

AGREED

That L. Oddie be invited to become a member of the Board.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at 10.00a.m.on Friday, 24th September.

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

At the last meeting, the Board received a report on the Towns Fund savings that had been identified by the project working groups (£2.05m) together with several options for how the remaining savings could be made (£2.91m). Options 3 and 4 were dismissed by the Board and it requested further information be brought to this meeting regarding the proposals outlined in Options 1 and 2.

As requested, a report was submitted with further information on the points raised in relation to Options 1 and 2. Following the discussions and concerns that were raised at the last meeting, a further option (Option 5) had been developed for consideration which was set out in the report. J. Stockton gave a presentation to summarise the main points and answered related questions.

All the Members present gave their views on the various proposals before them. The majority view was that the required savings should be based on Option 5. There were a number of requests for revising some of the proposed changes to the projects. The Chairman pointed out that further changes to funding for individual projects might require reprofiled outputs and outcomes. Any increase in funding for one project would need to be counterbalanced against a reduction for another project. He noted their comments and suggested that authority be given to him and the Leader of the Council to make the final adjustments and to try to find an acceptable way forward.

There was a request for Nelson residents to be informed of the project proposals going forward as soon as possible. J. Stockton said that this would be possible once there was a clear steer from the Board and agreement had been reached. She would arrange for the Town Deal Community Engagement Plan to be revised, the website updated and a press release/social media posts to go out about the projects at the earliest opportunity.

AGREED

(Councillor M. Iqbal asked for his dissent from the following decisions to be minuted.)

- (1) That the Board delegate authority to the Chairman and Leader of the Council to agree the final savings of £2.91m based on the changes to the projects set out in Option 5, taking into account where possible, Board Members' suggestions for rebalancing some of them, and for

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work to continue on the whole breadth of the submission, including the development of a draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

- (2) That, following a report on the proposed savings to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 16th September, the project confirmation tables be presented to the Board on 24th September for approval, prior to submission to the Government on 4th October, 2021.