Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board Meeting Notes
Coatbridge Summerlee Museum
Friday 19th of June 2026

Attendees: Gavin Whitefield, Christopher Moore, Cllr. Geraldine Woods, Gwen McIntyre, Grant Johnston, Martine Tumilty, Margaret Cumming, Eddie Hamill and Willie McBride.

Virtual: Andrew Bustard (Substitute)

Apologies: MP Frank McNally, MSP Fulton MacGregor, Cllr. Allan Stubbs, David Woods, David Connor and Greg Telfer.

Observers: Pamela Humphries, Kirsty Gray, Melissa McGarey and Jonathan MacVicar (all North Lanarkshire Council).

Item	Summary	Actions
1	**Introduction and Welcome** GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced a further new board member – Eddie Hamill - alongside CLD support staff who joined the meeting later in the agenda.	All Points Noted
2	**Minutes of Last Meeting/ matters arising** The minutes of the last meeting as circulated were agreed as a correct record. GW informed the board that all matters raised from previous meeting will be covered throughout the agenda.	All Points Noted
3	**Neighbourhood Board Capacity Building** A report was presented on a proposed approach and programme of capacity building activity for the Neighbourhood Board over the coming year, to support board members to build further confidence in their strategic role as the programme moves into the delivery phase. The proposed capacity building sessions will provide board members with the knowledge and support to strengthen their roles as members. The re-establishment of thematic sub-groups is also proposed to enable board members to become more actively involved in engagement and practical activity within the town. Full detail of the proposed programme and approach was provided within Appendix 1 of the report. The Board noted the content of the report, approved the proposed approach to Board capacity building and development, agreed to further development of thematic sub-groups and the Year 1 2026/27 approach. It was agreed that the first capacity building session would be coordinated with the planned Neighbourhood Board meeting on 18th September, with a Board members lunch also provided. A discussion was held following presentation of the report, with the following key points noted:	All Points Noted

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It was highlighted that the allocation of funding for this year is small compared to future years funding. This year is therefore important for building momentum.
The importance of communication and promotion of Pride and Place, the first four-year investment plan of £6.6M and how this will be invested was raised. It was noted that there is a lack of awareness within the community on where and when the funding will be spent.
Ideas for awareness raising were discussed, including how to reach people who are not online. Ideas included preparing a launch event and publicity plan; holding community events that coincide with launch of the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board website and asking groups who receive grant funding to publicise the Board as funder, to help raise awareness of Pride in Place and show that deliverables are being achieved. These ideas will be included in communications plan activity.

</td><td>Action: NLC (JM / KG)</td></tr>
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Coatbridge Commercial Reactivation programme

A report was presented on a proposed Coatbridge Commercial Reactivation Programme, which will be a ten-year coordinated package of interventions designed to support the Board’s aim of revitalising Main Street as a more vibrant, active and resilient town centre destination. It also set out proposals for an initial phase of activity for the Board’s endorsement which involves:

A study to establish the market profile and target mix of uses for Main Street;
A business support scheme and launch of a shopfront improvements grant scheme; and
An Autumn and Winter events programme to reactivate Main Street and drive footfall to support trading.

It was highlighted that this proposed programme sits within a wider context of regeneration initiatives within Coatbridge town centre, including the delivery of 49 new residential units on Main Street by the council, and existing business support schemes such as the Town Centre Retail Fund.

The Board’s endorsement of the overall programme approach and support in principle for an initial Year 1 programme of initiatives to inform phased delivery was sought.

The Board noted the report, agreed the overall strategic approach and supported in principle the proposed Year 1 priorities and early interventions.

A discussion was held following presentation of the report, with the following points noted:
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Feedback has been received from some retailers on whether the pedestrianised area could be opened up to traffic either temporarily, permanently or time zoned. This was discussed, with it highlighted that the cost of this would be high and a strong justification would be needed to make changes to this area. It was discussed that results of the market profile and use mix study could feed into considering feasibility and accessibility needs along with other studies focussing on improving access to Main Street and the links between key attractions.
It was highlighted that early discussions have been held with the owners of Coatbridge Shopping Centre around the redevelopment of a vacant unit into a mixed-use space. It was raised whether the college could be included in these discussions to strengthen outcomes for students and the opportunities available for them.

It is noted that Cllr Geraldine Woods had to leave the meeting after this item and sent her apologises for the remainder of the meeting.
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Project Catalyst Fund

A report was presented providing an update on the Project Catalyst Fund proposal, presented at the previous board meeting, and responding to questions the Board raised on how the fund would operate, including its relationship to other grant programmes, grant thresholds, assessment criteria and managing expectations.

As detailed within the report, it was clarified that:

This fund will support groups in the planning stages of their project proposals and support them so they can develop strong funding applications to external funders.
It is separate to the Coatbridge Community Empowerment Fund, which will support community delivered activities and programmes
The Grant thresholds will be a minimum of £5,000 and a maximum of £15,000
Applications will be assessed against a proportionate framework as detailed within the report
A two stage application process will be used. Stage 1 will be an Expression of Interest (EOI), with those EOIs with a realistic prospect of receiving a Grant Award invited to Stage 2.
North Lanarkshire Council will lead on administration of the fund including assessment of the grant applications, as Accountable Body for the Pride in Place funding.
The Board’s role will be to provide strategic oversight, receiving updates on applications received, awards made, common challenges, capacity gaps identified and learning that can be applied to future opportunities.

The board agreed that NLC would be responsible for releasing the funds to the successful applicant groups once the criteria have been
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	finalised and the fund launched. It is aimed to launch the fund during the summer. Groups will be able to apply via the NLC website with the relevant forms. The board noted the updates within the report and endorsed the assessment criteria, grant thresholds and delivery approach for the fund. A discussion followed presentation of the report, with the following key points noted: • It was asked if there was a risk of crossover between this fund and the Community Empowerment Grant fund. NLC project officers confirmed that groups could apply for both funds. The grant funds are being developed to support community groups whilst helping to deliver various aims of the board. • It was also highlighted that the fund could help groups that are progressing with the CAT process or have plans to go through the process, in addition to other funds that might be available to them.	
6.	**Progress update report** A report was presented providing updates on delivery of the Capacity Funding and Delivery budgets for financial year 2026/27 and providing a finance update. The board noted the updates within the report. It was highlighted that future progress reporting will be presented in dashboard format to show progress visually and will introduce a standard traffic-light method. Future updates will also include relevant updates (where available) on outcome delivery including community benefits and wider benefits realisation. An update will also be provided to the next Board meeting on an integrated programme for works being collectively delivered through Pride in Place capital funding and through North Lanarkshire Council funding to improve the safety and appearance of Main Street. It was requested that future updates detail the progress against delivery, including spend to date and spend commitments. It was highlighted that the Coatbridge Community Empowerment Grant fund has received a lot of interest, with the risk that the value of applications received will exceed the funding available. The NLC project team will circulate an update on the fund following the board meeting, which may include a proposal for reallocation of further revenue capacity funding to top-up the current budget, to support the maximum number of eligible applications which contribute towards the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan and Pride in Place outcomes.	All points Noted NLC (KG) NLC (KG) NLC (KG) NLC (KG)
7.	**New Board Website and Communications**	

	A DRAFT version of the new Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board website was presented. Board members provided their feedback which will be updated before the website is live. Suggestions raised included: • Providing a link to the Community Matters cultural calendar to promote events happening across the town • Stronger branding colours • A welcome video on the landing page • Use of videos and images to promote projects and progress • Individual headshots to be included of board members within the 'Meet the Board' section. The board noted the progress and liked the overall design of the website. NLC will provide feedback to the website designer and arrange for launch of the website.	All points Noted NLC (JM)
8.	**Youth Engagement Strategy Action Plan** The board welcomed Amy Reynolds and Agnes Verity from NLC Community Learning and Development (CLD) who delivered a presentation on their programme of work, highlighting workshops completed to date and their objectives. The project team includes four new temporary part-time officers - two of which are Coatbridge residents. "Your place, Your Voice" is the branding they have chosen for the youth engagement project. The CLD officers presented the background to the planned activity, highlighting low levels of respondents to the previous engagement work aged 25 and under. To ensure representation of young people's voices, the CLD project team have developed an engagement strategy using a variety of creative methods and listening labs. A full summer programme has been developed with a neighbourhood map to ensure voices across Coatbridge are heard throughout the consultation activities. Engagement activity will focus on priorities within the Regeneration Plan, including Greenspaces and the Main Street with a partnership approach to ensure no duplication of consultation activity. The duration of the current project is 9-months. An exit strategy will be established so the Board can ensure the voices of young people in the area continue to be heard. A discussion was held following the presentation with some initial ideas raised, including: • An exhibition of ideas generation from the engagement activity at the end of the programme • Attendance by Board members to CLD Young Leaders Group meetings on a Friday meetings, coinciding with board meetings • Regular communication updates.	

	The board noted the progress update, and thanked CLD for their attendance. A further update will be provided to the next Board meeting. *CLD officers left the meeting after this item concluded*	
11.	**AOCB** GW requested that the previous minutes are adapted to include the appointment of Christopher Moore as vice-chairman. ***Date of Next Meeting: Friday 18th of September, 10:00 – 12:00*** ***Capacity Building Activities: Friday 18th of September 13:00 – 14:30***	 Action: JM