



Nelson Pride In Place Board

**Nelson Town Hall, Wilson Room
Friday 12th December 2025 at 9:15am**

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Claire Bennett (CB), In the Chair
Karen Arciniega (KS)
Sajad Butt (SB)
Christine Blythe (CB)
Jonathon Hinder (JH)
Rauf Bashir (RB)
Shahid Shabbir (SS)
Azhar Ali (AA)
Asjad Mahmood (AM)
Inspector Rob Grey (RG)
Mesam Ali (MA)

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

OFFICERS

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

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, Dean Langton and Irfan Chaudhary.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were noted:

- CB declared an interest in Pendle Food For All and Pendle YES Hub.

- SS declared an interest in Bodies In Motion.
- RB declared an interest in Building Bridges.
- SB declared an interest in 3B Systems.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (12th November 2025)

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

4. Board Members

Non-attendance

CB raised concerns regarding board member attendance. MM advised that five board members had missed three meetings or more consecutively. In line with the Terms of Reference, this could lead to removal from the Board; however, two of those members attended this meeting.

CB stated that discussions need to take place with the remaining three members regarding attendance or the option of sending a representative in their place. The importance of regular attendance and the potential removal of board members was reiterated.

PS highlighted the importance of having a health representative on the Board, and added that a college representative is also important. It was agreed that conversations should take place with relevant members before any removal decisions are made.

MM will liaise with non-attending members and bring back proposed new board members or suggestions.

Terms of Reference

MM advised that the Terms of Reference are out of date and still refer to the old project name rather than Nelson Pride in Place. It was also noted that the Terms of Reference state the Board should not exceed 15 members, while the current membership stands at 16.

MM sought Board approval to amend and update the Terms of Reference. The Board agreed.

Board Meeting Protocol

MM advised that meeting invitations will be sent out and requested that Board members confirm attendance, including whether they will attend in person or via Teams. Apologies and confirmations should be submitted at least two working days before meetings to ensure meetings are quorate and appropriate arrangements are made.

Bios Reminder

MM reminded outstanding Board members to submit their biographies and photographs for the new website.

5. First year funding project

SR presented a list of projects identified for potential first-year funding, including the amounts requested.

There was discussion regarding the fairness and transparency of the process used to identify the projects. It was clarified that, for the first year only, this method had been identified to allow for a quick turnaround given the funding commences in April 26 and considering projects at risk within the next 12 months. Projects proposed for consideration have been identified via the community engagement work already undertaken. This method would also allow us to demonstrate to the community that we are taking action in response to this engagement and meeting the priorities as defined by our investment plan submitted to the government. Additionally potential projects will need to submit applications by invitation to clarify in more detail their request and for them to be appraised appropriately by a funding allocations sub group of the board, ensuring a robust approach. It was also noted that this process would also provide us with an opportunity for insight and learning in preparation for identification and inviting applications for funding for years 2,3 and 4.

It was reiterated that organisations met during the engagement process were not given false expectations or promises, and that the funding process was clearly explained at all times. The Board agreed with the approach and supported applications being invited from the identified projects.

A task and finish group was agreed to support the review of applications. Members confirmed were:

- Councillor Azhar Ali
- Councillor Asjad Mahmood
- Christine Blythe
- Inspector Rob Grey
- Karen Arciniega

CB suggested that any surplus revenue be set aside for a small community grants programme for other organisations to apply for and to meet any emerging needs. This was agreed by AA.

RG and AA noted that two of the projects relating to street lighting referenced other potential funding streams that could support this work following a survey focused on female safety.

RB queried whether there could be flexibility in the revenue/capital split following the addition of a new intervention now called Community Power. JH agreed to have further conversations at government level regarding the revenue/capital split.

6. Subgroups

There was discussion around the development of community sub-groups for ongoing engagement. It was suggested that existing groups, such as the People's Assembly, and economic growth groups such as vision board, and other forums e.g. youth forum should be identified and engaged with, as well as identifying potentially new communities and individuals and establishing meaningful ways they can engage.

The Board discussed the importance of flexibility around meeting times, including evenings and weekends, and ensuring inclusion of communities whose voices may be less heard, including older white communities.

Members highlighted the need to be creative and dynamic in engaging groups, ensuring participants have a genuine interest in Nelson, and capturing a wide range of voices, including businesses. The Board agreed that this should be an inclusive process.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

No additional items were raised

8. Action Points

MM to liaise with non-attending Board members regarding attendance and representation.

MM to map existing community groups including business groups.

MM to update and amend the Terms of Reference.

MM/SR to create and coordinate the task and finish groups.

SR to invite identified projects to submit funding applications.

Board Members to send biographies and photographs to MM for the website.

JH to query and clarify the capital and revenue split.

9. Date of Next Meetings

Friday 23rd January at 9:15am – Wilson Room, Nelson Town Hall

Friday 20th February at 9:15am – Wilson room, Nelson Town Hall

Friday 13th March at 9:15am – Wilson Room , Nelson Town Hall

DRAFT