MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NELSON TOWN DEAL BOARD
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL,
AND VIA TEAMS
ON 7th AUGUST 2026

PRESENT

S. Barnes (SB) – (Chair)

Members of the Board

Councillor F. Ahmad	*Pendle Borough Council, (PBC)*
Councillor N. Ahmed	*PBC*
County Councillor A. Ali	*Lancashire County Council (LCC)*
C. Bennett	*Positive Action in the Community*
Councillor A. Mahmood	*PBC*
N. Rockett	*Owner of Phoenix Health*

Consultants/Advisors

N. Avery	*Department for Works and Pensions (DWP)*

Officers in attendance

I. Bokhari	*Head of Economic Growth, PBC*
R. Ferguson	*Committee Administrator, PBC*
D. Gamble	*Projects and Programmes Officer, PBC*
Z. Iqbal	*Project Support Assistant, RAISE Partnership*
G. Louise-Wells	*Head of Finance, PBC*
R. Savory	*Project Manager, RAISE Partnership*
P. Spurr	*Director of Place, PBC*

Also, in attendance

K. Fisher	*MP's Office Manager*
M. Nuttall	*Property Director, Brookhouse Group*

(Apologies for absence were received from D. Langton, Councillor M. Iqbal, R, Grey, K. Arciniega & D. Rothwell.)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any interest they had on any item of business on the agenda.

C. Bennett, CEO of Positive Action in the Community declared a non-prejudicial interest in relation to Item 4 (Nelson Town Deal Progress Update), on account of her role at the YES Hub.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any conflicts of interest they

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had on any item of business on the agenda.

A. Mahmood declared a conflict of interest on Item 6 (Nelson Pride In Place) owing to being a member of the Nelson Pride In Place Board.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2026 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2026 be approved as a correct record by the Chair.

4. NELSON TOWN DEAL PROGRESS UPDATE

The Director of Place, PBC submitted a report on the following projects:-

a) Accessible Nelson

It was advised that ongoing roadworks in Nelson would be expected to be completed by November 2026. Members noted the importance of aligning the works with the re-development of Pendle Rise.

Members raised concerns regarding parking and enforcement issues on a number of roads affected by the Accessible Nelson project, particularly Manchester Road, Scotland Road and Leeds Road. Members noted that pavement parking continued to present significant accessibility and health and safety issues. Vehicles parked on pavements impede access for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and those with pushchairs, often forcing them into the carriageway. Members emphasised that stronger enforcement would be required once the highway works had been completed and noted that double yellow lines could not be introduced until the works were finished. The possibility of using cameras or other measures to deter pavement parking was discussed. Members considered that a partnership approach involving Lancashire County Council, Pendle Borough Council and Nelson Town Council would be required to address the ongoing issue and requested that officers continue discussions with the relevant organisations, including consideration of whether funding or other resources could be used to support enforcement measures. It was noted that this was a priority issue for the Board and that a longer-term approach should be considered. Officers advised that discussions with Lancashire County Council were ongoing and that options would continue to be explored.

b) Advanced Digital Skills

The new Digital Skills Spoke in the ACE Centre opened on schedule at the end of February, with delivery of courses now underway. It was reported that the project remained on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes.

c) Business Resilience and Growth

The project achieved all outputs and outcomes. Members welcomed the completion of this project.

d) Healthy Towns – Parks

The completion of the bridge improvement scheme in Victoria Park marked the successful conclusion of the Healthy Town Parks scheme. The project achieved all outputs and outcomes.

e) Healthy Towns – Wavelengths

The final works of the Wavelengths were due to take place after the school summer holidays, to minimise disruption to users. The project remained on target to deliver all outputs and outcomes.

f) This Is Nelson

The final activities within the highly successful This Is Nelson programme took place at the end of June as part of the Festival of Culture. The project achieved all outputs and outcomes.

g) YES Hub

The final activities within the highly successful This Is Nelson programme took place at the end of June as part of the Festival of Culture. The project achieved all outputs and outcomes.

The PBC Communications Team had been working with project leads to publish positive stories to celebrate the completed projects and to provide updates on the on-going projects.

RESOLVED

(1) That the update be noted.

(2) That officers continue discussions with Lancashire County Council and Nelson Town Council regarding pavement parking and enforcement measures, including consideration of potential funding and camera-based enforcement options.

5. NELSON TOWN DEAL FINANCE REPORT

A written report was received on Nelson Town Deal’s current financial status.

The Head of Finance reported that the programme remained in a positive financial position with no significant forecast underspends. Members noted that match funding targets had been exceeded. The report included a proposed virement of £18,800 from the completed Business Resilience and Growth project to Programme Management to provide additional officer support for the successful delivery and close-down of the programme.

Members sought further clarification regarding the need for additional resources and requested further information on programme contingencies and any remaining unallocated funding. It was noted that all Town Deal funding commitments must be in place by March 2028 and that Local Government Reorganisation added further importance to progressing delivery in a timely manner.

RESOLVED

(1) That the financial position be noted.

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(2) That approval of the proposed virement of £18,800 be granted, subject to a further report being submitted to the next meeting providing additional detail on programme contingencies, any remaining unallocated funding and the requirement for the additional resources.

6. NELSON PRIDE IN PLACE UPDATE

The Board received an update on progress with Nelson Pride in Place.

It was reported that the programme had made a positive start with stakeholder and community engagement activity progressing well across the town. Members were advised that recruitment activity was underway to fill vacancies and address identified skills gaps within the project.

Work was continuing on the development of a Communications and Engagement Strategy and a ten-year plan for the initiative.

The recently approved Investment Plan was highlighted together with a successful Place Standard event, which had attracted approximately 70 participants who undertook a walk-through of key area of the town to identify priorities for improvement.

Concerns regarding vehicles parking on pavements and the need for additional public toilet provision were among the key issues raised during community engagement.

Members were advised that a further fourteen funding applications had been received, with seven projects approved for support. Questions were raised regarding the future operation of Pride in Place under Local Government Reorganisation. It was explained that the intention is that the programme should move towards a community-led delivery model by the end of year three.

RESOLVED

(1) That the update be noted.

(2) That a summary of projects supported through Pride in Place funding, together with the outcomes and impacts achieved, be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Members were advised that:

- A news release had been issued in June highlighting that Accessible Nelson works were progressing ahead of schedule, with a further release planned ahead of the overnight resurfacing works in September/October.
- Communications were being prepared to promote progress with the Pendle Rise redevelopment, including demolition activity and the installation of a time-lapse camera to record progress on site.
- Joint communications activity was being planned with Nelson and Colne College in advance of the new academic year to promote the Digital Skills Hub.
- Legacy communications activity was being developed for the completed Business

Resilience and Growth programme, showcasing businesses supported and programme achievements.

- Communications highlighting investment in Nelson's parks and the completion of the Victoria Park bridge scheme were being prepared.

- A joint press release had been issued with Pendle Leisure Trust regarding the official opening of the new Wavelengths studio.

Members discussed the potential use of visual and digital content, including computer-generated imagery and video content, to help residents better understand the transformation proposed through Town Deal projects and to provide a positive vision for the future of Nelson.

The Board welcomed the update and requested that communications activity continue to focus on celebrating completed projects whilst promoting progress on those still under delivery.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair invited any final comments or matters for consideration under Any Other Business.

It was noted that Joel Rosenblatt had resigned from his position on board. Members agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent in recognition of his work.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Nelson Town Deal Board will be held on Friday 20th November 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business on the grounds that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information which was of a commercially sensitive nature.

PART II – EXEMPT ITEM

11. REVITALISED NELSON: PRSC, RELOCATION PROPERTIES AND TRAFALGAR HOUSE

A written report was received to update the Board on the particular aspects of this project.

(a) Pendle Rise

The Board received a detailed update on progress with the redevelopment project. Good progress continued to be made in relation to utility disconnections, asbestos removal and soft-strip works, with the project remaining on programme and within budget. Utility disconnections were progressing well, with electricity and gas works completed and arrangements in place for the water supply. The telecommunications relocation programme was progressing positively. Members were advised that approximately 61% of asbestos removal works had been completed and that physical demolition was expected to commence in September 2026, with completion anticipated by mid-November 2026.

A time-lapse camera would be installed to record progress, and Members supported making footage available to the public where possible. It was reported that no unexpected issues or additional claims had arisen and that budget monitoring remained positive. Members thanked officers and project partners for the significant progress made to date.

The Board also received an update on the development agreement and preparations for construction of the new retail development. Planning permission had been secured and work was progressing towards exchange of relevant agreements. Members discussed opportunities for community engagement, including the future naming and promotion of the development. The use of computer-generated imagery was also being considered to help communicate the proposed scheme. Members also discussed the importance of ensuring an appropriate mix of mainstream retail uses and improving public toilet provision in the town centre.

(b) Relocation Properties

Members were advised that detailed work was continuing on the vacant upper-floor accommodation within relocation properties to assess access arrangements and identify future opportunities for occupation and use.

(c) Trafalgar House

Members were advised that proposals to retain and refurbish the building frontage continued to be developed. Subject to the necessary approvals, demolition of the rear of the building would proceed. A demolition contractor and a refurbishment contractor had been procured through competitive tendering processes. The demolition contractor had accepted responsibility for managing asbestos-related risks identified through surveys. A report to agree to progress the scheme would be considered by the PBC Executive in August.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

Chair ___________________________________

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