



NELSON NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

Wilson Room, Town Hall,
Nelson

Tuesday, 15th April 2025 at 3pm

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Claire Bennett, In the Chair
Lawrence Conway
County Councillor Ashley Sutcliffe
Cllr Asjad Mahmood
Christine Blythe
Inspector Rob Grey

Positive Action in the Community
Pendle Borough Council
Lancashire County Council
Pendle Borough Council
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS
Lancashire Constabulary

OFFICERS

Karen Spencer
Phillip Spurr
Sandra Farnell

Pendle Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council

Also in attendance

R. Macdonald

Local Democracy Reporting Service

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Hinder MP, Sajad Butt, Joel Feingold, Lisa O'Loughlin, Mike Nuttall, Dr Irfan Chaudhary and Cllr Zafar Ali and Afaq Khan.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

4. Actions arising from the Minutes.

Nelson and Colne College have agreed that for future meetings they will send a representative to the Board meetings when Lisa O'Loughlin is unable to attend and Cllr Mahmood confirmed that Afaq Khan will attend the next Board meeting in May.

5. Plan for Neighbourhoods

A report was submitted to the Board to provide an update on the main changes from the Long Term Plan for Towns to the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

The Board queried whether there was sufficient internal capacity and expertise to deliver the next stage of work and expressed support for using consultants if needed. The Board emphasised that school-age children should be a priority group for engagement, as they will see the impact over the next 10 years.

It was also noted that the work delivered through the Town Deal, along with upcoming changes in the town, can provide valuable on-the-ground insight to support and inform the development of the Neighbourhoods Plan.

It was agreed that the consultations already undertaken can be built upon, particularly by extending outreach to harder-to-reach community members and to pause any engagement with external consultants until the Programme Manager and Community Development Officer posts are in place.

ACTION –An audit of current gaps should commence so that the new staff can effectively lead the programme once appointed.

6. Board and Boundary Authorisation

A report was submitted to the Board to seek authorisation for the current Board membership to be approved and to discuss a potential extension to the boundary of the built up area which forms the Nelson Plan for Neighbourhoods boundary.

New guidance from the Government advised that should the board wish to lodge a request to either amend their default boundary or make further changes to a revised boundary agreed by the previous administration, any alteration must:

- remain within the spirit of the programme

- retain the place that was originally selected
- remain contiguous
- not introduce additional, separate population centres into the agreed area (for example, different communities or neighbourhoods)
- have the agreement of the board and a clear rationale

It further explained that as an example, a key asset for the community may sit just outside the boundaries provided, or an essential green space may have been excluded, due to the emphasis on 'built up' areas.

The Board agreed that the inclusion of Nelson Football Club within the boundary would help support future community engagement activities. It was also queried whether Hodge House was included within the Built-Up Area (BUA). Following the meeting it was confirmed that Hodge House playing fields were already included within the boundary.

The Board also discussed the potential to include the green space formerly recognised as Marsden Park Golf Club, which sits on the edge of the existing boundary. Members considered whether this could be addressed now or at a future point through a boundary amendment.

The Board agreed to the current membership and it was suggested that the current Chief Executive's name be removed from documentation to avoid the need for further amendments once a new Chief Executive is appointed.

ACTION - It was agreed that SF would make enquiries with government regarding the possibility of submitting future boundary changes and whether an extension to the 22nd April deadline could be granted to allow further investigation regarding the inclusion of the former Marsden Park Golf Club.

Any updates or decisions would be communicated via email to ensure a timely submission before the end of April.

Subsequently to the meeting, the Board were asked to vote by email on whether to include the green space formerly known as Marsden Park Golf Club. A majority voted in favour, in line with the Board's Terms of Reference, and the boundary change was submitted to include both new pieces of green space before the deadline.

AOB

None

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 19th June at 10am at PAC Headquarters, off Queen Street, Colne.