



NELSON NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

Nelson Town Hall, Wilson Room
Tuesday 23rdnd September 2025 at 9am

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Claire Bennett (CB), In the Chair
Lawrence Conway (LC)
Shahid Shabbir (SS)
Karen Arciniega (KS)
Azhar Ali (AA)

Sajad Butt (SB)
Christine Blythe (CB)
Inspector Rob Grey (RG)
Jonathon Hinder (JH)
Rauf Bashir (RB)

Pendle Action in the Community (PAC)
Pendle Borough Council
Bodies in Motion
McDonald's Franchise Owner
Lancashire County Council (LCC)
Councillor
3B Systems
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS
Lancashire Constabulary
Member of Parliament
Building Bridges

OFFICERS

Phillip Spurr (PS)
Sue Rae (SR)
Mevish Mahmood (MM)
Iftikhar Bokhari (IB)

Pendle Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Lisa O'Loughlin, Dr Irfan Chaudhary, Cllr Faraz Ahmed, Mesam Ali and Joel Feingold

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (22nd July 2025)

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

4. Board Update

Welcome to New Members: K.A. and S.S. were welcomed with introductions from all attendees.

Member Profiles for Website:

C.B. requested profile submissions.

S.B. noted previous submission to Sandra Farnell

S.R. reiterated some photographs and profiles remain outstanding.

5. Feedback from Workshop — Summary

S.R. shared the outcomes from the recent workshop linked to the Long-Term Town Plan, explaining that three new priorities had been added to the Plan for Neighbourhoods: Housing, Education and Opportunities, and Health and Wellbeing. Regeneration came through as the main theme. Members felt there needs to be a balance between quick, visible wins in town centres and shops, and longer-term work around jobs, skills and community support. There was a shared feeling that residents should be involved early so they feel part of the change rather than just watching it happen. Health and wellbeing was seen as something that should be considered, not sit on the side. Overall, the message was clear: act early, show progress, and make sure people can see that the plan is for them, not just about them.

6. Update of Regeneration Plan

S.R. confirmed that work on the Regeneration Plan is ongoing, with a completion deadline of 28th November. The November Board meeting has been brought forward to 12th November to allow time for any final amendments following Board review. S.R. will circulate the draft plan to members in 10 separate sections for ease of reading and invited comments and suggestions from all Board members once received.

7. First Year Funding – Expression of Interest (EOI) Form

S.R. handed out examples of the Expression of Interest (EOI) form for the Board to review and discuss. C.B. suggested developing a plan to understand the types of ideas being submitted, which could help guide whether projects are quick wins or long-term initiatives.

The Board discussed flexibility in the forms and the possibility of creating two groups: one subgroup for decision-making and another for young people and

residents. R.B. raised points about how to structure the process, and S.R. advised that the Board should decide. C.B., C.B. (CVS), and others agreed that the process should be simple and straightforward.

C.B. provided examples of different types of applications, highlighting that some requests (e.g., for bins) may not require a full application. The Board agreed on the importance of acting quickly while maintaining a manageable process. It was agreed to establish a sub-group to review applications and EOI forms, which will report back to the full Board. The sub-group was voted in and includes: R.B., S.B., S.S., C.B., and C.B. (CVS).

8. Update on Engagement Activities

M.M. updated the Board on survey results and overall youth engagement activities. She reported attending 7+ events and workshops, engaging with schools, community groups, and local services, and distributing flyers and information to the wider Nelson community. M.M. highlighted that the main themes emerging from the survey and engagement work are regeneration, cohesion, safety, and security. She then opened a discussion on cohesion within the community.

S.B. suggested a focus on celebrating the positive aspects of Nelson to boost community morale. P.S. emphasised that quick wins could help improve cohesion. I.B. noted the need for inspiration, aspiration, and ongoing engagement around cohesion. K.A. added that quick, visible successes encourage momentum and trust, creating an “adrenaline rush” if instant wins are maintained consistently.

9. Marketing

M.M. set up a marketing table for the Board to review, designed to engage the community with the programme and gather their views on Nelson. M.M. uses this setup at events to support wider community engagement. The Board approved this approach.

10. Any Other Business (AOB)

L.C. informed the Board that this would be his last meeting, as he will no longer be Chief Executive of Pendle Borough Council. The Board thanked him for his time and effort in supporting the Board.

S.S. offered apologies in advance for the next meeting.

11. Action Points

- All members to submit photo and profile for the website (from Board Update).
- Sub-group to confirm the EOI form for the first year and present it back to the full Board for approval (from First Year Funding – EOI Form).
- All Board members to consider feedback and suggestions for the Regeneration Plan once S.R. circulates the sections that the Board needs to read (from Update of Regeneration Plan).
- S.R. and M.M. to continue to keep the Board updated on any developments.
- M.M. to continue engagement activity.

12. Date of Next Meetings

9.00am – Friday 24th October

9.00am – Wednesday 12th November (rescheduled from 25th November to align with the Regeneration Plan submission deadline of 28th November at 12.00 noon)

Venue: Wilson Room, Town Hall, Nelson