

REPORT FROM: Director of Resources

TO: Neighbourhoods Board

DATE: 15 April 2025

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Board Membership and Boundary Confirmation

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek confirmation, in line with the Plan for Neighbourhoods guidance, of the Board membership and to discuss a review of the place boundary prior to submission to the Government on 22nd April 2025.

Recommendations

That the Board:

1. Confirm the current Board Membership.
2. Consider the amendment to the place boundary to include Nelson Football Club and the surrounding green space.

Reasons

1. To meet the submission date requirements of the Plan for Neighbourhoods governance and boundary guidance.
2. To be able to include Nelson Football Club and the surrounding area in any future interventions as part of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme.

ISSUE

Board Membership

1. The Plan for Neighbourhoods: governance and guidance states that:

“Each area receiving Plan for Neighbourhoods funding must have a Neighbourhood Board. This Board brings together people with strong links to the community—such as local business owners, community leaders, campaigners, faith groups, young people’s organisations and others who represent the area well.”

2. The guidance goes on to say that:

“Places that set up a ‘Town Board’ to deliver the previous administration’s Long-Term Plan for Towns programme may wish to fully retain that board and the agreed governance structure to deliver the new Plan for Neighbourhoods programme – this is acceptable.”

3. The current Long-Term Plan for Towns Board meets the government’s new guidance for establishing a Neighbourhood Board (see Appendix One for list of Board Membership). The existing board is made up of people with strong connections to the local area, including local businesses, community leaders, and other key partners. Since this Board’s structure already fits the new criteria, changes to the membership or governance are not required. This allows us to move forward confidently without disrupting the good work already done.
4. To comply with the requirement for an independent chair, we have consulted with our local MP, who has approved our current chair to continue leading the board under its new name. This satisfies the government’s expectations for community leadership and continuity. The role of the chair will remain voluntary and non-political, and they will continue to champion the needs of our area while guiding the board’s strategic direction.
5. Subject to approval from the board itself, we will formally rename the group as the "Neighbourhoods Board" in line with the programme. The board will continue working in partnership with the local authority as per the original Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. This smooth transition helps maintain momentum while ensuring we meet the updated requirements set by the government.

Proposed Place Boundary Change

6. The Plan for Neighbourhoods governance and boundary guidance also allows for Neighbourhood Boards to review and, if they choose to, request changes to the default programme boundary.
7. If the board wants to make a new change or adjust an existing one, the request must follow certain rules: it must keep the original place included, it must stay connected geographically, it must not add entirely separate communities, and any change must have a clear reason agreed by the board, such as including a key local asset or green space just outside the current boundary.
8. Nelson Football Club has approached both the Chair and Officers of Pendle Council previously asking if they could be considered for any future funding projects as part of the Long Term Plan for Towns. At that time, they were not within the geographical boundary and could therefore not be considered.
9. As the Board now has the opportunity to re-consider the boundary it is felt that consideration should be given to changing the default boundary for Nelson to include the green space on and surrounding the football club. The additional area covered is shown on the plan in Appendix Two. This plan will be submitted to Government for approval if the Board agree to the change.

10. Nelson FC plays an important role in the local community, providing opportunities for young people and grassroots football development. However, its current facilities present challenges for long-term sustainability and growth. A proposed boundary change would allow greater support through PfN funding, aligning with other projects like YES Hub and Nelson & Colne College, both focused on youth engagement and community building.
11. Including Nelson FC in the broader regeneration plan could be a valuable way to support sport, health, and community development in line with the PfN's vision. The club's existing involvement with youth initiatives, education partnerships, and wellbeing projects highlights its potential as a strong community asset. Nelson FC may offer a meaningful opportunity for PfN investment aimed at fostering a more inclusive and connected Nelson.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. That the existing Board remains the same as it already meets government requirements, including the approval of the current chair. If this is agreed, the Board shall formally be renamed the Neighbourhoods Board to align with the new programme.
13. The Board should also consider agreeing to submit a request to the Government to expand the boundary to include Nelson FC and surrounding green space. This would support community priorities like youth engagement, sport, and wellbeing.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report.

Financial: PBC will be the accountable body for the fund

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: We are required to submit our Board confirmation and any Boundary change request by a deadline of the 22nd of April 2025.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: The Nelson Plan for Neighbourhoods provides an opportunity to consider sustainability within any investments selected.

Community Safety: The Nelson Plan for Neighbourhoods provides an opportunity to consider the improvement of community safety within.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDIX ONE

Nelson Plan for Neighbourhoods Board Membership

APPENDIX TWO

Revised Boundary Plan.