

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE  
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD  
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

**PRESENT**

*S. Barnes (Chairman – in the Chair)*

**Members of the Board**

Councillor M. Iqbal	Pendle Borough Council (PBC)
Councillor D. M. Whipp	PBC
Councillor Z. Ali	Nelson Town Council
D. Mendoros	Pendle Vision Board
C. Smith	Pendle Engineering Ltd
A. Melton	Lancashire Enterprise Partnership
A-M Parkinson	Lancashire Enterprise Partnership
P. Hartley	In-Situ
R. Bashir	Building Bridges
D. Gordon	Lancashire County Council
R. Jenkins	MHCLG

**Consultants**

L. Newby	Hatch
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**Officers in attendance:-**

D. Langton	Chief Executive, PBC
J. Whittaker	Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager
N. Watson	Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager
J. Stockton	Senior Regeneration Officer, PBC
S. Madigan	Pendle Leisure Trust
J. Eccles	Committee Administrator, PBC

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(Apologies were received from S. Burns.)

**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 meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

A report was submitted which gave an update on recent community/stakeholder engagement activities. The most recent phase of engagement on the Nelson Town Investment Plan had been focused on the shortlisted projects. For each of these projects, a working group had been established consisting of the project sponsor/lead organisation and relevant local stakeholders and

partners. The groups had worked up the projects in greater detail considering local intelligence and stakeholder views. A summary on each of the groups and some of the work they had done in developing the projects was set out at Appendix 1. Feedback had also been sought on the shortlisted projects from the wider community via the Nelson Town Deal website, which was summarised at Appendix 1.

**AGREED**

That the update on community/stakeholder engagement activities and the feedback from the online consultation be noted.

**4.**

**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.

**5.**

**NELSON TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN**

As requested at the last meeting, a report was submitted seeking the Board's agreement on how elements of the unsuccessful Future High Street Fund (FHSF) bid for Nelson should be integrated into the Nelson Town Investment Plan (TIP). Appendix 1 summarised the proposed changes to existing projects resulting in a reduced ask from the Towns Fund which would be required to accommodate some of the additional spend. Some savings could be achieved by scaling down the projects, some through seeking funding or support from elsewhere.

Evidence from the engagement work to support the case would be highlighted in the updated TIP and relevant supporting documents.

A request to the Government for a 2 week extension to enable elements of the FHSF bid to be incorporated into the TIP had been agreed. It was understood that this extension had been offered to all the towns who were unsuccessful or partially successful with their FHSF bid.

The report explained that submitting a bid greater than £25m would mean the TIP would go down a slightly different assessment route. The Council would need to participate in a challenge session with Government, and the TIP and projects would be subjected to greater level of scrutiny.

Members reiterated the importance of adding the elements from the FHSF bid. There was a good discussion about the projects being affected to make sure that they would still bring significant outcomes required and demonstrated value for money. They also considered the risk of seeking more than £25m and the additional scrutiny this would bring.

Overall, there was agreement that this was the right approach. It was felt that this was a one-off opportunity to address Nelson's decline and establish a strategic plan to secure the town's long term economic growth and support its recovery from the impact of Covid-19. Whilst there would be additional scrutiny, Members felt that there was a good case for exceeding the £25m Town Deal ask.

**AGREED**

- (1) That the extension granted to the submission deadline for the Town Investment Plan (TIP) to 12th February 2021 be noted.
- (2) That proposals to incorporate elements of the FHSF bid and seek additional Towns Funding, as set out in the report be included in the TIP.
- (3) That the proposals to reduce the Towns Fund ask against existing elements of the programme as set out in the report be agreed.
- (4) That the increased funding sought through the Town Deal total £29,971,000.
- (5) That the final report be brought back for agreement at a meeting at 10.00am on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and the Board be asked to recommend to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, at their meeting later in the day that the Plan be agreed and submitted to Government on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**6. ACCELERATED FUNDING**

D. Langton gave an update at the meeting on plans for spending the accelerated funding on projects consistent with the TIP. The Board agreed that this was the right approach.