

**REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE**

**TO: TOWN DEAL BOARD**

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## **NELSON TOWN DEAL PROGRESS UPDATE**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the Town Deal Board on progress with Nelson Town Deal projects.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

(1) To note the progress update.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

(1) For information.

#### **1. PROJECT UPDATES**

#### **2. REVITALISED NELSON**

- See separate report.

#### **3. ACCESSIBLE NELSON**

4. The Accessible Nelson project forms Area 4&6 of a programme of works designed to improve public realm, travel routes, infrastructure and accessibility in an integrated and seamless way throughout Nelson.
5. We are pleased to update the Board that the utilities work has been completed, materials have been agreed upon for the scheme and highway works have begun on the neighbouring Sagar St and Holme St Junction (LCC area 5) starting on the 22nd April. The crossing at Netherfield Road has now been completed, and works on Sagar Street began on the 19<sup>th</sup> May.
6. A Steering group was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the Accessible Nelson scheme,

and ongoing meetings are being held with LCC to expedite delivery. The project team continues to work closely with LCC colleagues to finalise the Grant Funding Agreement. The final cost estimates and the draft programme timeline are currently being reviewed by PBC colleagues, and this will be updated further in the next progress update report.

7. LCC has indicated that it expects Accessible Nelson works to continue until December 2026. A project extension request has therefore been submitted to the Board within the Finance Report.

## **8. ADVANCED DIGITAL SKILLS**

9. As stated in the previous update report, the Advanced Digital Skills College hub has been completed, and students continue to benefit from the new facilities at Nelson and Colne College's main campus.
10. The Digital Skills Spoke at the ACE Centre is still awaiting final issues to be resolved with the lease agreement. A new air conditioning system has been installed (a requirement for the lease), however faults on retained elements of the old system were then identified and these are being addressed. All other terms are agreed, so upon completion of these works the lease can be signed and the project team can confirm the project timeline with Nelson and Colne College.

## **11. BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND GROWTH**

12. The Business Resilience and Growth project has continued to gain interest and support from all different types of local businesses. The scheme provides for investment in new plant or machinery, lowering CO2 emissions or energy consumption (eg. through the installation of retrofit measures) and premises improvements or expansion.
13. In May, a press release was sent out by PBC showcasing the grant funding to Precision Tube and Laser Ltd. - "One such business that has already benefitted from a grant is Precision Tube & Laser Ltd, who received £100,000 towards the cost of a £400,000 laser cutter.' The grant helped to generate 11 new full-time jobs at the business premises on Pendle Industrial Estate, Southfield Street, Nelson.
14. Director at Precision Tube & Laser Ltd, Julia Wallbank, added: "We are deeply grateful to Pendle Borough Council for the generous grant, which has empowered us to grow our business and create valuable employment opportunities for our dedicated team."
15. The current total spend for the grants project is £1,128,317, with a further £339,319 allocated for grants that have been approved but not yet spent. This leaves the project a total of c£430,000 left to allocate. However, there is approximately £560,000 worth of potential grant awards against expressions of interest received from 15 companies. These are under review.
16. The council's communications team continue to work closely with the project team to market the grants to as many businesses as possible within the boundary line and showcase the benefits the grants are having to local businesses.

## **17. HEALTHY TOWNS – PARKS**

18. The Healthy Towns Parks project continues to progress well. Walverden Park is nearing completion. For Marsden Park, specialist pump track designers are currently working up detailed designs prior to the scheme being put out to tender in the next few weeks. Contractors are currently on site working on the tennis courts and bowling green fencing.

19. Surfacing works are underway in Victoria Park with Marsden being tendered in June 2025.

## 20. **HEALTHY TOWNS – WAVELENGTHS**

21. The planning application for the new Wavelengths extension has now been granted. Subject to successful discharge of pre-commencement conditions, works are expected to commence in autumn 2025 for completion by March 2026.

22. The tender process for the design and build phase of the project is well underway, with tenders currently in the evaluation stage – these are all budget-compliant and programming considerations form part of the tender evaluation. Works on the utilities are currently underway with diversion quotes being provided by suppliers. Meetings are being held monthly with the project team to make sure that progress continues at pace.

23. The solar panel works that were mentioned in the previous meeting have been completed. While not directly Town Deal works the value of these works can be used as a match for the Town Deal investment in the leisure centre.

24. The project continues to work and align with PBC's Car Parking Strategy to mitigate the loss of around 15 spaces at Wavelengths on the footprint of the extension.

## 25. **THIS IS NELSON**

26. This project continues to progress well and is running successfully in their town centre location with local residents visiting for pop-up events, People's Assemblies and workshops.

27. The project is currently in the process of completing its fourth art commission, which is due to be placed around the town centre facades.

28. Ongoing works and collaborations are happening in preparation for the festival of culture coming up at the end of June.

29. There is a focus on the impending closure of PRSC and celebrating its many years of service to the town: A project called Drift Radio has come into the Centre to capture the voices of residents. A banquet to be held in PRSC is also being planned for the end of the festival of culture.

## 30. **Recent Activities:**

31. **Food Nelson Project (May 2025):** Two sessions have already been held at Hodge House and the Pavilion Café. These sessions will be carrying on monthly – once a month at Hodge House and once a month at the Pavilion Café. Two herbalist workshops have also taken place at Hodge House.

32. **Drift Radio (May/June 2025):** The first session of Drift Radio was held at PRSC. A very positive and successful event – lots of people came to talk about the memories PRSC held for them. These sessions are happening weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

33. **Red Plenty Games Event (May 2025):** A successful event in 3B systems, with music and performances from the programmers and artists. The final showcase of the game was created by Red Plenty Games. A film is being made around Nelson Reimagined.

## 34. **Upcoming Plans:**

35. **Herbalist Sessions & Food Strategy meetings (Ongoing 2025):** A continuation of the popular Food Strategy meetings and herbalist sessions.

36. **New Art Installations (June 2025):** The final commission of the art installations for Revitalised Nelson. This is being launched at the start of June and will be displayed on the windows of the former Bramwell's Fish Merchants (Opposite Altham's on Scotland Road).

37. **Festival of Culture (June 2025):** A family fun day out, bringing Pendle's diverse communities together.

#### 38. **YES HUB**

39. This project continues to progress well, meeting all reporting outcomes and targets set. The Yes Hub team continues to provide young people with opportunities to help build confidence and learn new skills. Recently, the Pendle Yes Hub celebrated 4 years of operation.

40. Having received an invitation following a successful visit from the Lord-lieutenant early last year, colleagues at the Yes Hub attended the King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

#### 41. **GENERAL UPDATES**

#### 42. **COMMUNICATIONS**

43. The Programme Management team continues to meet with PBC's Communications team, Pendle Leisure Trust and In-situ fortnightly to ensure that the website, news releases and social media are up to date with notable stories resulting from the Town Deal Programme. Most recently, efforts have concentrated on marketing the Business Resilience and Growth Grants and putting together the communication and engagement plan for PRSC.

44. The PBC Communications Team continues to work closely with the LCC Communications team in a collaborative process to make sure that the communications regarding Accessible Nelson are ready and both parties are sharing the same messages. These meetings are being held weekly.

#### 45. **RESOURCES**

46. Regular monthly meetings continue between the PBC Finance team and the Programme management team. These meetings have continued to provide project leads with support and guidance in relation to financial and contract management processes to ensure close monitoring of progress towards spend targets before March 2026.

47. The programme management team continues to meet monthly with the project leads to get updates on project progress and discuss any issues/guidance the project lead may need.