

**Coatbridge Town Board Meeting Notes**  
**Coatbridge Summerlee Museum**  
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.**

Attendees: Gavin Whitefield, Cllr. Geraldine Woods, Christopher Moore, Lesley-Anne Docherty, Roddy Cameron, Yvonne Lindsay, Willie McBride, Cllr. Gary Robinson (Substitute).

Apologies: Cllr. Allan Stubbs (substitute provided), Frank McNally MP, Fulton McGregor MSP, David Woods, Gwen McIntyre, Liz McCutcheon, Stephen Penman.

Observers: Pamela Humphries, Stuart Hodge, Jonathan MacVicar, Kirsty Gray, Lyndsay Noble and Heather Liddle (all North Lanarkshire Council).

Item	Summary	Actions
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction and Welcome</b>  GW welcomed everyone to the meeting including Heather Liddle, who was in attendance to provide a presentation on Time Capsule.  Cllr Robinson was attending in place of Cllr Stubbs who was unable to attend.	Noted
<b>2</b>	<b>Staffing Update</b>  PH provided an updated on staffing changes at NLC. Growth and City Teams have now merged.  Lyndsay Noble is overall manager for City Deal & Regeneration Kirsty Gray will be senior officer for Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board Lorna Ogilvy (Project Development Co-ordinator) will be involved moving forward. Jonathan MacVicar will continue to be involved in the project.  Stuart Hodge will become less involved moving forward but continue to support the Neighbourhood board behind the scenes.  NLC overall level of resources remains unchanged with different officers feeding into the process.	All Points Noted
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes from previous meeting</b>  Query over £2.2m request from Summerlee. Proposal was to support match funding application towards £6.5m. Board approved the Summerlee information and funding request as correct.  The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as an accurate reflection of the meeting by GW. Approved by all attendees.	All Points Noted
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	All Points Noted

	<p>UK Gov membership, chair and boundary confirmed on 22 April. Any new members will be invited via subgroups at this stage. Prior to end of calendar year, review at Board level over membership.</p> <p>Stephen Penman had previously raised issue over Neighbourhood Board and overall governance and linkages to others. Presentation to be prepared that links with other structures moving forward at a future meeting.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Time Capsule Presentation</b></p> <p>Heather Liddle presented on the proposed project at the Time Capsule, providing key milestones, 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.</p> <p>HL outlined that £1.5M has been invested to date in plant upgrades and that a further £3.5M has been allocated within NLC capital budget to address essential maintenance and interior enhancements. HL emphasised that further funding is needed to enhance the leisure and health and wellbeing facilities for use by the community; make better use of underused spaces and improve the Time Capsule's offering as a visitor attraction. A specialist activity contractor is currently in the early stages of scoping options for enhancement of the facilities and offering at the Time Capsule. Another focus is on looking at options for expanding summer youth programmes, developing low income access programmes and partnership opportunities.</p> <p>Cllr Robinson asked what analysis has been undertaken around competition from private sector. HL advised that there is generally a 20% membership loss when a new private gym opens before gradually recovering, in addition, offers are provided when new gyms open nearby.</p> <p>CM raised the point that there are opportunities for linkages with the college given there are no sports facilities at Coatbridge campus presently, for example by working in partnership to develop shared learning and teaching facilities in underused space at the Time Capsule for use by New College Lanarkshire. A discussion will take place to develop a link between relevant parties in due course.</p> <p>YL queried where the funding for the maintenance and improvement works at moment is coming from.</p> <p>HL advised that £1.5m confirmed which is focused on plant upgrades, with a further £3.5m committed from NLC Capital Programme for other essential maintenance and interior upgrade works.</p>	All Points Noted
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Coatbridge Regeneration Plan Update Presentation</b></p> <p>A recap was provided of development and community engagement work undertaken to date and how this has informed development of the draft investment plan, including a highlight of the next steps.</p>	All Points Noted

	<p>Jonathan MacVicar presented. No questions were raised.</p> <p>GW raised that a meeting with the UK Government civil servants took place in early May, including a walk round the town centre highlighting key projects and areas of focus. The outcome was positive.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Draft Investment Plan and Capacity Budget Report</b></p> <p>SH outlined the recommendations of the report and approvals sought.</p> <p>Finance Outlined:  Capacity Funding : (24/25-26/27) £600k  Investment Plan (4-years) (26/27-29/30) £6.6m</p> <p>SH highlighted the risk that if capacity funding is not spent during the development phase of the programme, it won't be possible to carry this forward to the delivery phase. £200,000 of capacity funding will be released by the UK Government in the summer for spend this financial year 2025/26.</p> <p>Appendix 1 Capacity Funding breakdown.</p> <p>Key discussions:</p> <p>College Anniversary: Feasibility study planned for space for learning garden which will have direct entry space for public access. The college are £25k short of the funding required. An August launch is targeted. CW asked whether the shortfall could be met from the capacity funding budget. YL sought clarity on the process for allocation of funds. The board agreed in principle to supporting the project and that NLC and NCL will take forward discussions on the £25,000 funding contribution sought, provided it fits with the capacity funding criteria.</p> <p><b>Action (CW):</b> CW to submit a proposal to NLC to review against the capacity funding criteria to determine whether funding support could be provided.</p> <p>Cllr Woods raised the view that the spending appears to be focussed on investing in NLC facilities. Wider spend is needed. Cllr Woods also raised the view that supporting the third sector through the capacity funding budget is important. There was a discussion on opportunities to support summer youth programme activities.</p> <p>Cllr woods mentioned that a summer event could be organised, including awareness raising and further engagement around the Board. An event in West End Park organised by a local church could be supported.</p> <p><b>Action (YL):</b> a meeting of the Events Sub-Group to be arranged with PH, LN and KG in attendance to discuss summer youth programme opportunities further.</p>	All Points Noted

	<p>YL queried where the funding allocations within the capacity budget originated. Lyndsay Noble informed the board that provisional sums are there to reflect the work that needs to be undertaken to develop projects further for the investment plan, to be ready for delivery in April 2026.</p> <p>Pamela Humphries reiterated that until further guidance has been provided by the UK Government, we are unsure whether the capacity fund can be carried forward or lost if not allocated.</p> <p>Events could be supported via capacity budget, but an events company needs to be involved to take these forward and consultation and/or capacity building elements are required to ensure fit against the capacity funding criteria.</p> <p>GW outlined that further endorsement from the community will be sought once the Investment Plan confirmed. Expected to complete community endorsements in September 2025.</p> <p>WB raised a question on the level of control the board has around expenditure and how it is allocated. It was confirmed that the Board hold authority over expenditure, with NLC as the responsible body ensuring funds are used in line with UK Government Guidance.</p> <p>The use of subgroups needs to be developed further to help drive the board forward. The role of subgroups and function and how they feed into the board was discussed, with it suggested that communications via email are issued to board members following any decision / approval mechanism.</p> <p>RC provided the Retail Subgroup update.</p> <p>3 businesses attended, more showing interest but not attending for various reasons. NLC leaflet drop was undertaken prior to subgroup meeting. General feedback from retailers is that it appears the funding is being used to maintain not regenerate. Retailers seeking town centre street regeneration (enhancement works and improvements) and remove pedestrianisation.</p> <p>It was noted that the Page Park study identified options for transport infrastructure changes. The board agreed against pursuing these.</p> <p>LN commented that NLC are unable to tackle major structural infrastructure change on Main Street with the current funding allocation. It is noted however that there are a number of areas within the draft investment plan focussing on improving the town centre in the short to medium term including £10k identified within the capacity funding budget or engagement with businesses by Enterprise Team.</p> <p>A further retail subgroup meeting is to be arranged.</p> <p>It was agreed to delay the planting of flowers at the entrance to Main Street until into 2026 as this does not fit with the capacity funding criteria.</p>	
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	<p>LN recommended that the next board meeting focuses on how the sub-groups are working, what their remit is and how they support the board.</p> <p>JMV confirmed that those who had sent apologies for the board meeting were provided the opportunity to raise concerns or comments on the capacity budget and draft Investment Plan and that the general outcome was positive.</p> <p>NLC recommend that the board approve the Capacity Budget as presented, with the NCL anniversary proposal included subject to compliance with guidance. The Capacity Budget was approved in principle.</p> <p>The board agreed to seek to support Third sector events over the summer with the events subgroup to lead. This could include Kickshaw's summer programme for children. A Teams call will be set up to discuss this.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Investment Plan</b></p> <p>Cllr. Robinson raised the view that the map shows where no investment is proposed from NLC or the board and commented that this could this be a reason to spread the investment wider.</p> <p>JMV mentioned that the visual map highlights the current expenditure committed by NLC and first four years of investment by the board. Additional funding could be spent via community grants or further support, depending on the board approval of the investment plan. NLC have further expenditure within Coatbridge however, as some projects are for the whole of North Lanarkshire a specific amount could not be identified for certain areas.</p> <p>CM asked if it could be made clearer within the Investment Plan what the additionality delivered by the board's investment will be, over and above what the council is funding, and be clearer on what enhanced facilities or outcomes wouldn't be delivered or achieved without the additional investment from the board.</p> <p>The board confirmed agreement with the Investment Plan content in principle and that consultation on the Investment Plan can commence over the summer.</p> <p><b>Action (NLC):</b> Investment Plan to the prepared in a user-friendly format for consultation.</p>	All Points Noted
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Board Branding Approved. - Carried forward to next meeting.</p>	Noted
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>There was no other business</p>	Noted

	<b>Date of next Meeting – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of August 10:00 – 12:00</b>	
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