

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
HELD REMOTELY VIA TEAMS
ON 13TH AUGUST, 2021**

PRESENT

S. Barnes (Chairman – in the Chair)

Members of the Board

<i>A. Stephenson</i>	<i>Member of Parliament for Pendle</i>
<i>Councillor N. Ahmed</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council (PBC)</i>
<i>Councillor M. Aslam</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor M. Iqbal</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor Z. Ali</i>	<i>Nelson Town Council</i>
<i>D. Mendoros</i>	<i>Pendle Vision Board</i>
<i>C. Smith</i>	<i>Pendle Engineering Ltd</i>
<i>D. Rothwell</i>	<i>Lancashire Enterprise Partnership</i>
<i>A-M Parkinson</i>	<i>Lancashire Enterprise Partnership</i>
<i>H. Murray</i>	<i>Department for Works and Pensions</i>
<i>P. Hartley</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>
<i>R. Bashir</i>	<i>Building Bridges</i>
<i>C. Parker</i>	<i>Homes England</i>
<i>D. Gordon</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>

Consultants/Advisors

R. Jenkins *Cities and Local Growth Unit*

Officers in attendance

P. Mousdale *Interim Chief Executive, PBC*
J. Whittaker *Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager, PBC*
N. Watson *Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager, PBC*
J. Stockton *Senior Regeneration Officer, PBC*
L. Rowland *Committee Administrator, PBC*

(Apologies for absence were received from C. Bennett and A. Melton.)

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 23rd July, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. NELSON TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN – GOVERNMENT FEEDBACK

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which provided

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feedback from Government on their assessment of the Nelson Town Investment Plan and the reasons why the £29.9m bid had been reduced to the offer of £25m.

The feedback was very positive, especially around the projects to be delivered. However, it was explained that, for bidding of over £25m, all of the Town Investment Plan assessment criteria had to be fully demonstrated, including showing that the investment would have regional or national significance. It had been felt that, against the scale of opportunities, it had been demonstrated that the investment would likely benefit the town, but the scale of the projected impact was modest or didn't fully capitalise opportunities.

AGREED

That the feedback received from Government on their assessment of Nelson's Town Investment Plan be noted.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be held in approximately 10 days' time. Date and time to be agreed.

5. 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.

6. NELSON TOWN DEAL – ACHIEVING SAVINGS

It was reported that, as agreed at the last meeting of the Board, the Town Deal offer of £25m to deliver eight strategic projects for Nelson had been accepted. The Heads of Terms had been signed and returned to Government on 4th August, 2021.

The Board now had to decide how to prioritise and allocate the available funding across the eight projects to achieve a £4.9m saving on the Towns Fund ask.

A report was submitted by the Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager which provided a number of options for consideration. This, along with further information, was presented to the Board by J. Stockton.

As a first step, project leads/working groups had been asked to review their projects to help identify whether savings could be made. The outcome of this review had achieved savings which amounted to £2.05m. A summary and detailed breakdown of the results of the review were provided in the report.

The report also included four options, with a financial profile, for achieving further savings of £2.91m to come within the £25m funding envelope.

On conclusion of the presentation the Chairman invited Board members to discuss and comment on the report and the four options presented. He began by thanking all project leads/working groups for their contribution to the savings required.

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During discussion, the general consensus was that options 3 and 4 should be discounted. Option 1 and option 2 were generally the preferred options but consensus could not be reached and the Board felt that further information was needed.

It was noted that the deadline for the submission of the project confirmation tables was 4th October, 2021. The tables needed to include details of the Towns Fund ask for each project, match funding, re-profiled outputs and outcomes (if appropriate), a plan for addressing key conditions (where applicable), a proposed financial profile and the revenue/capital split.

A draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan also had to be developed and submitted.

In light of the discussion that had taken place and the need for further information, R. Jenkins indicated that an extension to the submission deadline could be considered if required.

AGREED

- (1) That the outcome of the project review be noted and the savings identified by the project leads/working groups be agreed.
- (2) That a report providing further information on the points raised in relation to options 1 and 2 be submitted to the next meeting of the Board, to be held in approximately 10 days' time.
- (3) That consideration be given to requesting an extension to the submission deadline should it be felt necessary.