PRIDE IN PLACE
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OUR TOWNS' PLAN

NAME OF MEETING:	Town Board Meeting
DATE/LOCATION:	Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB 04/09/2026
ATTENDEES:	Alyson Barnes (AB), Andy Schofield (AS), Andy MacNae MP (AM), Clive Balchin (CB), Charlotte Scheffman (CS), David Motley (DM), Iain Taylor (IT), Eleanor Carter (EC), Jaid Flatley (JF), Jacob Landers (JL), Jodie Oatway (JO), Kimberly Howarth (KH), Laura Diamond (LD), Lynn Smith (LS), Megan Eastwood (ME), Nick Harris (NH), Peter Terry (PT), Robina Khan (RK), Samantha Sandford (SS)
IN PART ATTENDEES	Gemma Outen (GO)
APOLOGIES:	Barbara Ashworth (BA), Deyrick Allen (DA), David Smurthwaite (DS) Leonie Ford Miah (LFM), Jan Shutt (JS), Nicola Avery (NA), Rob Huntington (RH), Stephen Anderson (SA)
MINUTE TAKER:	Jodie Oatway (JO)

	Item
1	**Welcome and apologies** IT opened the meeting and shared apologies. Eleanor Carter was welcomed as the new MHCLG contact. Thanks was recorded to Karl Gornell and Jack Sneddon from Board Members
2	**Minutes from previous meetings** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and agreed. It was confirmed that the £19k merchandise and publicity allocation would be managed at the discretion of the programme management. Actions were picked up and addressed during the course of the agenda.
3	**Conflicts of interest** Board members were reminded to review and update their declarations of interest. • AB declared an interest at Crawshawbooth Community Centre **Action: Board members to ensure conflict of interest records remain up to date.**

4 Pride in Place Programme and Finance Update

The Board received an update on the progress of the Pride in Place programme, including the current overall AMBER programme status, financial position, capacity funding position and key programme risks and issues. The Board noted the update and the actions being taken to manage the identified risks.

It was acknowledged that a number of projects are ambitious and can take time to progress through feasibility, design and development. The current red/amber ratings were therefore considered appropriate given the stage and complexity of these projects.

The Board considered the recommendations set out in the Programme and Finance Update.

Decision: The Board approved the recommendations, including:

- **Reprofiling/slippage of funding between financial years where required to support effective project delivery, subject to appropriate approval and monitoring arrangements.**
- **Reallocation of £25,000 from Getting Work Ready to the Business Activation Grants Programme.**
- **Allocation of up to £32,000 to Crawshawbooth Community Centre for heating upgrades and/or replacement.**

The monthly cascade has now been replaced by a monthly bulletin, allowing programme updates to be shared more widely.

The Board discussed the progress of capital projects and how it could support projects to move forward where there are delays. A dedicated capital session is planned for 25 September 2026, providing an opportunity to review capital allocations, project readiness and the wider project pipeline.

The Board queried whether there was anything significant on the programme pipeline. Some projects were highlighted as difficult to progress their development due to their complexity, with challenges being actively worked through and that others would benefit from a greater revenue allocation.

Marl Pits Feasibility

The Board discussed the Marl Pits feasibility work which requested greater funding above the initial Pride in Place allocations. Consideration will be given to whether any additional funding could be allocated as the project develops.

It is anticipated that feasibility information and initial costings will be available for consideration at the 25 September capital session.

The board discussed that there should be scope to consider projects requiring feasibility or pre-development support, including projects which may ultimately sit outside of Pride in Place funding. It was suggested that capacity funding currently allocated to activity which is not progressing could be reviewed, with the potential to redirect funding towards feasibility and development work on other projects.

4 **Action: Bring Marl Pits feasibility and costings to the 25 September capital session.**

	Action: Review capacity funding allocations where activity is not progressing and consider whether funding could be redirected towards feasibility/pre-development work. **Action: Consider how the Board can support projects to accelerate their progression into development.** **Action: Review projects taking longer than anticipated, including Tricketts, Heritage Arcade and St John's.** **Decision: The next Board meeting will include a deep dive into capital allocations and consideration of capacity and revenue funding available for pre-development activity.**
5	**Community Grants Update** JO provided an update on the Community Grants Programme on behalf of BPRCVS. The programme is now open and has received a positive response, with a good number of enquiries and three applications received. It was noted that interest is coming from a wider range of organisations than CVS's usual networks. The Year 1 programme provides grants of £500–£5,000 to smaller organisations in Crawshawbooth, Waterfoot and Rawtenstall, with a maximum annual turnover of £150,000. CVS will provide support to applicants with applications, governance, monitoring and evaluation, alongside further training and development opportunities. Year 1 activity and expenditure must be completed by 29 January 2027, with final monitoring due by 12 noon on 26 February 2027. CVS will continue to promote the programme through its networks, with potential opportunities for wider media coverage. **Action: Laura Diamond to join the assessment panel as the Board representative.** **Action: JO to circulate the Community Grants Programme link to Board members to support further promotion.**
6	**Youth Creative Skills Programme** GO provided an update on the Youth Creative Skills Programme, being delivered in partnership with Horse + Bamboo, The Whitaker and the White Horse Project, known as Creative Futures. The programme will offer creative skills workshops for young people aged 11–18, with provision potentially extending to 21 for those with additional needs. Taster sessions are planned for November and December 2026, with full delivery from January 2027. Each year will have a different creative focus, alongside an annual youth-led event. Promotion and recruitment will take place through schools, community organisations, youth networks and partner organisations. The programme will be promoted through Valley Voice, printed materials, press releases, Invest in Rossendale and partner networks. An annual review will consider attendance, demographics and qualitative feedback, including case studies. The Board discussed the importance of reaching young people who may not usually engage in creative activities and considered ways to keep participants engaged beyond

	the initial sessions, including opportunities for previous participants to support or volunteer in future activities. **Actions: Board members to support promotion and referrals through links such as DWP and Rossendale Connected.**
7	**Ministerial Letter – Discussion and Comments** The Board reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a community-led approach and agreed that this should remain central to the PiP programme. Members discussed the potential benefits of a mayoral authority for Lancashire, particularly the greater powers and funding opportunities available through mayoral combined authorities. The Board was broadly supportive, while recognising the need for meaningful powers and sufficient resources. Members emphasised that support would depend on understanding the powers, funding and resources that would sit behind any future arrangement, with a view that the public should also have the opportunity to vote through a referendum. It was noted that Lancashire could shortly become the only area within the wider mayoral landscape without an elected mayor. The importance of securing real resources and meaningful powers through any future mayoral model was reiterated. **Decision: The Board agreed to support the call for a mayoral authority for Lancashire.** **Action: IT to respond positively to the Ministerial Letter.** **Action: AM to consider whether there are any opportunities to accelerate discussions**.
8	**AOB** **Procurement** The Board discussed the importance of ensuring that expenditure through the programme supports the local economy wherever possible. Members highlighted the opportunity to use Rossendale businesses for goods, services and materials where appropriate, while continuing to meet procurement requirements and demonstrate value for money. **Action: Consider local sourcing opportunities when commissioning or purchasing goods and services through Pride in Place, in line with procurement requirements**. **Future Board Structures** The Board discussed the potential for Boards to establish their own CIC, charity or other independent community organisation. Some boards are already considering becoming independent from the Council over the coming months. Members discussed the potential benefits and drawbacks of different structures. It was recognised that the existing subgroup and volunteer arrangements are well embedded within communities and provide an effective mechanism for maintaining local engagement. There is currently no feedback to suggest that the Board is out of touch with community interests.

An independent structure was considered a valuable option for the Board to have available, although members did not feel this should be compulsory.

Action: EC to send information on CICs and other relevant community structures to JO for circulation to the Board.

Local Government Reorganisation

The potential implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) were discussed. Members agreed that the potential impact on the Pride in Place programme and Board should be considered as part of forward planning.

The Board highlighted the importance of having a contingency plan should the Council become part of a larger authority, particularly to ensure continuity of the Pride in Place programme and its community-led approach.

The longer-term future of the Board was also discussed, including whether there may be value in the Board continuing beyond the initial 10-year Pride in Place programme.

Action: Consider the implications of LGR for the Pride in Place programme and Board.
Action: Keep the longer-term future and potential continuation of the Board beyond the 10-year programme under review.