

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES (INTERIM)

TO: NELSON LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS BOARD

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GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information on governance and decision-making arrangements for the Long Term Plan for Towns Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

- (1) Note the membership of the Board.
- (2) Note the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.

REASON

To ensure that there is an effective governance and decision-making structure in place to support delivery of the Long-Term Plan for Towns programme and comply with the guidance issued by Government.

Background

1. In October 2023 Nelson was announced as one of 55 towns selected by the Government to benefit from the 'Long-Term Plan for Towns' Programme. A further 20 Towns were added in Spring 2024.
2. Nelson will benefit from funding and support of up to £20 million to deliver a long term plan for Nelson.
3. The Government published guidance on 18th December 2023 detailing requirements to establish a Town Board to support the development of the vision and long-term plan and setting out the governance requirements of the programme.
4. Pendle Borough Council is the Accountable Body.

5. The Board had to be established by the 1st of April. The Chair may appoint a Vice-Chair from the other public (but not elected representatives) and private sector representatives.
6. Following consultation with Pendle Council with regard to the Government's guidance, board membership including public, private and community representation has been set as follows:

Suggested potential partners (as per guidance)	Representative
Parliamentary Representative	MP Andrew Stephenson
Local Councillors should be limited to promote community leadership and representation from Local Authority	Cllr Asjad Mahmood (PBC) County Cllr Ashley Sutcliffe (LCC) Cllr Zafar Ali (Nelson Town Council)
Senior Representative from Police	Chief Inspector Richard Ogden
Community Partners, for example: Community Groups Faith Groups Local CVS	Christine Blythe (BPRCVS) Rauf Bashir (Building Bridges) Claire Bennett (PAC) Imam Afaq from (Nelson Community Masjid)
Local businesses and social enterprises: Key local employers/investors	Sajad Butt (3B Systems) Mike Nuttall (Brookhouse Group) Vacant Post
Cultural, arts, heritage and sporting organisations:	Vacant Post
Public agencies and anchor institutions: Further education and higher education Relevant government agencies Health	Lisa O'Loughlin (Principal N&C College) Dr Irfan Chaudhary Rose Rouse (CEO, PBC)

7. In order to support delivery of the programme, the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct set out the decision-making processes, governance standards and clear expectations around behaviour and managing conflicts of interests. The aim is to ensure robust procedures are in place, whilst maintaining a 'light-touch' regime where possible.
8. Board Members are required to sign up to the attached Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference and complete a Declaration of Interest form which will be held on file.
9. In order to support transparency and openness, meeting agendas, reports and minutes will be published on the Council/and/or Town Board website, unless they contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The fund provides for further long-term financial support to Nelson.

Financial: PBC will be the accountable body for the fund. The procurement of consultants will be financed by the fund made available to support the investment plan development.

Legal: Subsidy Control regulations will need to be adhered to. External advice can be sought and funded through the capacity support being made available.

Risk Management: The risks are that not producing the investment plan in time would result in a significant loss of funding for Nelson.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: The Long-Term Plan provides an opportunity to consider sustainability within any initiatives ultimately selected for investment.

Community Safety: The Long-Term Plan provides an opportunity to consider the improvement of community safety within any initiatives ultimately selected for investment.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDIX ONE

Terms of Reference

APPENDIX TWO

Code of Conduct

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Long-Term Plan for Towns: guidance for local authorities and Town Boards:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/long-term-plan-for-towns-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-town-boards/long-term-plan-for-towns-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-town-boards>