

**Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board Meeting Notes**  
**Coatbridge Summerlee Museum**  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2025**

Attendees: Gavin Whitefield, Christopher Moore, Frank McNally MP, Willie McBride, Cllr. Geraldine Woods and Gwen McIntyre

Apologies: David Woods, Cllr. Allan Stubbs, Liz McCutheon, MSP Fulton MacGregor and Police Scotland

Observers: Pamela Humphries, Kirsty Gray, and Jonathan MacVicar (all North Lanarkshire Council) with Tom Unter, Charles Farrer and Lisa Seaton (All UK Government).

Item	Summary	Actions
1	<p><b>Introduction and Welcome</b></p> <p>GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted the attendance of the civil servants who will be the representatives for the Scottish towns moving forward, which includes the Coatbridge area.</p> <p>Introductions around the table occurred for the benefit of both parties.</p>	All Points Noted
2	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting/ Issues arising</b></p> <p>C.GW raised concerns over the NLC Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth Engagement Strategy report issued and approved at the previous board meeting, with a key concern over ensuring we use resources that already exist within the third sector instead of creating new posts.</p> <p>WB supported the above concern and mentioned the third sector are often left out and asked if they are kept in discussions and continue to be supported moving forward as they are strong key assets within the local area and beyond.</p> <p>GW responded to highlight that the Youth Engagement Strategy proposal approved by the board has a key focus on young people and hard to reach voices, whilst being able to ensure they are being heard and supported through this programme. He reiterated that these new posts will provide key benefits for the programme via engagement work, events and strengthen proposed project outcomes. It also allows the young leaders and MSYP members to have the opportunity to attend the board and help provide valuable insight for the programme.</p> <p>KG mentioned the proposal is focused on engagement and information to help shape the priority area of 'more opportunities for young people' highlighting the additional support this will provide.</p> <p>PH explained the allocation in more detail, breaking down the costs that were mentioned within the proposed Youth Engagement Strategy report issued to the board. Highlighting that the investment plan heading is flexible and covers a much larger programme of works that this project would sit underneath. The full allocation is not for this one proposal but for an array of projects.</p>	All Points Noted

	<p>MP.FM voiced previous issues over consulting with youths and those who are harder to engage with, supporting that the CLD proposal will help deliver key outcomes when expanding on the priority 'More opportunities for young people'. We could use this proposal to our strength and ensure the projects being delivered are shaped by those who is the target audience.</p> <p>KG mentioned that the job alerts have been published and are open for applications, with the hopes to have the posts filled early next year (9-month temporary posts) and that all comments will be fed back to CLD to ensure the deliverables of this post align with the boards feedback.</p> <p>WB raised that the third sector and NLC CLD should have a stronger partnership, and this could be an opportunity to strengthen this.</p> <p>CM voiced that the ideal candidates should have a strong focus and experience within the third sector and that a board member should be elected to sit on the recruitment process and any key stakeholder meetings surrounding the job role to ensure it aligns correctly.</p> <p>(All board members agreed, and CM was selected as the board representative. Pending HR policies on recruitment processes).</p> <p>GW raised that those in post will take all previous engagement strategies and information on board before completing any additional exercises to keep consultation fatigue to a minimum and ensure we are acting on feedback and not just consulting with no real change.</p> <p>The board collectively agreed that this proposal remains approved, with progress updates to be provided to the board as the proposal progresses.</p>	Action: KG
3	<p><b>UK Government Update</b></p> <p>GW asked for an update on timescales for approval of the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan by the UK Gov.</p> <p>CF responded with an expectation of middle of February for decisions, but between now and then if there are any issues then they will be in touch with the lead contact. They will be focusing on what consultation and engagement exercises have taken place to shape the plans and hope to see evidence of these. If approved, the first phase of delivery phase funding will be issued in April 2026.</p> <p>In addition, CF highlighted the updated Pride in Place Prospectus was issued on Wednesday and that the government will be releasing further guidance on monitoring. He asked in the meantime if the Board could provide any short, good news stories that could be shared with visuals attached.</p> <p>TU highlighted that the guidance will still allow flexibility as each funding area will face different challenges.</p>	All Points Noted

	<p>LS mentioned that there will be further webinars upcoming and asked board members to get in touch if there are any key focus areas they would like to see covered.</p> <p>CF urged the board to keep in touch with other areas within the Scottish programme as there are unique opportunities for Scottish areas which could help strengthen the outcomes delivered within Coatbridge. He recommended that the Board speak to the Dumfries board about their shine group initiative for cleaning up Dumfries town centre.</p>	
4	<p><b>Coatbridge Christmas Event</b></p> <p>JM provided an update on the success of the Coatbridge Christmas light switch-on which was held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of November. Key highlights were an estimated 600 people attended throughout the full event, feedback has been positive and the collaboration with Cheers was very successful with around 300 attendees for the Children's crafts alone (supported by NLC Community Learning and Development staff).</p> <p>Social media has provided great feedback on the Christmas lights and how enjoyable the event was. NLC will post a post-event thank you to the community in due course with a link to photos taken on the day.</p> <p>It was noted to be cautious of noise levels moving forward with events.</p> <p>It was recommended to the board that community-based groups and organisations be involved in the planning and delivery of the Christmas Event next year, to enable the event to become more community driven, whilst still being supported by the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board and council officers.</p> <p>It was also recommended that the board undertake a drive to re-establish an events sub-group to lead on the planning of events moving forward. This will ensure all events are more community based with local involvement from community members, businesses and local groups.</p> <p>The Recommendations within the report were noted by the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the update on delivery of the Coatbridge Christmas Event held on Main Street on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November; and</li> <li>• Note recommendations for delivery of the event next year, to reflect feedback from the Coatbridge Community Board at their meeting in November.</li> </ul>	<p>All Points Noted</p> <p>(Action) C.GW JM</p>

5	<p><b>Progress Update</b></p> <p>KG provided an update on progress over the last eight weeks.</p> <p>Full detail on the updates was provided within the report with key points highlighted. These included submission of the Regeneration Plan and initial 4-year Investment Plan to the UK Government; engagement activity undertaken with key stakeholders and potential partners including Scottish Canals and the owners and agents of Coatbridge Shopping Centre; commencement of discussions with NLC Arts Development Officers on an artist led approach to schools engagement for the Main Street Spring clean focus; progressing feasibility study and option appraisal work for priority projects; commencement of New College Lanarkshire's Living Laboratory project and discussions with NLC Streetscene on enhanced cleansing activity on Main Street and the Asda footbridge.</p> <p>A summary of priorities for the upcoming period was provided and an update on the development of an implementation plan for the delivery phase start in April 2026. This includes progressing project development work and planning for setting up a working group with representatives of services and organisations that will be involved in delivering projects and initiatives. Work will also be progressed over the coming months on developing proposed grant programmes for community and business grants, for discussion with the board.</p> <p>A finance update was provided on delivery of the capacity budget. It was noted that of a total capacity funding budget in 2025/26 financial year of £356,950, there has been actual spend of £73,754 with a further £241,979 of the budget committed. The remaining £41,217 is profiled for spend against the capacity funding budget headings agreed by the board on 30 May 2025.</p> <p>Recommendations were made within the report to target potential new members for recruitment to the board, to take membership up to its maximum number of 15 members. It was highlighted that additional members from the business community, from community-based or third sector organisations and a youth representative could be targeted. CM highlighted that New College Lanarkshire's Business Network could be approached for interested members. NLC officers will follow up this action up to determine if a presentation of the Coatbridge Pride in Place programme can be added to an upcoming Business Network meeting agenda.</p> <p>It was also recommended that retailers and events sub-groups of the board are reestablished, to ensure that local retailers, community and voluntary sector networks are involved in the shaping of projects for Main Street and in the delivery of events. NLC Officers will work with board members to undertake an expression of interest campaign with local retailers, community and voluntary sector networks early in the New Year.</p>	<p>All Points Noted</p> <p>Action: KG</p> <p>(Action by) C.GW JM</p>
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	<p>FM highlighted that he had a meeting scheduled with ASDA and would raise engagement opportunities.</p> <p>It was discussed that approaches should be made to existing third sector and community-based groups involved in environmental initiatives and to all Coatbridge schools for the Main Street spring-clean up initiative.</p> <p>The recommendations within the report were noted and agreed by the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the progress update on submission of the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan and initial 4-year Investment Plan to the UK Government;</li> <li>2. Note the progress update on delivery of the Capacity Funding budget;</li> <li>3. Note the finance update on the 2025/26 Capacity Funding budget.</li> <li>4. Approve the recommendation to take action to recruit additional members to the Board and;</li> <li>5. Approve the recommendation to take action to re-establish a Retailers sub-group and Events sub-group to support the Board.</li> </ol>	
7.	<p><b>Communications Plan Report</b></p> <p>KG provided an update on action taken by NLC Officers to develop a draft communications plan for the coming months to maintain engagement with the local community on the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan and raise awareness of the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board.</p> <p>The input of the board was sought into a final draft communication plan to identify activity that can be led by the Board to raise awareness of the board and their role in leading on delivery of the Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>The draft communication plan highlighting key publicity milestones was tabled. These milestones were endorsed by the board.</p> <p>A discussion was held on communication activity that could be led by the board, with board members highlighting the need for a push on branding and awareness of the Coatbridge project. As highlighted in recent consultations, a high percentage of the local community is unaware of the board or the project. The NLC website has been useful but a separate website for the neighbourhood board would make it's independent identity clearer.</p> <p>TU recommended looking at other board areas who have established their own websites and logos.</p>	All points Noted

	<p>CM highlighted that the college could use their resources to design some draft concepts for the board to select a new logo from. The board collectively agreed that this would be a great way to re-brand.</p> <p>JM raised that local graphic designers are also on-hand and have provided their services to help establish a website. A brand proposal will be created for the board to review at the next meeting.</p> <p>The recommendations of the report were agreed by the board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Note the draft Communication Plan for the next six months leading up to commencement of the delivery period; and</li> <li>(ii) Agree to input into a final draft Communication Plan encompassing activity to be led by and delivered by the Board.</li> </ul>	(Action) CM KG
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>It was brought to the board's attention that local football club Albion Rovers have a proposal for improvements to their facilities that they would like to present to the board for consideration.</p> <p>The board were open to this. It was also highlighted that community grant programmes will be the main vehicle for proposals from local clubs and organisations to be submitted and considered against agreed assessment criteria, once these are established.</p>	Noted

**Date of next Meeting – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2026. 10:00 – 12:00**