

Agenda

NAME OF MEETING:	Town Board Meeting
DATE/LOCATION:	Whitwellbottom Community Centre, BB4 9LB 14.11.2025
ATTENDEES:	Alyson Barnes (AB), Andy MacNae MP (AM), Andy Schofield (AS), Barbara Ashworth (BA), Clive Balchin (CB), David Smurthwaite (DS), Jaid Flatley (JF), Jan Shutt (JS), Kimberly Howarth (KH), Leonie Ford Miah (LFM) Lynn Smith (LS), Megan Eastwood (ME), Nick Harris (NH), Peter Terry (PT) Rachel Gildert (RG), Stephen Anderson (SA)
APOLOGIES:	Charlotte Scheffman (CS), Deyrick Allen (DA), Iain Taylor (IT), Jodie Oatway (JO), Samantha Sandford (SS)
MINUTE TAKER:	Jaid Flatley (JF)

	Item
1	Welcome and apologies IT opened the meeting and shared apologies. There is a change in representative for Lancashire County Council- Clive Balchin. Minutes accepted and agreed.
2	Regeneration Plan content and sign off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DS presented the Regeneration Plan and its contents, which had been circulated to board members one week prior for comment. - The content of the Regeneration Plan aligns with the checklist provided by MHCLG. - The plan sets out a 10-year vision for Rawtenstall, Waterfoot, and Crawshawbooth. - It includes an analysis of strengths and opportunities, proposed funding allocations, community engagement and the approach taken to form the cluster. <p>The board also reviewed the design style of the regeneration plan, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removing Rossendale Borough Council logos to emphasise the plan was developed by the community - Ensuring key points are emphasised in main text using bigger font - More emphasis on the work done with Communities such as Staghills and Edgeside work - Develop sections on the work done with young people

	<p>The board reflected on the work undertaken since the announcement of the Pride in Place funding (formerly the Long-Term Plan for Towns and Plan for Neighbourhoods). This included reviewing how the Regeneration Plan was developed and discussing the board's ambitions for taking the plan forward.</p> <p>Board members discussed assurance processes, confirming that it is RBC's responsibility to ensure best value for money across all projects funded through Pride in Place.</p> <p>Decision: Regeneration Plan content formally agreed by board</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Cluster subgroups and allocation</p> <p>ME provided an update on the work undertaken to review cost allocations for each cluster, including an explanation of the split between revenue and capital costs.</p> <p>CB requested further detail regarding work carried out with the communities, primary school, and hut project in Staghill and Edgeside.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the subgroups will evaluate and select projects from the submitted project proposals, identify any gaps and make recommendations to the Board. With the budget now identified, subgroup discussions can be more focused.</p> <p>All subgroups will be tasked with securing additional match funding, as well as identifying anchor projects and quick wins.</p> <p>It was noted that project ideas submitted to date are high level and collectively exceed the £5.3 million available over the next four years.</p> <p>Projects have been grouped into six clusters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bacup Road - Waterfoot - Crawshawbooth - Staghill and Edgeside - Enabling Young People - Healthy Communities <p>Some projects did not clearly align to a cluster; those applicants have been informed.</p> <p>The Board agreed that a specific allocation should be made for Community Grants.</p> <p>A single brief will be issued to all subgroups, and meetings will commence in the new year, supported by Rossendale Borough Council Officers.</p> <p>Regeneration projects will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include an exit strategy - Set out a clear operating/running strategy - Identify risks - Be presented to the Board following subgroup decisions

	<p>It was also noted that subgroups may allocate a portion of funding to support the development of projects in greater detail.</p> <p>Decision: Cluster funding allocations formally agreed by board</p>
4	<p>Update report</p> <p>An update report was presented to Board members. The report included information on the recent visit from the MHCLG dedicated officer to the Rawtenstall Pride in Place area. The officer also provided initial feedback on the Regeneration Plan, which was described as positive.</p> <p>Rawtenstall BID: A quotation exercise has been completed, and £7.5k will be allocated to support the engagement work required to assess the feasibility of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) in Rawtenstall.</p> <p>An update was provided on activity relating to Tricketts Arcade, including discussions with owners and the canopy design.</p> <p>A youth session was delivered at Rawtenstall Market, focusing on developing ideas around young people's involvement in enterprise, product development, and product launches.</p> <p>Communications: A communications plan has been prepared to keep the public informed of ongoing progress. The group agreed that communications should strike an appropriate balance between maintaining transparency and managing expectations regarding deliverable outcomes.</p>
5	<p>Summary of session and overall updates</p> <p>The Regeneration Plan is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet on 26 November, ahead of the MHCLG submission deadline of 28 November. Additional portal questions will need to be completed as part of the submission process.</p> <p>Finance: It was confirmed that all costs remain within the capacity funding envelope, and a portion of the funding may be carried forward into the next financial year if required.</p> <p>Meeting updates: Officers have engaged in collaboration with neighbouring local authorities regarding their respective plans, including discussions at officer and Chief Executive levels. Plans from other authority areas are now beginning to be released.</p>
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Feedback from MHCLG on the regeneration plan is expected to be mid-February 2026.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 27th February Time: 2pm Venue: Futures Park, Bacup</p>