

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 areas 4 & 6 of a programme of works designed to improve public realm, travel routes, infrastructure and accessibility in an integrated and seamless way.
5. The scheme has progressed from Netherfield Road along Sagar St (Area 5) and works are now taking place on Broadway. The works on Broadway are taking place under full road closure and are being done in two sections – Sagar St to Railway Street and Railway Street to Manchester Road. Area 6 is expected to be completed by February 2026.
6. A Steering group was held on the 2nd August 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 (although we have recently heard that the programme may extend to June 2027). A project extension may need to be requested once we have the full amended programme from LCC

8. ADVANCED DIGITAL SKILLS

9. It is to be noted that Nelson and Colne College has undergone a wider organisational change and the name of the College is now The East Lancashire Learning Group (ELLG), which will also encompass the Digital Skills Spoke.
10. The Lease for the Ace Centre has now been signed, and keys have been handed over. ELLG have confirmed that a project champion has been appointed who will lead and a multidisciplinary Task and Finish Group which has been established to deliver the project.
11. Work is already underway by the ELLG IT and the communications teams who are initially focusing on a direct IT line connection to ensure a seamless digital experience for students equivalent to the already established Digital Hub.
12. The ELLG team have undertaken to produce a timeline and corresponding cash flow forecast ready for the end of September.

13. BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND GROWTH

14. The Business Resilience and Growth Project continues to progress, and nearly all the funding has been allocated. There is currently only £7k of funding left to allocate. The project delivery lead is due to meet with a potential grant applicant week commencing 8 September with a view to completing the final allocation.
15. Over £450k has been allocated for grants that have been approved but not yet spent / claimed by the applicant due to projects not yet being completed. The project delivery lead is forecasting that all of this will be spent by the end of the financial year. In conjunction with the applicants, a cash flow forecast has been worked up that allocates payments to named grant recipients month by month through to March 2026
16. One grant that has recently been approved is for the Alexandra Billiard Hall and they are currently in the process of signing the grant agreement which is for adding a mezzanine gaming area within the building. Evolution Bespoke Limited have also recently had their grant approved and grant agreement signed, which is for new machinery such as a Spindle Moulder, Electric Plane and an extraction system for their workshop to help with the extraction of dust and sawdust from the woodwork that they produce. The grant amount for this recipient is £19,570.

17. HEALTHY TOWNS – PARKS

18. The Healthy Towns Parks project is well underway, with most works almost complete.
19. Walverden Park: Works at this park are at practical completion, the senior playground,

the junior playground refurbishment and the learn to ride track were all completed earlier this year. Any underspend will go towards minor jobs across the park.

20. Marsden Park: The tennis courts and the white line painting has been completed. The contractors for the Pump Track are due to begin in the middle of September. Tarmacking is currently underway.
21. Victoria Park: Contractors are due to start installing the new playground in mid-September 2025.
22. Seven of Pendle's Parks are raising their Green Flag 2025. These parks include all three of the NTD-funded parks, Walverden, Victoria and Marden Park. The Green Flag is awarded to a park in recognition of it being one of the best in the country, by providing a welcoming place with eco-friendly environments including natural habitats for wildlife.

23. HEALTHY TOWNS – WAVELENGTHS

24. The Wavelengths project is now fully underway, and a tender analysis was conducted by DLP and Galloways Limited has been selected as the chosen contractor. They are a Manchester based firm.
25. A letter of intent has been drafted so that Galloways can begin the design element of the contract.
26. Enabling works are booked in for the Spa/Plant room to move the flumes out of the way. This is booked in for the first week of September.
27. Utility Diversions are also going to be underway in the first couple of weeks in September. Cadent has now allocated a Project Manager, and they are looking to carry out the gas diversion on the 11th of September. Electricity Northwest have been booked in for the week before.
28. Full construction works will begin at the end of September/start of October for a 6-month programme with a target completion of March 2026.

29. THIS IS NELSON

30. The Festival of Culture has now concluded, and it was a very successful and popular event! Feedback from the event organisers was that it was a rich programme, and it felt like it incorporated all ages.
31. A banquet was held at PRSC on the last day of the Festival of Culture. This was outlined in the previous board report, where there was a focus on the impending closure of PRSC and celebrating its many years of service to the town. 110 people attended this meal. It was a mix between retailers – past and present, residents of the town and more.
32. A project called Drift Radio has had a temporary residency in PRSC to capture businesses and local people speaking about their town. This was a positive project, where many PRSC retailers were able to speak about their fond memories of PRSC. This soundscape was presented at the Banquet after the Festival of Culture, and a longer piece is being edited together to share.
33. In-situ has been successful with a National Lottery Heritage Bid, meaning the target for Match Funding on this project has been met. This funding is to develop an initial sound archive with lots of public engagement taking place. This project will span the remainder

of the Town Deal Programme.

34. Two People's Assemblies were held around the closure of PRSC. These focused on the memories, hopes and dreams around PRSC, a celebration of the legacy of the Arndale Centre.
35. The fourth and final print commission has been launched on the Old Fishmongers on Scotland Rd by the artist Aliyah Hussain. This work is called 'How do we Listen?'. This print was developed in dialogue with In-situ's Thinking Out Loud programme, a wide-reaching collective exploration of Climate, Inequality, Nature, and Hope.

36. YES HUB

37. 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.
38. Free gym sessions are being held for 16 – 24-year-olds at Pendle Wavelengths, with the YES Hub trying to inspire more young people to get active, try something new or just have a safe space to be in. These sessions happen every Thursday from 2-3pm.
39. The Yes Hub recently held its steering group on the 30th of July 2025. New summer activities were announced such as fishing sessions with M & S Angling, and boxing taster sessions led by Empire Fighting Chance, while Move2change are holding a 4-week block of outdoor activities such as scrambling for the young people to get involved with.
40. The Yes Hub has also recently collaborated with Dom Home Care for a basic life support course for young people. The first course was delivered with 15 young people attending the training, and due to its success two more training dates were put in for the end of August.
41. Finally, the Yes Hub welcomed Burnley FC in the community and Daisy Group, who interviewed work-ready young people for the HATCH Programme. This was a fantastic opportunity offering a 4-week paid placement into an administrative role. This is helping the young people gain valuable workplace experience for their futures.

42. GENERAL UPDATES

43. COMMUNICATIONS

44. 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 putting together the communication and engagement plan for PRSC / the overall programme.
45. 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.

46. RESOURCES

47. 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 on financial and contract management processes, ensuring close monitoring of progress towards spend targets by March 2026.

48. A cash flow exercise is due to take place at the start of September, rolling into a monthly cash flow forecast through to the end of the programme.
49. New guidance has been released by MHCLG regarding monitoring for the Town Deal. This includes information on PAR forms, output and outcome indicators and evidence requirements. These are currently being investigated by the programme delivery team and a short update is in the outputs and outcomes progress report.
50. 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 leads may need.