



# NELSON NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

PAC Headquarters, Off Queen  
St, Colne.

Thursday, 19th June 2025 at 10am

## PRESENT

### MEMBERS

Claire Bennett, In the Chair  
Sajad Butt  
Lawrence Conway  
Christine Blythe  
Inspector Rob Grey  
Ruth Thompson

Positive Action in the Community  
3B Systems  
Pendle Borough Council  
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS  
Lancashire Constabulary  
Representing Jonathan Hinder MP

### OFFICERS

Karen Spencer  
Phillip Spurr  
Sandra Farnell

Pendle Borough Council  
Pendle Borough Council  
Pendle Borough Council

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Hinder MP, County Cllr Azhar Ali, Cllr Asjad Mahmood, Lisa O'Loughlin, Mike Nuttall, Dr Irfan Chaudhary, Rauf Bashir and Cllr Zafar Ali.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

### 3. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

#### **4. Actions arising from the Minutes.**

Information on an audit of the current gaps in the Investment Plan would be detailed in Item 7 of these Minutes.

#### **5. Update from Chair**

The Chair, Claire Bennett, gave a verbal update on her recent visit to Westminster, where she met with other Neighbourhood Board Chairs, Alex Norris MP, and senior civil servants. Angela Rayner MP opened the session with a brief overview of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme, followed by presentations from several areas on their local engagement work.

Claire reported that the deadline for submitting the Investment Plan is 28th November. She was reassured that Nelson's progress is on track compared to other areas, and the recent appointments of the Programme Manager and Community Development Officer were positively received and may become a model for other districts.

Government representatives advised that the Investment Plan should focus more on intended outcomes than detailed processes and that continued consultation will be essential. They also encouraged using local knowledge and resources over external consultants wherever possible. Additional national survey findings are expected to be shared shortly.

Saj Butt supported the advice to minimise the use of external consultants.

Lawrence Conway thanked Claire for the update. He raised a question about how the Investment Plan would align with the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) timetable and whether there had been any guidance on how both priorities could work together. Claire confirmed she had raised this issue, but no further guidance was available yet.

#### **6. Staffing**

Claire announced that Sue Rae has been appointed as the Programme Manager for the Neighbourhoods Plan, and Mevish Mahmood as the Community Development Officer. Both officers are now in post and will attend future Board meetings. Over the coming weeks, they will contact Board members to introduce themselves and begin engagement.

## **7. Next Steps**

A report was submitted outlining the next steps in the programme. The Board approved the work plan. Lawrence Conway asked for key milestones to be added to ensure clear progress tracking and emphasised the need to work backwards from the 28th November submission deadline.

The Board agreed to establish a short-term Steering Group to review and align the existing Investment Plan with the updated intervention list. Officers will liaise with the Chair to recommend suitable members for the group.

It was also agreed that future Steering Group meetings should align with Board meetings and be scheduled according to the key milestones identified in the updated work plan.

## **8. AOB**

Claire requested a review of Board member attendance, noting a recent decline in participation. She stressed the importance of consistent engagement as the Investment Plan enters a new phase of development.

Saj suggested the Programme Manager review the timing and format of Board meetings, proposing a potential reduction to one hour, and that Board members be asked again for their preferred days and times for meeting attendance.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 10am in the Wilson Room, Nelson Town Hall.