Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board Meeting Notes
Coatbridge Summerlee Museum
Friday 18th of September 2026

Attendees: Gavin Whitefield, MP Frank McNally, Cllr. Geraldine Woods, Grant Johnston, Martine Tumilty, Eddie Hamill, Willie McBride and Cllr. Kirsten Larrson (Substitute).

Apologies: MSP Fulton MacGregor, Cllr. Allan Stubbs, David Woods, David Connor, Magaret Cummings, Christopher Moore, Claire Rae and Gwen MacIntyre.

Attending: Kirsty Gray, Melissa McGarey and Jonathan MacVicar, Morag Dendy (substitute) (all North Lanarkshire Council).

Item	Summary	Actions
1	**Introduction and Welcome** GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr. Kirsten Larrson who will be acting as a meantime substitute for Cllr. Stubbs, the board wished him well during his period of absence. GW also welcomed Morag Dendy as the substitute for Clare Rae (Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership and Community Coordinator for Coatbridge). GW Highlighted that representatives of NLC Community Learning and Development (CLD) will be joining the board later in the agenda to present progress updates on the youth engagement strategy alongside UK Government civil servant representatives as part of a wider visit to Scottish Pride in Place Programme (PIPP) locations.	All Points Noted
2	**Minutes of Last Meeting/ matters arising** A matter was raised regarding the process for communications by board members on grants awarded through the Coatbridge Pride in Place Programme, with concern highlighted regarding recent promotional activity undertaken by some board members on the award of community empowerment grants without an agreed procedure by the Board. It was highlighted that communications would be considered as part of later agenda items and recommended that the Board put in place an agreed procedure to ensure that the board can collectively promote work on delivery of the programme. Note: *communications were further discussed during the capacity building session following the board meeting, with a procedure for reporting communication matters put forward by the Chair. This has been included within the Decision Log circulated with these minutes. It was agreed that NLC Officers will seek support from the NLC Corporate Communications Team for the Board with communication activity*. The development of an integrated programme for early action works to improve the safety and appearance of Main Street, covering work funded by the Board and work funded by North Lanarkshire Council through a 2026/27 town centre improvements fund was discussed. A full programme is not yet available as quotations for some of the works are currently being sought. A summary of expected timescales was	All Points Noted Action – NLC (KG)

	presented. A further update will be provided at the next Board meeting. All work is expected to be complete by March 2027. *The minutes of the last meeting as circulated were agreed as a correct record.*	Action – NLC (KG) Approved
3	**Presentation on Initial 4-Year Investment Plan** KG presented a summary of the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan Vision, Priority Outcomes and approved project headings within the first 4-year Investment Plan, for a reminder to Board members and particularly newer members, ahead of reports seeking decisions later in the agenda. *The presentation information and funding allocations within the initial 4-Year Investment Plan were noted by the board.*	All Points Noted
4	**Progress Update Report** A report was presented highlighting progress updates with delivery of capacity budget initiatives over the period; providing an update on the Coatbridge Community Empowerment Grant 2026/27 and seeking the board's approval for reallocation of additional funding to the grant fund to enable a further four groups to be supported. This included a retrospective part-grant award with the circumstances explained to the Board. Updates were also provided on how community enquiries for funding support received by board members are being responded to by NLC officers on behalf of the Board. Finance updates on both the capacity budget and delivery budget for 2026/7 were presented. A discussion was held following the update, with the following key points noted: • Agreement of a retrospective grant award was on a 'one-off' basis taking the circumstances into account. It was discussed that future grant programmes brought forward would be launched earlier within a year to give more time for groups to apply, assessments to be completed and decisions to be made. • It was discussed that grant awards issued need a strong board awareness, and awareness within the community and beneficiaries of the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board role. NLC Officers advised Board members that it is proposed with grant funds moving forward, that recommendations for the award of grants (following assessment of applications) will be brought to the Board for decision before grant offers are issued • It was discussed that detailed information on the grant applications and assessment process needs to be provided to board members, to ensure decisions made by board members are well informed. • A proposal for a funding subgroup was discussed. The board collectively agreed that this would not be required due to membership being at a manageable level for discussions to take place during main meetings.	All Points Noted

	• The board highlighted that it was positive to see the impact of further investment being brought into Coatbridge by board contributions. It was requested that in future funding profiles could begin to show board investment alongside additional funding or expenditure. The Board noted the progress update and approved an additional allocation of £13,080 from the Capacity Funding budget to support grant awards to an additional 4 groups as detailed within the report.	Action – NLC (KG)
5	**Funding Framework Proposal** A report was presented, putting forward a proposal to the Board for the establishment of a strategic Funding Framework comprising four grant funds for the Coatbridge Pride in Place Programme. It was outlined that this will help the Board to respond to enquiries received from community organisations, businesses and other stakeholders seeking financial support for projects that contribute towards the regeneration of Coatbridge and the Board's agreed priorities in a structured and transparent way, as part of the delivery strategy for the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan. The proposed themed funding schemes were outlined within the report. Work to establish two of these funds is currently underway by NLC officers, following previous approvals by the Board – The Project Catalyst Fund and the Main Street Reactivation Fund. A proposal to develop an additional two funds was detailed – a Community Spaces and Place Fund and a Community Participation Fund. The Board noted the report and agreed: • The principle of establishing a Strategic Funding Framework as the overarching mechanism through which future funding programmes of the Board will be developed and delivered. • The proposed priorities and investment principles set out in the report and the proposed portfolio approach comprising: Project Catalyst Fund; Main Street Reactivation Grant Fund; Community Spaces and Places Fund and Community Participation Fund • That detailed proposals for the Community Spaces and Places Fund and the Community Participation Fund be brought forward for future Board consideration. The Board also delegated to North Lanarkshire Council as accountable body to prepare detailed eligibility criteria, assessment frameworks and other due diligence processes to support the administration of individual funding programmes for approval by the Board as appropriate. A discussion followed presentation of the report, surrounding key examples on funding allocations and the core benefits these would deliver which included leveraging in additional external funds by supporting community groups or bodies in the process of key	All Points Noted

	milestones associated with their project developments, allowing for more successful outcomes. *MP Frank McNally left the meeting due to work commitments.*	
6.	**Main Street Reactivation Programme Update** A report providing an update on the Main Street Reactivation Programme, approved by the Board at their last meeting, was presented along with further detail on Main Street Reactivation Grant Fund which has reached an advanced stage of development. Detail was also provided in the report of a funding support opportunity, which would bring a vacant town centre building back into use and improve the accessibility and visibility of a valued local service. The Board noted the updates within the report and agreed: • The proposals for the Main Street Reactivation Grant Scheme, the eligible area for the scheme and that it will support projects under the themes of External Improvements; Business Improvement and Customer Experience; Sustainability; Repurposing and Diversification. • The proposed two-stage application process, proposed intervention rates and timelines outlined in the report and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report • That Stage 1 Expressions of Interest will be invited from October 2026 • Delegation to North Lanarkshire Council to finalise scheme guidance, application documents, assessment arrangements and operating procedures. The Board also approved in principle the provision of grant funding support under the Repurposing and Diversification theme, to Coatbridge Citizens Advice Bureau, subject to submission of an application to the grant fund and satisfaction of their application against the fund assessment criteria. A discussion followed presentation of the report, with the following key points noted: • Questions were raised over the boundary of the fund area, and the process that decided this. It was highlighted that the core town centre was chosen due to the priorities of the board and to keep the fund manageable. Expansion of the boundary criteria to include further away businesses can be considered after this pilot grant has run, but consideration of the extent would need to be agreed against the priority focus on bringing footfall back to the core town centre. • A discussion took place over adequate parking in the town centre, with new residential developments, for example at the former municipal buildings, now taking place or planned. Carparks for the core town centre are substantial for the current demand, with plenty of spaces available at a short walk.	All points Noted

7.	**Coatbridge Civic Pride and Events Update** An update was provided to the Board around civic pride activities, which includes the recent refresh of Time Capsule planters working in partnership with NLC Adults Learning Department. Future projects include improvement works to the existing Summerlee sculptures located within Bargeddie. A detailed overview was also provided on work underway to develop and deliver events. Board members have been working in collaboration with NLC officers to develop a Halloween Shopfront Trail and Halloween Disco. This involves encouraging traders to decorate windows with decorations provided by the board displaying a letter, these letters can then be unscrambled with a random winner receiving a voucher to a local business of their choice. The event will run from Friday 16th of October until Sunday 1st of November. A Halloween disco will be held at a local business nearer Halloween night to provide the community a free space for children and youths alike to enjoy completely free. The annual Christmas event will take place on Saturday 28th of November, with similar plans to last year. The main additions are 10 x Christmas market stalls and toy collection which will support local Coatbridge schools to ensure each child has a present on Christmas day. Local traders will be encouraged to take part and support the event where they can. Business Support Month will run during October. This will provide local retailers with tailored support, networking opportunities, and access to expert advice, helping them adapt to changing consumer behaviours and the evolving challenges facing town centres. *The board supported the delivery of the event proposals and welcomed new ideas to be considered.*	All points Noted
8.	**Coatbridge Connections Programme** Due to time constraints, full consideration of this item will be carried forward to the next Board meeting. The Board noted the report and the recommendations.	
9.	**Youth Engagement Strategy Action Plan** The board welcomed Amy Reynolds and Agnes Verity from NLC Community Learning and Development (CLD) who delivered an interim update presentation on their programme of work, “Your Place, Your Voice”, highlighting engagement work completed to date. Key highlights raised during the presentation included: • Detail on the number of community members and age ranges that have engaged with the project and the use of layered engagement models to maximise participation (*for example attending gala days, festivals and pop-ups)*.	

	• Notice board displays and Listen Labs are emerging as the most successful method of engagement. Other methods used include tailored activities like Lego building, town centre crafts and gaming. These targeted activities can be aimed at certain groups more easily. • The most recent event was held at Summerlee 'Feel-it fest' which was held after exam results with mental health a core focus. • An exhibition of the project will be held by early February, following completion of the current programme. This will showcase highlights and information received. The event will be held at Summerlee to enable the immersive room to be used. • The board will be provided with further information on recommended next steps; this will help ensure feedback from the engagement exercises can be used to shape project proposals, showing clear needs direct from community voices and ensure that young people continue to be involved in the development of priority projects. A discussion was held following the presentation. Questions asked and points raised were: • What events have taken place in neighbourhood areas, for example Kirkwood. The officers provided examples using the old Monklands community centre as the most recent where youth fun-days were held. Activities have taken place across the Coatbridge area • Targeted approaches have ensured all voices and backgrounds have been heard and offered the opportunity to comment. Collaboration with local third sector networks have been crucial in the success of reaching young people and families. The board discussed what benefits an extension to the youth engagement strategy could bring, with further discussions to take place in future. *CLD officers left the meeting after this item concluded*	
11.	**AOCB** EH raised the proposal of including key services for the Coatbridge community on the board's website, providing a one-stop shop for information on vital support available. Work will need to be taken forward to ensure accurate and up-to-date information is available. The proposal was positively received by the board and supported. ***Date of Next Meeting: Friday 20th of November, 10:00 – 12:00***	Action: JM