

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE  
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD  
HELD REMOTELY VIA TEAMS  
ON 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 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 D. Whipp</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor M. Aslam</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor M. Iqbal</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor Z. Ali</i>	<i>Nelson Town Council</i>
<i>A. M. Parkinson</i>	<i>LEP</i>
<i>D. Mendoros</i>	<i>Pendle Vision Board</i>
<i>L. Oddie</i>	<i>Oddie's Bakery</i>
<i>P. Hartley</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>
<i>R. Bashir</i>	<i>Building Bridges</i>
<i>D. Gordon</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>
<i>C. Schofield</i>	<i>Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU)</i>
<i>D. Rothwell</i>	<i>Nelson and Colne College</i>

**Also in attendance**

<i>M. Nuttall</i>	<i>Property Director, Brookhouse Group</i>
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**Consultants/Advisors**

<i>D. Lindsay</i>	<i>ekosgen</i>
<i>L. Newby</i>	<i>Hatch</i>

**Officers in attendance**

<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>L. Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator, PBC</i>

*(Apologies for absence were received from C. Parker.)*

**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 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 were submitted for approval.

## **AGREED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. PROJECT ASSURANCE AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **(a) Healthy Town**

The Housing Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which presented the Board with the independent business case appraisal report for the Healthy Town project and asked the Board to make funding recommendations to Pendle Borough Council (PBC) as the ultimate decision making and Accountable Body for the Town Deal. Subject to their agreement, a Project Summary Document, signed by the Chair of the Board and the Council's Chief Executive of S151 Officer would be submitted to Government.

The appraisal report had been prepared by consultant's ekosgen and was presented to the Board by D. Lindsay.

The projects had been assessed against the five-case model of Strategic; Economic; Financial; Commercial; and Management. Mr Lindsay reported on the appraisal of each case and provided comment on each area. In conclusion, following assessment, ekosgen recommended the scheme for approval subject to a number of conditions in relation to the Financial and Commercial case.

It was made clear to the Board that elements of the Healthy Town Programme were subject to securing match funding from Sport England and that risks associated with inflation had to be managed.

It was highlighted that the project had revenue cost implications for both Pendle Leisure Trust and the Council and was therefore important that agreement should be obtained from the Leisure Trust on the financial implications of the proposals.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the findings of the business case appraisal report for the Healthy Town Project be noted.
- (2) That Pendle Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to:
  - (a) Approve the allocation of £2,321,149 of Towns Funding to the Healthy Town project.
  - (b) Approve £590,000 Towns Funding towards the parks element of the project and authorise this element of the scheme to commence as soon as is practicably possible subject to the following conditions being met:
    - The applicant should provide detail on the approach to inflation in respect of costs for the Parks project element;
    - The implications of cost inflation and cost overruns should be carefully monitored over the coming months, so that suitable mitigations can be identified at the earliest opportunity.

- (c) Approve the allocation of £1,731,149 Towns Funding for the Wavelengths element of the project subject to:
- A report back from the Council within 9 months should it not have approved and progressed the project after consideration of the Strategic Leisure Review undertaken by the Leisure Trust and the Council;
  - An update to the Town Deal Board concerning the implications and potential fallback position in the event that a grant allocation from Sport England is not secured;
  - An update to the Town Deal Board concerning the status of Wavelengths design work and the subsequent procurement process in order to achieve cost certainty (to minimise inflationary risk);
  - The implications of cost inflation and cost overruns being carefully monitored over the coming months, so that suitable mitigations can be identified at the earliest opportunity;
  - If there is the potential for inflationary pressures or other risks to result in a reduction of the scope of what is affordable and deliverable for the Wavelengths element, a clear process by which amendments to the scope of work will be agreed with PBC and the Town Board should be agreed ahead of confirming a funding agreement;
  - The position in relation to subsidy control being confirmed by PBC based on legal advice.
- (d) Delegate authority to the project appraisal sub-group of the Board to ensure these conditions are met (where specific reference to the Board is not made).
- (e) Authorise the submission of the Project Summary Document to Government.

## **(b) Accessible Nelson**

The Housing Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which presented the Board with the independent business case appraisal report for the Accessible Nelson project and asked the Board to make funding recommendations to Pendle Borough Council as the ultimate decision making and Accountable Body for the Town Deal. Subject to their agreement, a Project Summary Document, signed by the Chair of the Board and the Council's Chief Executive of S151 Officer would be submitted to Government. The Accessible Nelson project was 100% funded through the Towns Fund.

The appraisal report had been prepared by consultant's ekosgen and was presented to the Board by D. Lindsay.

The projects had been assessed against the five-case model of Strategic; Economic; Financial; Commercial; and Management. Mr Lindsay reported on the appraisal of each case and provided comment on each area. In conclusion, following assessment, ekosgen recommended the scheme for approval subject to a number of conditions in relation to the Economic and Management case.

## **AGREED**

That the Board –

1. Notes the findings of the business case appraisal report for the Accessible Nelson Project.
2. Recommends that Pendle Borough Council's (PBC) Policy and Resources Committee:

(Nelson Town Deal Board 08.07.2022)

- (a) Approves £3,463,952 of Towns Funding to the Accessible Nelson project, subject to the following conditions being met:
- That ways in which the project works alongside other projects (notably the 'This is Nelson' project) to address the negative impacts of the railway bridge close to Detail Area 6 are set out, so that the potential project benefits from the Accessible Nelson project investment are enhanced and not undermined;
  - That there is a commitment to close monitoring of costs as part of project implementation, given the potential impact of cost over-runs, materials cost rises and contractor availability / capacity. Therefore, affirmation that the risk register for the delivery of the works will be maintained and reviewed regularly as part of project delivery should be given;
  - That the monitoring and evaluation plan is expanded to include baseline and monitoring of walking and cycling usage for the two schemes, and a commitment to assessing wider (non-monetised) benefits;
  - A commitment to work to maximise take-up of bicycle use post project, demonstrated through, for example, linking with the potential Lancashire County Council pilot Mobility Hubs and promotion of bike rings for use by Town Centre businesses;
  - That the post-project maintenance agreement be put in place between Lancashire County Council and Pendle Borough Council.
- (b) Delegate authority to the project appraisal sub-group of the Board to ensure these conditions are met.
- (c) Authorise the submission of the Project Summary Document to Government.
3. Delegate authority to the Chair to agree and sign the Project Summary Document prior to submission to Government.

#### **4. PROJECT ADJUSTMENT REQUEST – THIS IS NELSON**

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which sought approval to a Project Adjustment Request(PAR) for the This is Nelson project.

Following approval of the business case for the This is Nelson project, a Project Summary Document was submitted to CLGU. As a result of the more detailed work undertaken to develop the business case, the spend profile for the project had changed across years. There was also a variation in the capital and revenue requirements of the project which CLGU had advised should be dealt with via a PAR. They would then consider this request alongside the Project Summary Document.

The revised profile showed a requirement for more revenue funding (£57k) and less capital (also £57k) which meant that there was no change in the overall amount of Town Funding being requested by the project. The Board was reminded that there was a limit on the amount of revenue funding that towns could request, but that this adjustment could be accommodated within that limit.

The reason for the increase in revenue funding was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **AGREED**

That the Project Adjustment Request be approved.

**5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> August at 10.00 a.m.

**6. 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.

**7. REVITALISED NELSON AND MODERNISING NELSON'S INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL PROJECTS**

The Board considered a report of the Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager which provided an update regarding the Revitalised Nelson and Modernising Nelson's Industrial Offer projects.

The Chairman welcomed the work that was being done, but expressed concern over timescales. He sought assurance that the timescales would be met, along with other Government funding criteria, to ensure the funding was fully secured.

**AGREED**

That the Board receive a further update to the next meeting on the Revitalised Nelson and Modernising Nelson's Industrial Offer projects, to include specific information on the outcome of discussions with the DLUHC with regard to the slippage and assurance that scheme delivery/development timescales can be met.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_