

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE

TO: TOWN DEAL BOARD

DATE: 14th November 2025

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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 comprises Areas 4 and 6 of a wider programme of works aimed at enhancing Nelson's public realm, travel routes, infrastructure, and overall accessibility in an integrated and cohesive manner.
5. The payment schedule for the Accessible Nelson Programme has now been agreed with Lancashire County Council (LCC). Payments are being made to facilitate the purchase of materials required for project delivery.
6. Works are progressing on schedule, with construction on Broadway now completed and the area reopened. Works have now commenced on Scotland Road. The new pedestrian crossings at Holme Street, Sagar Street, and the Broadway roundabout are operational, further improving accessibility throughout the scheme area.

7. The cycleway surfacing, featuring a distinctive green asphalt finish, is scheduled for delivery and installation as a final consolidated operation across adjoining completed phases towards the end of the overall programme of works.
8. LCC currently anticipates that the Accessible Nelson works will continue until December 2026. However, there are indications that the programme may extend to June 2027.

9. ADVANCED DIGITAL SKILLS

10. The multidisciplinary Task and Finish Group continues to meet regularly, collaborating to develop and coordinate the overall programme which is scheduled to open the new spoke at the ACE Centre in February/March 2026. This is subject to establishing a dedicated direct IT line connection to support a seamless and reliable digital experience for students. Commissioning this installation is currently a key focus of the East Lancashire Learning Group's (ELLG) IT team.
11. Two open days have been scheduled for for ELLG's Nelson campus, taking place on 15 October and 11 November respectively.

12. BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND GROWTH

13. The Business Resilience and Growth Project continues to make strong progress, with nearly all available funding now allocated. Approximately £7,000 of funding remains, and an application is currently being prepared to utilise this remaining amount.
14. To date, over £350,000 has been allocated for approved grants that have not yet been spent or claimed by applicants, as their respective projects are still in progress. The Project Delivery Lead forecasts that all committed funding will be fully spent by the end of the financial year. A cash flow forecast, developed in collaboration with applicants, outlines monthly payment allocations to named grant recipients through to March 2026 and is reviewed monthly by the Programme Management Team and Finance Department.
15. Two grants were approved and paid during September and October. These were:
 - Evolution Bespoke Limited - awarded funding for new machinery to enhance their workshop operations.
 - Pasture Farm Foods - awarded funding for new equipment and premises adaptations
16. UKSPF funded business support from Growth Lancashire and Pendle Business Support Adviser – Andy Hall recently hosted an event at Northlight, titled “Unlocking Your Vision and Offer.” The event supported businesses in defining their mission, purpose, and core values, setting long-term strategic goals, identifying competitive advantages, and developing clear, market-ready offers. This is one of several initiatives currently providing targeted support to local businesses under the programme.

17. HEALTHY TOWNS – PARKS

18. The Healthy Towns Parks project continues to progress well with all works nearing completion.
19. Walverden Park: Works at this park have reached practical completion. The senior playground, junior playground refurbishment, alongside the MUGA refurbishment were all completed earlier this year. Since the previous update, surfacing works have been finalised and railings installed, marking substantial progress on-site.

20. Marsden Park: Tarmacking works are now complete with various sections around the park repaired or replaced, with new surfacing and steel railings installed. Pump track construction has been completed and officially opened.
21. Victoria Park: Works to the playground are now complete and open to the public. Works include a new carpet surfacing overlay being installed over the playground's existing rubber surface to create a smooth and polished finish. This complements the learn to ride scheme adjacent that was completed in 2024. The Project Lead is also developing the bridge improvement scheme, engaging with suppliers and engineers to confirm design and delivery options. Once costings for the bridge are completed, the final items of infrastructure such as benches and signage will be considered.

22. **HEALTHY TOWNS – WAVELENGTHS**

23. The Wavelengths Project is well underway, with all enabling works, including diversions and drainage, now fully completed. The main contractor is on site, and site setup activities have been successfully finalised.
24. Excavation and base preparation works for the extension foundations are in progress and on programme, with no delays reported.
25. The pool play area works have been scheduled for December, and the project remains on track for practical completion by the end of March 2026.

26. **THIS IS NELSON**

27. The This is Nelson project continues to successfully engage with the local community, supporting a range of initiatives that enhance community spaces across Nelson. The project is currently meeting all output targets, reflecting strong delivery performance.
28. A People's Assembly took place on 18 October at the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre. The event was organised with the support of Food Nelson as part of Dana Olarescu's "*Taste of Transformation*" project. It provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about Food Nelson's work. The event also featured a 'Talkeoke' session – a public pop-up talk show that invited participants to share their views and listen to others. The focus was on the Nelson Plan for Neighbourhoods, exploring how the community could collaborate to make Nelson a greener, more playful, and connected place to live. The People's Assembly was very well attended, with around 400–500 people participating throughout the day, making it a lively and engaging event.
29. A new installation was unveiled at 3B Systems as part of the British Textile Biennial. Entitled "*Memory Fabric*" by Alexis Maxwell, the installation ran from 2nd to 30th October. The immersive, sci-fi-inspired multimedia piece explored the idea of a fabric that held the memories of local people and the surrounding Pendle landscape. Using projection mapping and nature-inspired sculpture, the artwork envisioned future fabrics that grew, shifted, and stored memory, blending the organic with the artificial and the natural with the woven. The installation was very well attended, attracting strong visitor interest throughout its run and receiving positive feedback from attendees.
30. In-Situ are collaborating with the demolition team at the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre (PRSC) on a mural project, developed by Building Bridges Pendle, supported through the PBC Community Engagement Programme (CEP) funding.

31. The project will involve local schoolchildren, who will help design artwork for the PRSC development hoardings and explore creative gateway features for the town.

32. YES HUB

33. The Pendle YES Hub Project continues to progress strongly, meeting all reporting outcomes and performance targets. The YES Hub team remains committed to providing young people with opportunities to build confidence, develop skills, and prepare for future employment.

34. Following the success of previous life support courses — attended by 15 young people who completed basic life support training with Domiciliary Home Care Services — the YES Hub scheduled and delivered additional training sessions in manual handling and health and safety, which took place throughout September and October.

35. The YES Hub has continued to strengthen its partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through the Movement to Work initiative. This collaboration is helping young people gain valuable work experience and employment opportunities through tailored placements, mentoring, and skills development. Several participants have already progressed into paid roles across a range of sectors. This initiative has significantly boosted confidence, employability, and long-term career prospects.

36. There has been a notable increase in demand for both employability and mental health support services at the Hub. The employability offer remains heavily utilised, with staff diaries now fully booked up to two weeks in advance

37. As part of an initiative to broaden young people's horizons, a group from Bradley Ward recently visited the Houses of Parliament. This visit provided a first-hand insight into national decision-making, raising aspirations and inspiring interest in future career paths.

38. Female-only boxing sessions are currently being held at the Hub, designed to empower young women through physical activity. These sessions are being delivered in collaboration with the Active Future Physical Activity Network

39. The YES Hub continues to operate its Free Bike Hire Library, run by Active Cycles in partnership with PBC, Lancashire County Council, and Active Lancashire. This initiative offers free bike hire for adults aged 18+ living in Pendle for up to one month. Participants who hire a bike for two weeks or more receive a £10 voucher to use at the Active Cycles bike shop towards the purchase of a refurbished adult bike, with prices starting at just £50.

40. Two case studies showcasing individual success stories from the Hub have been provided and are attached to this report for reference.

41. GENERAL UPDATES

42. COMMUNICATIONS

43. The Programme Management Team continues to meet fortnightly with BC's Communications Team, Pendle Leisure Trust, and In-Situ to ensure that the website, news releases, and social media channels remain up to date with notable stories and achievements arising from the Town Deal Programme. Actions identified at the previous Town Deal Board meeting have been incorporated into the communications update included later in the agenda.

44. A visit from members of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) took place on 23 September. During the visit, the delegation toured a selection of Town Deal projects and expressed strong satisfaction with the progress achieved to date.
45. The PBC Communications Team continues to work collaboratively with the Lancashire County Council Communications Team to ensure consistent and coordinated messaging around the Accessible Nelson project. Both teams are actively engaged in ensuring that communications are timely, accurate, and aligned across all platforms.

46. RESOURCES

47. Regular monthly meetings continue to take place between the PBC Finance Team and the Programme Management Team. These sessions provide ongoing support and guidance to project leads on financial management, contract administration, and compliance processes, ensuring robust monitoring of progress towards spend targets up to March 2026
48. Monthly cash flow forecasting exercises continue to be undertaken and have proven to be highly beneficial in maintaining financial oversight. These will remain an ongoing feature of programme management through to the end of the delivery period.
49. The new MHCLG guidance on monitoring and reporting has been thoroughly reviewed by the Programme Team, and revised outputs and outcomes are presented to the Board in a separate report. While the changes are significant, they are welcomed as they provide the Board and individual projects with greater flexibility across the programme portfolio.
50. The Programme Management Team also continues to hold monthly progress meetings with project leads to review delivery status, discuss any challenges or risks, and provide targeted guidance and support as required.