

**REPORT OF: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER**

TO: NELSON, BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE

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FOR INFORMATION
NELSON TOWN DEAL

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update regarding the Nelson Town Deal.

ISSUE

Background

1. In 2019, Nelson was one of 101 towns invited to develop proposals for a Town Deal.
2. A Town Deal is an agreement in principle between Government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board. The 'Deal' will establish the Government's in principle agreement to provide up to £25mill of funding from the Towns Fund (or over £25mill in exceptional circumstances) in order for a number of strategic regeneration/growth projects to be delivered, overseen by the Town Deal Board.
3. The overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to 'drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth', through:
 - **Urban regeneration** – ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work by, e.g. strengthening cultural and economic assets, site acquisition, preparation, remediation and / or development,
 - **Skills and enterprise infrastructure** – e.g. driving private sector investment and small business development, ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development,
 - **Connectivity** – improving transport networks and digital connectivity.

4. In order to agree a Town Deal, Town Deal Boards had to prepare a Town Investment Plan setting out a clear vision and a strategy that will set the direction for the economic turnaround of the town over a decade, including economic recovery from the COVID crisis. The Plan had to be based upon robust evidence of need and opportunity, reflect local priorities and be designed with the involvement of local businesses and communities.

Nelson Town Investment Plan

5. The Nelson Town Investment Plan was submitted to Government in February 2021. The Plan set out a strong, fresh vision for Nelson underpinned by 9 strategic objectives and three cross-cutting principles, as follows:

Our vision for Nelson:

“A healthy, vibrant and confident town fulfilling its role as a key centre on the M65 growth corridor; 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.”

Our strategic objectives for Nelson over the next 15 years (2020-2035) are:

1. *To instil pride and a strong sense of identity and belonging to create a cohesive and welcoming community where residents feel connected, involved and empowered.*
2. *To ensure that public service provision meets the needs of all residents to enable them to thrive.*
3. *To increase confidence and aspiration to succeed through improved access to skills and quality jobs.*
4. *To provide a better choice of housing through renewal and new build to enhance quality and affordability.*
5. *To support health and well-being through access to quality open spaces, active walking and cycling routes, and responsive recreation and leisure provision.*
6. *To reinforce the town’s role as a key service centre serving the needs of its catchment set within an attractive, safe and welcoming environment.*
7. *To drive resilience and growth through a diverse business base which celebrates innovation, entrepreneurship and ambition to grow.*
8. *To re-energise and breathe new life into heritage assets and redundant buildings.*
9. *To enhance digital and physical connections to support inclusion and economic growth.*

These are underpinned by three cross-cutting themes which are intrinsic to the Towns Fund:

- Collaboration and engagement
- Clean growth
- Economic recovery

6. The Nelson Town Investment Plan sought £29.9m from Government to deliver 8 strategic projects and these are summarised in Table 1 in Appendix 1.
7. Over its lifetime, the Plan aims to benefit 33,000 residents and generate:
 - £3.5mill labour supply impact
 - £23.2mill social return on investment
 - £15.5mill wider land value uplift
8. Wider benefits include:
 - 690 jobs created, support and safeguarded
 - 139 new homes delivered
 - 23,400 sq m public realm improved
 - 11,500 sq m new commercial floorspace
 - 4646 sq m refurbished commercial floorspace
 - 14 town centre/edge of town centre buildings and spaces reactivated
 - 38 businesses supported
 - 1200 new learners assisted (per annum)
 - 23,465 sq m of parks green spaces and leisure infrastructure improved
 - 2.5 km of walking and cycling routes improved (minimum)
 - Improved perceptions of the town by residents/businesses/visitors

Town Deal offer

9. In July 2021, Nelson received a Heads of Terms offer from Government for £25m. Whilst this fell short of the £29.9m requested to deliver the projects and achieve the expected outputs and outcomes outlined in our Town Investment Plan (above), this level of investment has the potential to deliver significant change across the town. The funding offered was at the top of the £25m threshold that towns were invited to bid for (unless they could demonstrate credible regional or national impacts) and for these reasons the Town Deal Board and the Council accepted the offer.
10. During the last couple of months, the Board have been through a process of deciding how savings can be achieved to bring the Towns Fund 'ask' across the projects within the £25m funding envelope available.
11. It has been agreed that all of the projects will still be delivered. Some will be slightly reduced in scope to achieve savings whilst others will seek to bring in additional match funding in place of a reduction in Towns Funding. The table in Appendix 1 reflects this updated position.

Next Steps

12. The next key step in the Town Deal process requires towns to develop HM Treasury compliant business cases for each project. Business cases must be appraised and assured locally and a summary document submitted to Government before delivery funding will be released. Each project will therefore be worked up in further detail in the coming months.
13. It is expected that the first project will commence delivery in early 2022, with further projects coming on stream from Spring 2022.

Appendix 1 - Table 1: Nelson Town Deal Investment Programme

Town Deal Project	Towns Funding	Match Funding	Total Investment	Delivery lead & partners
Revitalised Nelson: Seeks to bring high profile, long-term vacant and underused buildings and sites in the town centre/edge of town centre back into use, e.g. for residential and commercial purposes. A priority building within this project is Pendle Rise Shopping Centre.	£9.2m	£29.5m	£38.7m	Lead: PBC with developers, Registered Providers
Healthy Town: The Healthy Town project will result in new leisure facilities for young people at Wavelength's as well as improvements in Nelson's three parks. The project will provide new reasons to visit the town and seeks to address poor health issues, including high levels of childhood obesity, by encouraging more active lifestyles which improve health and wellbeing.	£2.3m	£0.7m	£3m	Lead: Pendle Leisure Trust and PBC
'This is Nelson': A 5-year arts and culture programme that actively engages Nelson's communities in the town's development to facilitate ownership, pride and a shared identity. This will be achieved through programmes of activity, events and the re-activation of places and spaces.	£0.7m	£0.3m	£1m	Lead: InSitu, with Building Bridges, SuperSlowWay, Creative Lancashire
Advanced Digital Skills Hub and Academy: will create a new skills facility within Nelson and Colne College's main building and a smaller facility within the town centre. As well as creating new learning facilities, the project will provide high-quality creative workspace that inspires, supports and encourages enterprise in service and digital technology.	£2.3m	£0.9m	£3.2m	Lead: Nelson and Colne College
Pendle Youth Employment Service (YES) Hub: The YES Hub will support Pendle's 16-24-year olds to overcome barriers to employment. It will provide a 'one stop shop' where young people can go to access a range of information, advice and guidance alongside a breadth of learning, training, health improvement and employment opportunities.	£0.4m	£0.4m	£0.8m	Lead: PBC with DWP, Active Lancashire, Lancashire Skills Hub, Nelson & Colne College
Modernising Nelson's Industrial Offer: Seeks to regenerate brownfield land and provide new, modern employment space for businesses.	£4m	£6.9m	£10.9m	Lead: PBC with developer

Town Deal Project	Towns Funding	Match Funding	Total Investment	Delivery lead & partners
<p>Business Resilience and Improvement: The provision of capital grants to support expansion projects including premises, plant and machinery to support the creation of sustainable jobs and improved productivity within the manufacturing sector.</p>	£2m	£4.7m	£6.7m	<p>Lead: PBC with Boost Business Lancashire, Growth Lancashire</p>
<p>Accessible Nelson: seeks to improve traffic flow, movement and parking around the town centre and improve the quality of the environment and public realm on key gateway routes into and through the town. This will improve people’s perceptions and experience as they enter the town, provide an enhanced setting for local businesses and some investment sites, and improve sustainable transport links in order to encourage more walking and cycling to destinations within the town.</p>	£3.4m	£0.1m	£3.5m	<p>Lead: PBC with LCC</p>

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None directly arising from this report.

Financial: None directly arising from this report.

Legal: None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management: None directly arising from this report.

Health and Safety: None directly arising from this report.

Sustainability: None directly arising from this report.

Community Safety: None directly arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None directly arising from this report.