



Nelson Pride In Place Board
Nelson Town Hall, Wilson Room
Friday 20th February 2026 at 9:15am

PRESENT MEMBERS

Claire Bennett (CB), In the Chair
Sajad Butt (SB)
Christine Blythe (CB)
Ruth Thompson (RT)

Azhar Ali (AA)
Inspector Rob Grey (RG)
Asjad Mahmood (AM)
Karen Arciniega (KS)
Rauf Bashir (RB)
Shahid Shabbir (SS)

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

OFFICERS

Sue Rae (SR)
Iftikhar Bokhari (IB)
Phillip Spurr (PS)

Pendle Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dean Langton, Jonathon Hinder MP, Faraz Ahmed, Andrew Dewhurst, Mevish Mahmood and Mesam Ali.

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.
- SB declared an interest in 3B Systems.
- RB declared an interest Building Bridges.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (23.01.26)

The minutes were approved as an accurate record, noting that IB apologies these had been sent but not noted.

Update on actions from minutes 23.01.2026

Item 3: SR circulated the updated Terms of Reference to the Board on 27/01/2026.

Item 4: SR to chase outstanding bios – all completed except one.

Item 4: SR to draft an EOI form for Board review – scheduled for discussion at this meeting.

Item 5: SR circulated all applications and supporting documents to the Task and Finish Group ahead of the meeting on 30/01/2026.

Item 6: SR arranged the workshop to support the Board in clarifying priorities for Years 2–4 – workshop prepared for the 20/02/2026 meeting.

Item 7: SR reported key findings from the Hastings visit – report circulated prior to the Board meeting.

AM explained that he had not received the project papers and had expected to do so as a member of the Task and Finish Group. SR clarified that the papers had only been shared with those able to attend the meeting.

The Board agreed that this is a learning process and that moving forward a clear Terms of Reference should be developed for the Task and Finish Group. These will set out access to information, expectations regarding attendance, and confidentiality requirements.

The Board discussed the importance of maintaining confidentiality until projects are formally agreed and reaffirmed that the Task and Finish Group is intended to provide a fair, transparent, and robust assessment process. This approach is in place to protect all Board members should any challenge arise. It was also noted that some members of the Task and Finish Group had experienced lobbying, which the Board considered inappropriate.

4. Board Members

Update non-attendance

Higher Education – Nelson and Colne College

Advised that in the interim Andrew Dewhurst will attend on behalf of Lisa O'Loughlin.

Health Sector – Representative: Dr Irfan Chaudhary (GP)

Dr Irfan advised that he has invited colleagues to contact Nelson Pride in Place directly if they wish to be considered as the health sector representative. The Board discussed the option of reaching out to individuals they know who may be suitable and encouraging them to express an interest in attending.

Local Business – vacant

SR shared with the board a draft expression of Interest form has been devised for review. It was agreed to send this to the board via email for comment.

Discussion took place around extending the board to seek representation from an organisation that supports housing. If the board is to be extended the Terms of Reference will need to be reviewed.

Bios Reminder

Still to receive LCC Member Representative AA, AA advised that this had been forwarded.

5. First Year funding - projects

The following members left the meeting for this item due to declared interests: CB, SB, RB and SS.

The Board agreed that the projects discussed at this stage should remain confidential until all outstanding queries have been fully resolved.

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group, CB, supported by AA, RG and KS, presented each project in turn and guided the Board through the key points and considerations.

The Board agreed the projects in principle, with SR to follow up on all outstanding questions and present the completed information at the next Board meeting.

It was agreed that, once the Board has approved all projects, a summary table listing each organisation and the amount awarded will be produced to be included in the relevant minutes.

Following the completion of grant funding agreements, this information will be published on the website along with a short synopsis of each project.

The Board discussed the indication from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that approval of the Regeneration and Investment Plans is expected in early spring, and considered the potential impact on programme delivery and the Board's ability to fund projects should approval be delayed beyond 1 April 2026

- RT agreed to seek clarification from government on a more specific timescale.
- PS agreed to discuss with the Section 151 Officer the arrangements for funding projects should confirmation not be received before 1 April 2026.

As part of the learning, it was suggested that, where projects are funded, organisations could be encouraged to identify individuals who may wish to join the Board or a subgroup, and who could be supported to mentor new and existing projects.

This was seen as an opportunity to share learning, strengthen participation, and support future community leadership.

The Board thanked the Task and Finish Group for their time and for the robustness of their appraisal process.

6. Identification of Priorities within the four themes for years 2-4

Due to time restraints the Board agreed to carry this item forward to the meeting on 13th March 2026.

7. Logos

A new logo had been received from MHCLG and was shared with the Board. Members agreed to explore incorporating this with the existing logo, which they felt effectively reflects Nelson's landmarks

SR to bring back a selection of options to the next board meeting.

8. Visit to Hastings Commons – Taking Action for the Common Good

The report was presented to the Board, and SR provided a brief verbal update on the visit and the insights gained around developing a Community Land Trust.

9. Frequency of Board Meeting moving forward.

It was agreed that that for the next 6 month meetings should be held monthly.

10. Any Other Business (AOB)

It was noted that, due to Mevish currently being off sick, a significant amount of community engagement activity will need to be delivered in the coming months. KA offered support from within her own team, and the Board expressed its thanks, noting that they hope for Mevish's recovery and return.

IB advised that, should this offer be taken forward, discussions with Human Resources would be required. IB will also review staff capacity within Economic Regeneration to identify options for supporting the delivery of engagement for the Pride in Place Programme should the programme be moved back to this department.

It was agreed that additional support for engagement activity will need to be considered at the next meeting, given its importance to programme delivery should Mevish remains absent.

RB asked the Board whether an observer from his organisation could attend future meetings.

The Board noted that there was no reason why this could not be accommodated; however, the Terms of Reference would need to be reviewed and updated accordingly. The Board also discussed whether meetings should be considered public, given that press representatives had attended previously.

SR was asked to investigate this matter and present options to the Board.

11. Action Points

SR shared by email with the board a draft expression of Interest form for review. Comments and observations to be reported at the next meeting.

SR to follow up on all proposed project with outstanding questions and bring the completed information to the next Board meeting.

PS to discuss with the Section 151 Officer the arrangements for funding the projects in the event that confirmation from the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government is not received before 1 April 2026.

IB to look at staff capacity within Economic Regeneration to support delivery of engagement for the Pride in Place Programme moving forward.

SR was asked to investigate whether Board meetings are classified as public meetings, and to identify any amendments required to the Terms of Reference to enable individuals to attend as observers for personal or professional development.

Outstanding from minutes 12th December 2025

MM to map existing community groups.

12. Date of Next Meetings

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