

PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD MEETING

29th of August 2025 @ 1.30PM

MINUTES

Present:

Present	Apologies
Board Members	
Paul Grey (PG) –Chair	Councillor David Jones
MP Gerald Jones (GJ)	Lis Mclean
MS Dawn Bowden (DB)	Karen Courts
Councillor Brent Carter (BC)	Daniel Jones
Sharon Richards (SR)	Robert Davies
Elizabeth Bradford (EB)	
Simon Evans (SE)	
Geraint Williams (GW)	
Board Advisors	
Ellis Cooper (ES)	Craig Flynn
Zoe Thomas (ZT)	Steven Jones
Paul Lewis (PL)	
Ceri Dinham (CD)	
Laura Willcox (LW)	
Victoria Parry (VP)	
Vicky Robst (VR)	
Michelle Conquer (MC) *In replacement of Steven Jones	



Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

<https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/11006/cynllun-ar-gyfer-cyfarfod-bwrdd-cymdogaethau-29ain-o-awst-2025.pdf>

Items Discussed

Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

PG welcomed all attendees and introduced LW as the new Strategic Regeneration Manager at MTCBC.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

A round of introductions was undertaken by all attendees

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

PG informed the Board that due to the new plan being implemented, the minutes of the previous meeting would not be formally approved as they were no longer relevant to the ongoing PfN Programme.

UK Government Strategic Updates

PG presented key strategic changes to the programme's direction. It was confirmed that the funding and overall focus remain the same, but the core objectives have been refined from four to three:

- Thriving Places
- Stronger Communities
- Taking Back Control

Members were encouraged to consult the PfN website for more details on the new objectives and case studies. It was noted that the PfN programme is expected to be complementary to other devolved funding streams in Wales, such as the Transforming Towns and SPF funding.

PG provided an overview of the data collection process managed by Zen City. Each PfN Board has been given access to its specific data, which will be used to inform the regeneration plan and guide the upcoming public consultation.

Dashboard Report

Board Membership

LW led a discussion on Board Membership.

LW requested agreement from the Board to have their pen portraits captured and uploaded to the PfN webpage to promote transparency. GJ emphasized that transparency of Community Members was crucial.

Action 1: LW to contact all board attendees requesting information for their pen portraits by week ending September 5, 2025.

The Board discussed the addition of a representative from the Health Board. SR & EC suggested that the programme objectives should be considered to determine the most advantageous health perspective to include. ZT added that the public consultation would also assist with this decision. The Board agreed to seek the most suitable person to approach.

Action 2: SR/LW to review Health Board Membership options for discussion at the October Board meeting.

The involvement of a representative from the Fire Service was also raised by MC. The Board agreed that various organisations could be invited to attend meetings as and when required, and it was decided to review membership on an as-needed basis.

ZT reinforced the non-attendance condition of the Terms of Reference (TOR), specifically the provision for non-attendance at two consecutive meetings. A copy of the TOR has been attached to the dashboard report.

Regeneration Plan

LW explained that the Regeneration Plan must be submitted to MHCLG via an online portal by November 28, 2025. The plan will require final sign-off from the Board at the November 21, 2025, meeting.

The public consultation will run until the end of September and will be fundamental to the plan's development. MTCBC and The Urbanists will lead the consultation, which will remain active throughout the programme's lifetime. However, The Urbanists are only commissioned to undertake the September consultation and associated drafting of the 10yr Regeneration plan and 4yr Investment plan

PL queried whether the consultation would be extended to the new boundary areas, as previous efforts had focused solely on the town centre. ZT confirmed that the consultation would cover the extended boundary. It was noted that where feasible, the consultation would leverage existing consultations and data from recent surveys, such as the Residents Survey.

LW detailed the proposal for in-person consultation at 10 locations across the boundary, with posters and email links distributed to various groups. Board members were asked if they would like to support the consultation events.

Action 3: Board members to contact LW if they would like to support the consultation events.

SR stressed the importance of selecting the right venues to attract new groups and noted that community groups had risen by 32% in recent years. ZT asked SR to forward any relevant community group links.

Action 4: SR to forward links to community groups to LW by week ending September 5, 2025.

EB asked Board attendees to publicise the consultation through their social media channels where possible.

Action 5: LW to send the consultation poster and QR codes to the Board for social media distribution.

EC outlined that a clear narrative is needed to mitigate any issues regarding why the boundary area was devised. DB stated that the boundary does not cover the most deprived part of the county borough and that it needs to be made clear that areas not included can still benefit from the programme. LW will provide a feedback report after the consultation.

Action 6: LW to draft an FAQ document for use during the consultation and send it to the Board for review.

The Board approved the consultation plan.

Financials

LW provided a financial update, highlighting the programme's focus on capital spending. The UK Government has committed up to £20 million to 75 areas over a 10-year period, with a 75% capital and 25% revenue split.

The funding breakdown is as follows:

	Revenue	Capital	Total
Capacity	£600,000	-	£600,000
Project Delivery	£4,003,000	£14,936,000	£18,939,000
Overall Total			£19,539,000

GJ asked if monies could be rolled over per financial year. LW confirmed that, as per MHCLG guidelines, the programme allows for financial flexibility, including the ability to roll over underspends into later years. It was noted that a plan for future capacity funding would need to be in place for the period between November 2025 and March 2026. Project delivery is set to begin in April 2026.

Risk and Opportunities LW will prepare a risk assessment for the next Board meeting.

Action 7: LW to prepare a Risk and Opportunities Register.

Decision Items

The Board agreed with the Consultation Plan and the involvement of the 3rd Sector. EB & DC offered support through social media platforms due to the vast number of followers.

AOB

- LW reported that the PfN Programme Manager post has been evaluated, and the recruitment process for a two-year term will begin shortly.
- The website has been updated to reflect the PfN programme, and consultation materials will be uploaded during the week commencing September 8, 2025.
- The Board discussed creating a logo for the programme but decided to defer the decision in case an official logo becomes available from Central Government.
- LW will coordinate consultation communications in liaison with CD and VR
- PG updated the Board that Coalfields Regeneration Trust would like to provide additional support.

Action 8: LW to arrange a meeting with Coalfields Regeneration Trust, PG, and ZT

PL felt a young voice is needed on the Board. PG agreed to review after consultation is complete. CD stated that MTCBC have a citizen panel for young people, we can include the PfN programme into discussions with them

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2025.

Summary of Actions

1. LW to contact all board attendees requesting info for their pen portraits by week ending September 5, 2025.
2. SR & LW to review Health Board Membership for discussion at the October Board meeting.
3. Board members to contact LW if they would like to support the consultation events.
4. SR to forward links to community groups to LW by week ending September 5, 2025.
5. LW to send consultation poster / QR codes to the Board for distribution via their social media channels.
6. LW to draft an FAQ document for use at consultation and send to the Board for info.
7. LW to prepare a Risk and Opportunities Register.
8. LW to arrange a meeting with Coalfields Regeneration Trust, PG, and ZT