



# Nelson Pride In Place Board

**Nelson Town Hall, Wilson Room  
Wednesday 12th November 2025 at  
9:15am**

## **PRESENT**

### **MEMBERS**

Claire Bennett (CB), In the Chair  
Dean Langton (DL)  
Faraz Ahmed (FA)  
Karen Arciniega (KS)  
Sajad Butt (SB)  
Christine Blythe (CB)  
Jonathon Hinder (JH)  
Rauf Bashir (RB)

Pendle Action in the Community (PAC)  
Pendle Borough Council  
Nelson Town Council (NTC) Councillor  
McDonald's Franchise Owner  
3B Systems  
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS  
Member of Parliament  
Building Bridges

### **OFFICERS**

Sue Rae (SR)  
Mevish Mahmood (MM)  
Iftikhar Bokhari (IB)  
Karen Spencer (KS)

Pendle Borough Council  
Pendle Borough Council  
Pendle Borough Council  
Pendle Borough Council

### **MHCLG**

Leticia (Tish) Gil (LG)

Delivery Lead -Pride in Place Programme

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Lisa O'Loughlin, Joel Feingold, Rob Grey, Philip Spurr, Shahid Shabbir, Irfan Chaudhary and Asjad Mahmood

C.B. raised the issue of attendance, noting that members who are not actively participating should be reviewed and possibly replaced to ensure commitment to the Board's work.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

None

## **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (24<sup>th</sup> October 2025)**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

S.B. asked about the official name of the Board and programme.

C.B. confirmed that both have been renamed Nelson Pride in Place.

## **4. Introduction MHCLG Representative**

L.G. introduced herself as Delivery Lead for the North West and Northern Ireland. D.L. queried whether the revenue and capital split was flexible; L.G. confirmed that it is fixed but noted other funding options are available through impact investment.

R.B. asked if revenue funding could be brought forward from future years; L.G. advised that while this is not possible, unspent funds may be rolled over.

K.A. raised concerns about substandard housing conditions. The Board discussed housing as a major issue affecting the community and agreed it must be given due consideration within the programme. D.L. noted that focusing on economic growth could help address housing challenges, and C.B. emphasised the importance of building on existing local strategies.

## **5. Regeneration Plan – Draft copy for discussion and approval**

S.R. presented the Regeneration Plan, which the Board generally supported.

J.H. had no objections, and F.A. highlighted the need for more leisure and family facilities in Nelson.

Members agreed that the plan should focus on aspirations rather than targets, ensuring flexibility over time.

C.Bly. stressed the importance of keeping the plan adaptable, while I.B. suggested complementing existing work.

J.H. and D.L. reiterated that economic growth is fundamental to improvement across all areas.

S.R. will amend the plan diagram to emphasise economic growth.

## **6. Investment Plan – draft copy for discussion and approval**

The Board agreed that the Investment Plan is comprehensive and covers all key priorities.

## **7. Budget for consideration and approval**

The following funding split was agreed for Revenue/Capital Budget:

- **35%** Regeneration, High Street & Heritage
- **35%** Safety & Security
- **15%** Work, Productivity & Skills
- **15%** Cohesion

L.G. confirmed future flexibility in reallocating funds.

The capacity budget was agreed by the Board.

I.B. proposed exploring match funding options, and F.A. confirmed Town Council support for collaboration.

## **8. Pride In Place strategy**

All members confirmed they had received and reviewed the strategy document.

## **9. Any Other Business (AOB)**

C.B. informed members of discussions with the Chair of the Rossendale Board to create a network of local Board Chairs for sharing best practice.

The next meeting will take place on 12 December 2025, with monthly meetings continuing until March.

## **10. Action Points**

- MM and SR Review attendance and identify members for replacement where necessary.
- SR to revise the plan diagram to highlight economic growth.
- SR to add “Priority funding for Year 1 projects” to the next meeting agenda.
- SR and MM to identify at risk projects for first year funding.

## **11. Date of Next Meetings**

9.15am Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Nelson Town Hall