

Coatbridge Town Board Meeting Notes
New College Lanarkshire Coatbridge Campus – Microsoft Teams
28th of March 2025.

Attendees: Gavin Whitefield, Frank McNally MP, Cllr. Geraldine Woods, Christopher Moore, David Wood, Lesley-Anne Docherty, Roddy Cameron, Gwen McIntyre, Yvonne Lindsay (virtual)

Apologies: Cllr. Allan Stubbs, Willie McBride, Fulton McGregor MSP.

Observers: Pamela Humphries, Stephen Penman, Stuart Hodge, Jonathan MacVicar and Lu
McNair (all North Lanarkshire Council)

Item	Summary	Actions
1	<p>Introduction and Welcome</p> <p>GW thanked NCL for facilitating today's meeting and welcomed attendees to the meeting including Lu McNair, who was in attendance to provide a presentation on Summerlee.</p>	Noted
2	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as an accurate reflection of the meeting by GW. Approved by all attendees.</p>	Noted
3	<p>Summerlee Presentation</p> <p>Lu McNair presented on the proposed project at Summerlee, providing key milestones, the market research, engagement activities and design proposals undertaken to date. The board were able to understand the work involved and where (subject to approval in due course) the funding would support. Key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall cost of £6.5m. • £3.3m Lottery funding sought. • Some small funders and fund raising ongoing. • NLC have committed £500k from current capital programme. • Approx £2.2m sought from Town Board. • Application to be submitted on 7th August. • 3 months for assessment of application by Lottery. • Assume late November / early December for decision. • Proposed bid will be detailed within Investment Plan <p>CM questioned, due to demand for performance space, would there be scope to deliver a new space to house local performances rather than have them out-with the local community. Lu informed that several options (indoor and outdoor interpretations) are being considered.</p> <p>RC questioned the additional shop units with concern raised over units potentially taking money away from town centre area. Lu informed the board that the shops were a mixture of historic and viewing with only be 4 units actively selling items (which are only food items) with the remainder being display-only units.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>The shop would not be in competition with existing Main Street retailers.</p> <p>There would be signposts from Summerlee to Town Centre and vice versa to help create better linkages.</p>	Noted
4.	<p>Governance</p> <p>A report covering the latest UK Government guidance was summarised for the Board.</p> <p>GW attended Town Board Chair meeting yesterday, highlighted that the new Interventions and Objectives within revised plan is additional and not replacement. These aims are wider and cover a larger area of projects.</p> <p>In line with Government guidance the Town Board would be called Neighbourhood Board. Confirmation awaited to see if this must be changed or if previous identity can be kept.</p> <p>The composition of the Board, existing Chair and Boundary has to be confirmed to the UK Government by 22 April. It was agreed that the composition of Board and Chair would remain as is.</p> <p>The inclusion of Drumpelzier Park, Dunbeth Park, West End Park and Bargeddie were discussed and agreed by the Board. JMV would update and circulate a new boundary map for the Board to review and approve prior to the 22 April.</p> <p>SP suggested bringing a presentation to the Board that outlines overall picture for Coatbridge and that considers best format to detail linkages between different plans / initiatives i.e. Community Board / LOIPs.</p> <p>DW highlighted that information needs to be consistent going forward, to show that value is being added. GW highlighted that the board cannot be responsible for everything within the boundary area.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.	<p>DRAFT Investment Plan</p> <p>Draft Investment Plan currently being reviewed and updated in light of the revised guidance documents being issued by the UK Government.</p> <p>£172k funding available from this year, with an additional £200k to be provided in 25/26 following confirmation of Board, Chair and Boundary.</p> <p>SH advised that the capacity funding is for consultation, development and events (with engagement elements). The funding cannot be used for actual project works</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>The capital funding will commence in 26/27. Additional time to consult in due course ahead of the revised deadline for submission.</p> <p>It was noted that the revised guidelines provide for a less top down approach and that the themes identified from the consultation undertaken align better with new guidelines e.g. focus on young people, health etc.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
6.	<p>Nature Town & Cities Bid</p> <p>Report proposed allocation of £22,500 towards an external funding application from the Biodiversity and Conservation Team within NLC to assist with consultation, engagement and design development on greenspaces across North Lanarkshire.</p> <p>Due to the Report only being issued on the morning of the meeting, it was agreed that any feedback and comments would be provided by 8th of April.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
7.	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>Awaiting further documentation from UK Government to be issued regarding the level of amendment required for the existing terms of reference.</p> <p>Quorum has been updated to reflect that only six members are required to be present for as opposed the previous number of eight.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
8.	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>Retailers sub-group has been established and initial meeting is scheduled for May. Further PR planned for late April to stimulate further interest in this group.</p> <p>Group can report back to Board on areas of concerns and what they consider is required from retailers perspective in town centre.</p> <p>This would help reduce the risk of overlap or subsidising expenditure as the £20m funding for not to substitute for NLC services.</p> <p>Cllr. Woods suggested that it could be a challenge to source a volunteer group to take ownership of the town centre and be able to maintain the area out-with NLC programmes.</p> <p>CM raised the concern that a Capacity schedule needs to be addressed in order to accurately plan and ensure the money is committed correctly without having streams of work from all areas, with no rein.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	Events sub-group is being established with Cllr. Woods and Jonathan MacVicar happy to assist Yvonne Weir in developing the group further. Initial meeting is scheduled for June.	
9.	Future Meeting Schedule Board agreed in-person meetings are proven to be more beneficial than online meetings. Last Friday of the month suited the majority of attendees for future meetings. Next meeting scheduled Friday 30 th of May, venue TBC. JMV to issue out diary holds to reflect the above.	Noted JMV
10.	Any other competent business (AOCB) No other competent business was raised. GW closed the meeting and thanked members for attendance.	Noted