

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE

TO: TOWN DEAL BOARD

DATE: 15 May 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. Works continue to progress on schedule, with work moving onto New Scotland Road. LCC are still projecting that the Accessible Nelson works will complete before the end of 2026.
6. Much of the road surfacing and cycleway surfacing (which features a distinctive green asphalt finish and some of which has been laid) is scheduled for delivery and installation as a final consolidated operation across adjoining completed phases towards the end of the overall programme of works.

7. Liaison is taking place between PBC, Penbrook and LCC Highways around final completion of highway works covering Accessible Nelson and Pendle Rise redevelopment S278 works, which by necessity need to fit with the on-site construction timeline.

8. The project remains on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes.

9. The budget will be maximised with no overspend or underspend.

10. ADVANCED DIGITAL SKILLS

11. The new Digital Skills Spoke in the Ace Centre opened on schedule at the end of February, with delivery of courses now underway.

12. The project remains on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes.

13. A monthly revenue claim will be submitted by ELLG throughout the 2026/27 financial year, to allow for the remaining Town Deal funds for digital skills to support the Hub through its first year of operation. The budget will be maximised with no overspend or underspend.

14. ELLG are keen supporters of improving car parking provision at the ACE Centre, to make it easier for students and delegates to attend courses which are longer than 2.5 hours.

15. BUSINESS RESILIENCE AND GROWTH

16. The Business Resilience and Growth Project has successfully committed all funds with only one applicant payment still to be made pending their evidenced claim. The budget will be maximised with no overspend or underspend.

17. The project remains on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes.

18. HEALTHY TOWNS – PARKS

19. The completion of the bridge improvement scheme in Victoria Park marks the successful conclusion of the Healthy Town Parks scheme.

20. The project remains on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes.

21. The budget will be maximised with no overspend or underspend.

22. HEALTHY TOWNS – WAVELENGTHS

23. The Wavelengths Project will be completed by the end of May 2026, with the final works being the resurfacing of the car park.

24. The project remains on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes. In fact, an additional 4200 user sessions for young people have already been achieved.

25. The budget will be maximised with no overspend or underspend.

26. THIS IS NELSON

27. Final activities within the highly successful This Is Nelson programme are taking place to finalise at the Festival of Culture at the end of June.
28. Remaining funds are therefore profiled to the end of June, at which point the budget will be maximised with no overspend or underspend.
29. The project remains on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes. The In-Situ team are preparing a summary sheet of achievements to share with the Board.

30. YES HUB

31. Following successful completion of the Town Deal funded YES Hub, where all outputs and outcomes were achieved, delivery is ongoing with new funding from Pride in Place Nelson and DWP.
32. The Town Deal Budget was maximised. A small overspend of £400 was incurred, which will be offset within the overall Programme Budgets.
33. The YES Hub will attend the Board Meeting to share their achievements with the Board.

34. GENERAL UPDATES

35. COMMUNICATIONS

36. The end of the Pre-Election period and the completion of projects means that the PBC Communications Team is working with project leads to get good news stories ready for publication. There will be press releases celebrating the projects and reflecting on the positives of the programme.

37. RESOURCES

38. RAISE Partnership Limited will complete their tenure as Town Deal Programme Managers and Revitalised Nelson Programme Managers at the end of June 2026 after which these functions will pass to PBC Officers. A full and comprehensive handover is being implemented.
39. The Programme Management team is working closely with the PBC Finance Team to prepare for the 2025/26 year-end monitoring return to MHCLG and a round of internal monitoring on each project has been completed in preparation, based on a draft return template issued by MHCLG. The formal template is currently awaited from MHCLG for population and submission.