

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
HELD REMOTELY VIA TEAMS
ON 1ST APRIL, 2022**

PRESENT

S. Barnes (Chairman – in the Chair)

Members of the Board

<i>Councillor N. Ahmed</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council (PBC)</i>
<i>Councillor M. Aslam</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor D. 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>L. Oddie</i>	<i>Oddie's Bakery</i>
<i>D. Gordon</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>
<i>A. Melton</i>	<i>Lancashire Enterprise Partnership</i>
<i>C. Bennett</i>	<i>Positive Action in the Community</i>

Consultants/Advisors

<i>B. Zhang</i>	<i>Cities and Local Growth Unit</i>
<i>H. Warren</i>	<i>Department for Work and Pensions</i>
<i>A. Marohn</i>	<i>Planit-IE</i>
<i>K. York</i>	<i>Planit-IE</i>

Officers in attendance

<i>R. Rouse</i>	<i>Chief Executive, PBC</i>
<i>J. Whittaker</i>	<i>Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager, PBC</i>
<i>R. Gibson</i>	<i>Financial Services Manager, PBC</i>
<i>J. Stockton</i>	<i>Regeneration Manager, PBC</i>
<i>A. Goode</i>	<i>Pendle Leisure Trust</i>
<i>T. Wilson</i>	<i>Project Co-ordinator, Engineering Services, PBC</i>
<i>S. Farnell</i>	<i>Transport and Coordination Manager, PBC</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator, PBC</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Iqbal, P. Hartley, D. Mendoros and R. Bashir.)

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March, 2022 were submitted for approval.

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. PROJECT PRESENTATION/UPDATE

Accessible Nelson

The Housing Health and Engineering Services Manager provided an update on this project which aimed to improve traffic flow and movement around the town centre and improve the quality of the environment and public realm on key gateway routes into and through the town. There had been a drop-in event at Building Bridges on 18th March, to seek views on the proposals. A consultation event at Nelson & Colne College had also asked students what they thought. Comments had been generally positive. Out of the various schemes presented at the last meeting there was now one preferred option.

A presentation followed by A. Marohn from Planit-IE who talked Members through the preferred scheme, which included improvements to highways/junctions, cycling and pedestrian routes and public realm, covering 8 key areas around the town centre – Scotland Road and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Gateway, New Scotland Road, the New Scotland Road/Leeds Road junction, Sagar Street/Holme Street junction, Railway Street and Broadway, Railway Street/Netherfield Road junction and Manchester Road junction.

The Board were shown before and after visuals showing how the widening of pavements, changing of surfaces, narrowing of the carriageway, improving pedestrian/cycling crossings, introducing roundabouts instead of signals and additional green infrastructure would transform the appearance of the street scene and improve the experience for pedestrians and cyclists by slowing down traffic. Traffic modelling had been undertaken to make sure that their plans would create better flow, less queuing and ease congestion.

The Regeneration Manager pointed out that they were awaiting detailed costings for the works. It was unlikely that all 8 schemes would be deliverable due to funding constraints. So key schemes would need to be prioritised with further funding sought to deliver the full package of schemes. As the development of the business case was due to finish in 3 weeks it was suggested that a sub-group of the Board meet as soon as possible to agree which schemes to prioritise.

The scheme was broadly welcomed by the Board. Points they felt needed further consideration included -

- Connectivity between the Town Centre and Nelson and Colne College, in particular improvements to the M65 roundabout underpasses to improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Carr Road was another important gateway to the town with its green connections to the canal and the park for active travel, and could be better signposted.
- The possibility of future developments e.g. McDonalds impacting on some of the proposals for improved accessibility.

Healthy Town

A. Goode explained that the feasibility work had continued to be progressed since the last Board meeting. The full design/feasibility study for Wavelengths had just arrived and needed to be reviewed. An initial glance showed that capital costs had increased.

As the business case was due to be completed in the next few weeks it was suggested a sub-group meet beforehand to discuss the preferred scheme.

S. Barnes mentioned there was a type of glass used in the aerospace industry which provided insulation as well as letting light through which might be an option when looking at any design proposals for Wavelengths.

AGREED

- (1) That a sub-group of the Board including S. Barnes, Z. Ali, D. Rothwell, M. Iqbal, M. Aslam and D. Gordon be convened in the next couple of weeks to agree on the priorities for the Accessible Nelson project and a town centre business owner be invited to join the discussions.
- (2) That the Regeneration Manager be asked to ensure that the impact of the McDonalds development, and any necessary contribution to the infrastructure improvements, was factored into the development of this project at an appropriate time.
- (3) That the potential for improving connectivity between Nelson Town Centre and Nelson and Colne College, particularly around the underpasses, be looked at.
- (4) That the comments of the Board be fed back to the respective project working group.
- (5) That a sub-group of the Board including S. Barnes, M. Iqbal and N. Ahmed be convened in the next couple of weeks to review the development of the business case for the Healthy Town project.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, 13th May at 10.00a.m. This date or, if necessary, an alternative date, would be confirmed with Members as soon as possible.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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. PROGRAMME UPDATE AND RISKS

The Housing Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a detailed update on the Town Deal projects, the development of project business cases and the key risks. The update included the timetable/plan for the development and assurance of business cases for each of the projects. It detailed the key phases of work and milestones up to the submission of the Project Summary Documents.

To date, one Project Summary Document for the Pendle YES Hub had been submitted to, and 'signed off' by, the Communities and Local Growth Unit. An evaluation of the pilot phase had been undertaken and the evaluation report was attached at Appendix 3 of the report. The report concluded with a small number of recommendations around how service delivery could be improved/strengthened, and these would be taken into account in the future delivery of the scheme.

Three project business cases were going through the appraisal process. The remainder of the projects were at different stage of development, and details given in the report.

Members discussed the rising costs of materials and how this would affect the capital projects and the impact on deliverability.

AGREED

- (1) That the current status and risks associated with the development of the Town Deal projects be noted.
- (2) That the Regeneration Manager be asked to raise with BEIS the issue of increased costs of materials on the various capital projects.

Chairman _____