

**NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
HELD REMOTELY VIA TEAMS
ON 4TH MARCH, 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 M. Iqbal</i>	<i>PBC</i>
<i>Councillor Z. Ali</i>	<i>Nelson Town Council</i>
<i>A. Stephenson</i>	<i>Member of Parliament</i>
<i>D. Mendoros</i>	<i>Pendle Vision Board</i>
<i>C. Smith</i>	<i>Pendle Engineering Ltd</i>
<i>L. Oddie</i>	<i>Oddie's Bakery</i>
<i>C. Bennett</i>	<i>Positive Action in the Community</i>
<i>D. Gordon</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>
<i>R. Bashir</i>	<i>Building Bridges</i>
<i>P. Hartley</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>

Consultants/Advisors

<i>B. Zhang</i>	<i>Cities and Local Growth Unit</i>
<i>H. Murray</i>	<i>Department for Works and Pensions</i>
<i>H. Warren</i>	<i>Department for Works and Pensions</i>
<i>L. Humblet</i>	<i>Planit-IE</i>
<i>A. Marohn</i>	<i>Planit-IE</i>
<i>K. York</i>	<i>Planit-IE</i>
<i>J. Foley</i>	<i>Alliance Leisure</i>
<i>T. Gardner</i>	<i>Alliance Leisure</i>

Officers in attendance

<i>R. Rouse</i>	<i>Chief Executive, PBC</i>
<i>P. Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director, PBC</i>
<i>J. Stockton</i>	<i>Regeneration Manager, PBC</i>
<i>A. Goode</i>	<i>Pendle Leisure Trust</i>
<i>P. Riley</i>	<i>Green Spaces Manager, PBC</i>
<i>S. Whalley</i>	<i>Engineering Services Manager, PBC</i>
<i>T. Wilson</i>	<i>Project Co-ordinator, Engineering Services</i>
<i>S. Farnell</i>	<i>Transport and Coordination Manager</i>
<i>S. Lee</i>	<i>Communications Officer, PBC</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator, PBC</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Whipp.)

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 4th February were submitted for approval. The Regeneration Manager referred to Minute 3(2) and said that consideration was still being given to additional representation on the Board from the business community. The Board agreed that the person should be someone whose business operated in the town centre. A number of names were mentioned. P. Hartley said that he would provide the names of people he had been working with recently who might be interested.

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

This was an opportunity for Board members to ask questions and inform the development of the two following projects at this stage. A further presentation on both would be made to the Board on 1st April. The project working groups were aiming to have the draft business cases ready for appraisal later that month. The business case appraisal reports and funding recommendations were scheduled to come to the Board meeting on 1st July.

Healthy Town

This project would provide enhanced leisure facilities for young people at Wavelengths as well as improvements in Nelson's three parks to enable residents to live more active lifestyles, enhance perceptions of Nelson and provide more reasons to visit.

A presentation was given by J. Foley from Alliance Leisure, the consultants appointed to undertake design/feasibility work on enhancing the facilities at Wavelengths. This was still work in progress. The next step was to conduct a thorough costing exercise including revenue/staff costs. They had deliberately looked at innovative activities with low staff costs to make it affordable for people.

P. Riley, Green Spaces Manager at PBC, presented the parks element of this project. The objective was to deliver a number of capital projects that would modernise and improve the parks' offer, making them more attractive to the local community, as well as visitors from surrounding areas. Match funding had been secured from Nelson Town Council.

The Board felt that sustainability was a key factor at Wavelengths and proposals needed to be realistic. The leisure facilities needed to be affordable to local residents whilst not losing money. However, it was also acknowledged that Nelson was in need of youth provision and facilities to encourage a healthier lifestyle. Wavelengths forms part of a cluster of health facilities, with plans for an Extra Care facility nearby alongside the existing Community Hospital. Wavelengths provided a vital facility for people of all age groups.

C. Bennett pointed out that relationships between young people and instructors/youth workers were very important and asked that this be considered as the plans were progressed.

It was suggested that local primary and secondary schools and disabled young people be asked for their views on the park proposals and access to them. In-Situ was working with the Pendle Youth Forum on projects in Colne and Brierfield and P. Hartley offered to do some similar work

with them to feed into this project. It was also important to get the views of older people. It was suggested that local firms be invited, where possible, to tender for any work. Connectivity was seen as a big part of the Victoria Park scheme with opportunities around the Canal and the subway to improve walking routes for N&CC students.

Accessible Nelson

S. Whalley, Engineering Manager at PBC and Project Lead, introduced 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. The total cost of the project was £3.5m. A number of Board members had attended a walkabout in the town centre earlier in the week to consider some of the 'on the ground' issues and opportunities this project would seek to address. Wider public consultation on the initial plans was due to take place in mid-March.

A presentation was given by L. Humblet from Planit-IE, consultants appointed to develop and cost concept designs for improvements to highways/junctions, cycling and pedestrian routes and public realm, covering all of the key areas around the town centre. The Board were shown visuals of successful schemes in various towns which had improved traffic flow, access for cyclists and pedestrians, and the street scene. He went on to describe 4 options of varying ambition for the main roads/junctions in Nelson. They included widening pavements, narrowing the carriageway, improving pedestrian/cycling crossings, replacing signals with roundabouts and adding green infrastructure. They were undertaking more traffic modelling to make sure that their plans would create better flow.

Cycling was being looked at within the town centres but also within areas of employment picking up connectivity and signage issues.

Comments included the importance of having secure storage for bikes if cyclists were being encouraged into the town; addressing the problems at the Sagar Street/Netherfield Road junction; allowing HGVs to access town centre businesses; and taking the opportunity to replace or improve the power points in the town centre. Access to the popular bazaars on Scotland Road was mentioned and bringing trees back on the approaches to the Shuttle. Highway improvements had been carried out in 2010 with limited success, due to a lack of funding. It was therefore important that these proposals were presented in a clear, positive way, being clear on the expected outcomes.

AGREED

That the comments of the Board be fed back to their respective project working groups.

4. DRAFT FINAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

A further draft of the Communications Strategy was submitted for approval, taking on board comments raised at the last meeting. The Board was asked to sign off the final plan and key straplines.

The Strategy now included use of software that would help evaluate communication on the Town Deal including individual projects. This would include a report twice weekly to show how stories were being picked up. We Love Creative were working on the brand identity kit for all partners.

(Nelson Town Deal Board 04.03.2022)

This is Nelson would be the main key message. We are Nelson would be used when focusing on and featuring people, helping to connect with the wider We are Lancashire strapline for the county.

Communications on the successful outcome of the bid to Government for the YES Hub project would shortly be released and would include messages on the social media platforms young people preferred to use.

AGREED

That the draft Communications Strategy be approved.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, 1st April at 10.00a.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. PROGRAMME UPDATE AND RISKS

The Housing Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report which gave a detailed update on the Nelson Town Deal projects, the development of project business cases and the key risks. Appendix 1 set out the current timetable/plan for the development and assurance of business cases for each of the Town Deal projects. Appendix 2 provided a Project Status Update and Red, Amber, Green report which indicated whether the development of the project was on track or at risk. A summary of the status of each project was provided in the report.

Discussions followed on from the last meeting on the risks and external factors associated with some of the larger projects due to the changing position with some of the schemes which were the focus of investment and how best to proceed. A decision on this had been deferred from the last meeting to allow further discussions with project leads, the Council's new Joint Venture partner and the Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU).

The outcome of these discussions was a recommendation to request a six month extension to the deadline for submitting the business cases. This would allow time for further work to be done and would enable the Board to make more informed decisions about how best to proceed with any potential project adjustments.

The Chairman said that he was very concerned about the ability to deliver the key projects and progress with them. These were large, significant projects and Members felt that they needed more time to think about the approach they should take. It was suggested that a further meeting be held in two weeks' time to discuss progress and for a decision to be made at that meeting.

(Nelson Town Deal Board 04.03.2022)

AGREED

- (1) That the current status and risks associated with the development of the Town Deal projects be noted.
- (2) That the feedback from key stakeholders since the last Board meeting be noted.
- (3) That the Board meet again on 18th March to give further consideration to the issues set out in the report.