picture captured the opportunities and challenges facing Nelson. Members felt it was important -

- To evidence the huge impact Covid was having in the borough that was starting to emerge – the loss of skilled jobs in the area and the effect this would have on the supply chain. Also that it should focus on youth employment and highlight the poor digital connectivity coverage and importance of superfast broadband/full fibre going forward. Digital poverty was a challenge.
- That the Plan show that PBC had a history of working in partnership to deliver projects that had brought benefits to the town – the regeneration of terraced houses in Whitefield Conservation Area was a good example, showing that terraced housing was not necessarily a negative. Also the Ace Centre.
- To highlight the town's outstanding N&CC – this was a real asset. It was important to raise aspirations, provide opportunities for young people to be better skilled, go on to have better jobs and improve their quality of living, without needing to move out of the area. Connectivity in terms of road and rail would play a key role along with employment sites, giving businesses the space they needed to grow.
- For Nelson to have a unique identity in the cluster of towns in East Lancashire, if possible.
- For the Town Deal to restore pride and a sense of community in the town and bring a confidence to the area.

AGREED

That the key headlines be noted and Hatch take on board the above comments.

5. DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

L. Newby from Hatch gave a presentation on developing a Strategic Framework for the Town Deal that would present Nelson's medium and longer term ambitions and key ingredients for achieving them. A vision and strategic objectives that could be measured and aligned with the focus for Town Deal investment needed to be agreed.

The vision and objectives taken from the Draft Nelson Masterplan Options Paper were used as a starting point for discussion. Hatch suggested that the vision needed to be more ambitious and

(Nelson Town Deal Board 04.09.2020)

more closely aligned with Town Deal themes. Also that there were too many objectives and some gaps e.g. on local transport, and the digital offering.

Board Members were asked to what extent they met Town Deal guidance and responded to identified need and opportunity. Some of the points made were as follows -

- It was important to think about what was having a detrimental impact on the town that could be stopped as well as what could be done to make improvements
- Active travel and public transport needed a mention
- Also, skills levels and education needed improving, though there was some business excellence in the area
- The possibility of Nelson providing something unique or different, although it was recognised this might be difficult to achieve
- Residents needed to be engaged with the Plan and should be something that they could feel part of and proud of.

AGREED

That Hatch pick up the points raised in the discussion, refine a vision and 8-10 objectives for the Strategic Framework; and that they be tested in the wider community.

6. BUILDING THE FINAL PROJECT LONG LIST AND THE DRAFT PROJECT PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK

J. Whittaker submitted a report outlining the approach to developing and prioritising projects for the Nelson Town Investment Plan. The Board had already started to develop a list of potential projects which would need funding from a variety of sources.

Hatch had proposed an appraisal and prioritisation framework. This was a two stage process involving an initial 'sift' of potential projects requiring Towns Funding, followed by a more detailed assessment to help arrive at a shortlist. This showed that 15 project ideas passed this initial sift with a good balance across Town Deal themes and were worthy of developing in more detail.

It was pointed out that there was still time to add a project, if it was felt that something had been overlooked. It was suggested that there was a project around adult learning/reskilling that could be worked up. Once the final list had been agreed, concept forms would be developed by a nominated project sponsor.

The Board discussed some of the key factors to consider when prioritising projects. These included:

- Deliverability. Land use/housing values
- Need for diversification in employment sectors, moving away from the dependence on manufacturing
- Access to new jobs - good, well-paid jobs
- Cohesion, celebration of the diversity of cultures in Nelson
- Social value in its widest sense.

AGREED

- (1) That the approach to developing and prioritising projects outlined in the report be agreed and the findings of the initial project 'sift' be noted.

(Nelson Town Deal Board 04.09.2020)

- (2) That consideration be given to adding a project around adult learning/reskilling.
- (3) That the concept form be finalised and circulated so that the Board could see the level of detail that was required prior to the shortlisting taking place.

7. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that future meetings would be held at 10a.m. on the following days –

Friday 25th September, 2020

Friday 23rd October, 2020

Friday 20th November, 2020

Friday 18th December, 2020

Thursday 21st January, 2021