

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 2020**

PRESENT

S. Barnes (Chairman – in the Chair)

Members of the Board

<i>A. Stephenson</i>	<i>Member of Parliament for Pendle</i>
<i>Councillor M. Iqbal</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council (PBC)</i>
<i>Councillor D. M. Whipp</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor Z. Ali</i>	<i>Nelson Town Council</i>
<i>C. Smith</i>	<i>Pendle Engineering Ltd</i>
<i>A. Melton</i>	<i>Lancashire Enterprise Partnership</i>
<i>C. Bennett</i>	<i>Positive Action in the Community</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>H. Murray</i>	<i>Department for Works and Pensions</i>
<i>K. O'Connor</i>	<i>BEIS</i>
<i>A. M. Parkinson</i>	<i>LEP</i>

Consultants

<i>L. Newby</i>	<i>Hatch</i>
<i>W. Temple</i>	<i>Hatch</i>
<i>E. Wright</i>	<i>Hatch</i>
<i>L. Quinn</i>	<i>Nichols/Towns Hub Co-ordinator</i>

Officers in attendance:-

<i>D. Langton</i>	<i>Chief Executive, PBC</i>
<i>J. Whittaker</i>	<i>Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager</i>
<i>J. Stockton</i>	<i>Senior Regeneration Officer, PBC</i>
<i>S. Madigan</i>	<i>Pendle Leisure Trust</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator, PBC</i>



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 23rd October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DEVELOPING THE SHORTLISTED PROJECTS

L. Newby gave a presentation on progress in developing a successful Town Investment Plan (TIP) for Nelson.

Since the last meeting, further suggestions for how the vision could be shortened/simplified had been considered and were now reflected in the following updated vision -

“A healthy, vibrant and confident town fulfilling its role as a key centre; offering high quality services, aspirational education, diverse employment and housing opportunities; all set within safe and attractive spaces which inspire and energise our residents.

Nelson is a town proud of its social and industrial heritage, inspiring landscapes, and multi-cultural identity.

Together we will build a future everyone can aspire to, underpinned by inclusive and sustainable growth and community involvement.”

She invited comments on a further draft front cover for the TIP following comments made at the last meeting. Members thought that it might be better to omit the 3 words highlighted at the top of the page – proud, multicultural and inclusive - keeping the front page simple. There was also a consensus that the current photograph would be better represented with a more striking photograph of Pendle or alternative visual. The emerging banner was well-received.

L. Newby and W. Temple talked Members through the following 8 shortlisted projects which totalled £26,950,000 –

• Pendle YES Hub	£700,000
• Advanced Digital Hub and Skills Academy	£2,000,000
• Healthy Town	£2,500,000
• Accessible Nelson	£7,000,000
• This is Nelson (arts, culture and leisure project)	£1,000,000
• Modernising Nelson’s Industrial Potential	£3,250,000
• Repositioning Vacant and Under-used Sites and Premises	£8,500,000
• Business Resilience and Growth	£2,000,000

A template had been produced for each project and working groups were busy developing them further building the strategic and economic case, and detailing the outputs and outcomes. A brief summary was included in the presentation.

There was broad approval for all of the projects. In respect of the Pendle Yes Hub, Members thought that more work was needed on the Hub’s location and its name. Also, that it might require more funding to provide the right facility/environment for young people.

Members agreed that consideration should be given to the inclusion of a statue in the arts project to celebrate the life of Learie Constantine, Lord Constantine of Nelson, the first Black Life Peer.

A. Stephenson MP suggested that house building on some of the vacant and underused sites in Nelson would be crucial to the bid and bring in money from Homes England. Providing good quality housing on brownfield sites was very much on the Government’s agenda.

Members thought that the Business Resilience and Growth project needed to be rolled out at the very start of the Town Deal and that whilst start-up companies, new businesses and the creation of jobs would be good for Nelson, the investment should not overlook existing businesses with ambition, where expansion could also bring jobs and inward investment. It was felt that more funding should be put into this project which was crucial to the local economy. The proposed grant

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intervention rate could also be difficult for some companies. L. Newby said that the group would also seek the views of the Pendle Vision Board on this project.

The Board were advised that costs for programme management also needed to be carefully considered as the TIP and costings were refined and finalised.

The next steps were to target engagement on each of the projects, develop the costs of each project to arrive at a total bid of £25m and to produce a first draft of the TIP for consideration at the next meeting.

AGREED

- (1) That the Vision for Nelson be agreed.
- (2) That the comments on the front cover of the TIP be reviewed and taken on board.
- (3) That the Board's comments on the various projects be taken back to the working groups for further consideration and development.

4. WORKPLAN UPDATE

Members were asked to consider progress made against the workplan for developing the Nelson TIP and the key activities scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. Progress on these activities would be reported to the next meeting on 18th December.

AGREED

That the progress made against the workplan and the key activities planned in the coming weeks be noted.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at 10a.m. on Friday 18th December, 2020.

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. ACCELERATED FUNDING

An update was given, for information, on progress with using £750k of accelerated grant funding from the Towns Fund for capital projects that would make an immediate impact in Nelson this financial year.