Pride in Place Programme

Beacon Lough and Wrekenton Neighbourhood Board

Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Thursday 21st May 2026 at Larkspur Primary School

Present: Rev'd Danie Lindley (Chair), Lesley Burns, Mary Burns, Mitali Deypurkaystha, Nicola Dixon, Claire Eliison, Mark Ferguson MP, Paul Gray, Diane Kindred, Brendan Robson, Kathryn Walker, Keith Wood.

Gateshead Council Officers present: Anneliese Hutchinson Strategic Director Economy Innovation and Growth, Kate Price, External Funding Programme Manager, Kerry McGlynn External Funding Programme Manager.

MHCLG: Bethany Gorman, Delivery Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Emma Bell, Fiona Pollard and Lindsay Murray.

2. MHCLG visit and introduction

The Chair introduced Bethany Gorman the Delivery Manager for MHCLG. Bethany outlined her role and the support and guidance she can provide to the Board throughout the programme. Bethany advised should the Board have any queries, to direct them through the Chair or Council Officers.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Decision: The minutes from the meeting on the 23rd April 2026 were approved by the Board.

ACTION: Minutes and agenda from previous meeting to be published on the webpage.

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. AOB

Some AOB was raised at this point in the meeting as Kathryn Walker would be leaving before the end of the meeting.

Kathryn Walker asked if the webpage could be separate from the main Council website.

It was noted that the Council should still manage the website as this is part of the accountable body and secretariat function. It was suggested that a URL could be purchased so the webpage appears distinct from, but can still be managed by the Council to enable timely updates as required.

ACTION: Programme Managers to work with Comms and provide an update at the next Board meeting.

Kathryn Walker asked if the Board meetings should remain on the third Thursday of the month for consistency. The schedule of meetings proposed at agenda item 12 is based on the Chairs availability and the Board agreed to this schedule of meetings.

Decision: Schedule of meetings accepted by the Board.

Kathryn Walker raised a query regarding point 4.6 of the Terms of Reference (TOR) regarding substitution for the Ward Councillor. The Board agreed that there should be no substitution allowed for Ward Councillors.

ACTION: Programme managers to amend the TOR to remove the option for substitution for Ward Councillors.

Decision: The Terms of Reference were approved by the Board subject to the amendment above.

6. Appointment of Deputy Chair

Board members voted for a Deputy Chair as per the procedure set out in the Terms of Reference.

Lesley Burns received 8 votes and Keith Wood received 4 votes.

Decision: The Board approved the appointment of Lesley Burns as the Deputy Chair for the Neighbourhood Board.

7. Community Engagement

Kate Price, Programme Manager presented the Community Engagement paper.

The Board were asked to consider six options to engage with residents and local organisations. The importance of this engagement activity was highlighted as it will inform the Pride in Place plan including the robust evidence base which is an MHCLG requirement.

Keith Wood asked if there is a comprehensive list of groups and organisations in the MSOA.

ACTION: The Programme Managers are in the process of collating stakeholder information and this will be presented to the Board at the next meeting to identify any gaps.

The recommendation was that the Board agree to proceed with all six options for Community engagement to ensure the ten best practice principles as set out by MHCLG are met and the approach is early, participatory and ongoing. This approach will also ensure the 10-year plan is submitted within the required timeframe.

The Community Engagement will be funded via the £150,000 capacity payment which is designated for this purpose.

Decision: The Board agreed the community engagement approach as detailed in options 1-6.

Action: Programme Managers to commence community engagement.

8. Small Grants Fund

Kerry McGlynn, Programme Manager presented the Small Grants Fund paper.

The Board had a discussion about the possibility of grants being awarded to un-constituted organisations or individuals.

Anneliese Hutchinson noted as the accountable body the Council must ensure the funding is administered with appropriate processes and controls and to uphold the reputation of the Neighbourhood Board.

Claire Ellison noted there are a number of organisations in the area who are not formally constituted. Would it be possible for constituted organisations to hold funding on behalf of these organisations.

The Board agreed this was a practical solution.

ACTION: Programme managers to speak to local constituted groups about this option.

The Board had a further discussion about ensuring the funding is not used for works which should be undertaken by the Council.

Brendan Robson asked if the criteria could be refined to ask if works are for 'enhancement ', with the focus being on public realm enhancements.

It was agreed that Board members will have sight of all Small Grants Fund applications. The Programme Managers will provide a recommendation to the panel for decision. It was agreed that applications will be reviewed and decisions made by a small panel of Board members to allow timely decisions to be made. The Panel will include the Chair, Deputy Chair and a Board member.

Claire Ellison noted we need to ensure the process is accessible to all and that some groups might not want to make an application online.

ACTION: Programme managers to ensure the Small Grants Fund is advertised through a range of digital and non-digital methods to ensure no groups are excluded alongside the engagement set out above.

Decision: The Board agreed to proceed with the Small Grants Fund subject to the points noted above.

ACTION: Programme Managers to launch the Small Grants Fund in association with the start of community engagement poster.

9. Data Sets

The presentation on data sets was shown to the Board.

The Board had an in-depth discussion about the data presented. The main points were as follows:

- The data pointed to symptoms and solutions but the root causes are missing. More in-depth community engagement will help the Board understand the root causes.
- Link between lack of youth services and anti-social behaviour
- The themes of education and job creation highlight that the programme should not just be about physical improvements to the area. The Board discussed free

education programmes e.g. the success of the Newcastle United Foundation helping unemployed young people into work. Additionally involving young people in improvement activities, means they are less likely to be damaged.

- Crime and anti-social behaviour were a common theme. Could we facilitate a drop in with Neighbourhood Police officers to voice their concerns?
- Health issues have not been raised as a priority for residents, but we know health outcomes are less positive for the area compared to Gateshead wide and national statistics. How can the programme support residents health? Discussion around links with Rise.
- Claire Ellison mentioned a 10-year NHS Neighbourhood Health programme which could link with the Programme.

ACTION: Claire to share NHS data.

Council to check back to understand the numbers of residents in the area that responded to the residenst survey and advise

- The Board liked the poster at the end of the data sets presentation for engagement with the community.

ACTION: Programme managers to work with Comms to design a poster using simple language and bright colours.

10. Programme Support

Anneliese Hutchinson presented the paper, noting a significant amount of work needs to be undertaken to ensure the Board operates effectively and submits the Plan to MHCLG by the deadline.

The Council is supporting the Board through Programme management, secretariat and accountable body. It has been agreed that some programme funding will be used to support these functions and this will be reviewed in October 2026.

11. AOB

Mitali Deypurkaystha suggested a Whatsapp group or email thread be set up for Board members to share ideas in between board meetings.

The Board agreed a WhatsApp group would be the preferred option. The Chair will set this up and establish guidelines.

Agenda items were suggested for the next board meeting including:

- Asset mapping
- Stakeholders
- Rise to attend the meeting to explain their programme

For future board meetings the Board would like invite organisations who have already expressed a need for funding to present their ideas.

Signed electronically: D Lindley

Name Danie Lindley. (Chair of the Pride in Place Programme Board)

Date 26th June 2026