

NAME OF MEETING:	Town Board Meeting
DATE/LOCATION:	Futures Park, Bacup 17.10.2025
ATTENDEES:	Alyson Barnes (AB), Andy MacNae MP (AM), Andy Schofield (AS), Barbara Ashworth (BA), Charlotte Scheffman (CS), Clare Birtwistle (CB), David Motley (DM), David Smurthwaite (DS), Deyrick Allen (DA), Iain Taylor (IT), Jaid Flatley (JF), Jan Shutt (JS), Jodie Oatway (JO), Joanne Ash (JA), Kevin Fenton Clough (KFC), Kim Whitehead (KW), Kimberly Howarth (KH), Lynn Smith (LS), Megan Eastwood (ME), Nic Avery (NA), Nick Harris (NH), Peter Terry (PT), Rachel Gildert (RG), Sam Sandford (SS).
APOLOGIES:	David Gould (DG)
MINUTE TAKER:	Jodie Oatway (JO)

THE MEETING	
1	Welcome and Apologies Minutes Accepted and agreed Amendments made to minutes to reflect apologies given at last meeting
2	Update from Government JO provided an update following a meeting with MHCLG. The Government has recently announced that the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding will now fall under the wider Pride in Place Strategy. Funding will be released according to the agreed allocation split, covering three stages: • The first four years • The middle three years • The final three years All funding will be managed through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). Rossendale has been confirmed as part of Phase 1 of the Pride in Place Programme. There are no changes to existing timelines. The Regeneration Plan remains due on 28 November.
3	Purpose of session Thanks were given for all ideas submitted, of which over 70 were received. Many of these are still at the idea stage, which is expected at this point in the process. The focus is developing a coherent programme of activity rather than worrying about the reduction from £32 million project ideas submitted to £5.4 million over the first four years.

	There will be flexibility to review and adjust projects and funding every six months. Internally, projects were assessed using RAG ratings based on strategic fit, deliverability, value for money, and sustainability or exit strategy. The programme should demonstrate tangible quick wins, although some submissions may be more appropriate for other funding streams. As this is a ten-year programme, a balance is needed between early deliverables and longer-term projects. A point was raised for communications and it was confirmed a press release will be issued when the regeneration plan is sent to MHCLG, and a video explaining the project will be created. The group discussed ensuring that the strategy aligns with genuine community needs rather than “nice to have” ideas. Strategic discussions with other funding streams will take place once the activity clusters are confirmed.
4	Summary of Project Ideas Received A total of 72 project ideas were received. The board will determine which projects fall under Pride in Place and which might be supported by other funding streams. ME provided an overview of the submissions, and all members had received a summary in advance. Projects were presented in Clusters of where there were obvious links and themes. Some projects listed under “Other” did not fit neatly within a cluster but were still considered important to include. It was noted that there was some duplication or in some respects, opportunities where working together could significantly reduce costs. It was also noted that Management and also a grant scheme for smaller organisations would benefit from being programme wide, rather than a cluster. There was a reminder that the programme could be reviewed every 6 months.
5	Discussion: Cluster of Activities There was a discussion around the Clusters presented and understanding whether they were location based or thematic based. Following the discussion these clusters were agreed: 1. Bacup Road, Rawtenstall 2. Waterfoot 3. Crawshawbooth 4. Leisure and Active Travel 5. Staghills 6. Enabling Youth The board made several observations: - Request for quick win projects that demonstrate impact - Consideration of a mentoring scheme similar to Darwen - Understanding other strategic items happening to avoid duplication or maximise impact - Leveraging match funding is important, along with sustainability - The cluster approach could help with identifying any gaps - Clusters are encouraged to identify anchor projects and strategic enablers - Projects must align to the objectives agreed at earlier board meetings

	- Strong governance will be key to attracting further funding - Concerns were raised that there are few project Proformas for Crawshawbooth - Clusters are expected to evolve over time, with the current groupings serving as a starting point for the first four years of the programme - Communication is essential Decision: Cluster approach is agreed.
6	Discussion: Allocation of Funding Following the agreement of clusters, the board discussed how to allocate funding. There was a reminder about the allocation of capital and revenue and the breakdown over the first four years. A metric was presented based on the submissions received, vs the total received in the cluster and then weighted against the funding available to give an indicative spread. Board members shared comments as follows: - The view on borrowing against the funding and possible use of Council funding - The potential use of the Heritage Enterprise Grant to bridge gaps between developers and Heritage restoration - Project duplication could skew the metric proposed so a sense check is needed - Subgroups would be developed for each Cluster, who will work to prioritise projects and recommend project approaches to the overall Pride in Place board. <i>Action: To use the metric as a baseline, take out any duplicates or cross-value and then complete a final sense check ahead of the next board meeting.</i> <i>Action: To establish subgroups who will outline priorities along with rationalise ahead of the next board meeting.</i> There was a focus on the Heritage Arcade, given its funding request is similar to the capital allocation for the first 4 years. Following the authority as part of the capacity funding, the design has been developed with several options in mind, largely for a mixed use development, with retail and leisure space on the ground floor, office accommodation on the first floor and residential on the upper floors. There are progressive discussions with an investor for the site which would benefit other opportunities on Bacup Road. There is potential for planning approval over the next 12-18 months. Due to the ask of the funding for this project, the Council would be required to make a decision on borrowing and the board would be required to consider the implications on the available funding in the later years. Additional Points • Local Government Reorganisation may affect the council's borrowing flexibility, and discussions are ongoing to clarify this. • Subgroups will be established for each cluster, with members encouraged to join where they have relevant expertise, ensuring objectivity and avoiding conflicts of interest.

	The board also discussed developing a mentoring network to support project leads in strengthening proposals.
7	Summary of the meeting Next steps include: - circulating the draft regeneration plan - forming subgroups for each cluster to refine priorities timings, and costs - developing mentoring support for project leads - confirming indicative funding allocations ahead of the next meeting.
8	AOB Board members were reminded about the Invest in Rossendale event taking place on 24 October at the Ashcroft, and were encouraged to register their attendance. A site visit with MHCLG is scheduled for 23 October. Board members who are interested in attending are asked to email JO to confirm their participation.