

**PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD**  
**Darlington Town Hall – Microsoft Teams**  
**Tuesday 24 June 2025**

**Present :**

Angela Howey (AH) (CHAIR)	Seth Pearson (SP)
David Gartland (DG)	Sarah Bentley (SB)
Cllr Garner (JM)	Yvonne Beattie (YB)
Naomi Jenkins (NJ)	Joe Passman (JM)
Cllr Harker (SH)	Hilary Bevan (HB)
Brett Nielsen (BN)	Hayley Jones (HJ)
Sarah Small (SS)	Lucy Simms (LS)
Chris Farlow (CF)	Gordon Pybus (GP)
Kay Sandham (KS)	Stephen Fenwick (SF)
Janine Browne	Graham Hall
Adam Suleiman (AS)	Ant Hewitt (AH)
Trevor Watson (TW)	

No.	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS
	<b>Apologies:</b> Martin Short, Rose Rouse, Mike Poulter, Andy Walker, Shaun Campbell	
1.0	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting – 13 May 2025</b></p> <p>Town Board Subgroup meetings have been organized</p> <p>Agreed that the minutes are an accurate record of the previous meeting</p>	
2.0	<p><b>Review progress to date</b></p> <p>Objects of today’s board meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review progress to date</li> <li>- Agree next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Develop the agreed themes</li> <li>o Prepare to draft Regeneration Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board and Boundaries agreed by MHCLG</li> <li>- First draft of a Strategic Vision broadly approved with minor amends to be considered</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thematic Areas Agreed,             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Driving Growth (Economic inclusion, town centre)</li> <li>- Thriving neighbourhoods (targeting 'left behind')</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Data regarding left behind Neighbourhood reviewed</li> <li>- Voluntary and Community Sector engaged in designing/delivering community engagement</li> <li>- Towns Fund sub-group agreed, and meetings scheduled for two weeks in advance of Neighbourhood Board to allow report in</li> <li>- Delivery team in development</li> </ul> <p>28 November is a key date to remember for submission to MHCLG</p> <p>It is raised about disability being missed off documentation even though it is mentioned in the guidance. SP noted down points and will update and make it clearer.</p>	<b>SP</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Agree strategic vision</b>	
	<p>Issues raised at the last board meeting have been incorporated in the new strategic vision</p> <p>Board agrees the strategic vision</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Agree next steps</b>	
	<p>Thematic Area 1 – Driving Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stem education</li> </ul> <p>SP to prepare an interim brief for Thematic Area 1 – Driving Growth and will be circulated to the board ASAP.</p> <p>The Board agreed to commission a Feasibility study, the cost to be circulated to the Board.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Board will need to know the Capital and Revenue split between projects.</p>	<p><b>SP</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>SP</b></p>

	<p><b>Thematic Area 2 – Thriving Neighbourhoods</b></p> <p>Further consideration was given to the evidence pointing to the neighbourhoods having the highest level of needs. The following areas were suggested as a primary of the fund:</p> <p>Bank Top Branksome Northgate Red Hall Skerne Park</p> <p>It was recognized that whilst these areas could act as a locus for activity, surrounding communities also have high levels of need and so there should be no firm boundaries around them. With that the approach was agreed.</p> <p>The Board further agreed that communities not defined by geographic boundaries, particularly people with disabilities, should be considered within the programme.</p> <p>The board needs to decide on a regeneration plan overview by 28 Nov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 Year Vision</li> <li>- 4 Year Investment Plan</li> </ul>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p><b>Subgroup report</b></p>	
	<p>Update presentation presented to the board</p> <p>TVCA to give an update on Bank Top/Darlington Station at next Subgroup meeting</p> <p>Footpath near station works that is blocked off for pedestrians is mentioned and when it will re-open. It is also mentioned about the dangers this pathway being closed to people with visual impairment may cause.</p> <p>NJ has a meeting with TVCA/Station tomorrow and will ask questions regarding the footpath.</p> <p>Visit to the Northern Echo building &amp; 156 Northgate to be arranged</p>	<p><b>NJ</b></p> <p><b>NJ</b></p> <p><b>NJ</b></p>

	No further update on Northgate house at the moment	
6.0	<b>AOB</b>	
	<p>The question of how projects/proposal are to come into the board for discussion</p> <p>SP to update the board on how this process and timelines will look like at the next meeting</p>	<b>SP</b>
7.0	<b>Future Meeting</b>	
	<p>Meeting in August to be cancelled due to numerous board members being on annual leave</p> <p>Next meeting will be 16 September 2025 &amp; the meeting to be in person</p>	<b>LS</b>