



MEETING OF THE NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

Date: Friday, 18 July 2025

Invitees

Name	Role	Organisation
Board Members		
Chris Hickey	Chair	Mercury Hampton
Councillor Anthony Burns	Leader of the Council	St Helens Borough Council
Councillor Kate Groucutt	Cabinet Member for Business & Inclusive Growth and Deputy Leader	St Helens Borough Council
Ian Lewis	Investment Manager	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Amie Louise Parsonage	Portfolio and Partnerships Officer	Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner
Community & Co-Opted Board Members		
Alex Myhill	Community Representative	Riddling Rack
Joanne Edge	Community Representative	Newton Sports Club
Debbie Taylor	Business Representative	Es Paradis Salon & Domestic Abuse WA12 CIC
Paul Romanko	Business Representative	United Utilities Water Ltd
Fiona Ruddy	Third Sector Representative	Newton Community Centre
John Unsworth	Cultural, Arts, and Heritage including Sports Groups Representative	Sea Cadet Corps
Local Authority Representatives		
Mary Jefferson	Head of Regeneration and Growth	St Helens Borough Council
Mark Bingley	Programme Lead – Earlestown	St Helens Borough Council
Rachel Bebb	Project Officer	St Helens Borough Council
Matthew Valentine	Project Officer	St Helens Borough Council
Apologies		
David Baines MP	Member of Parliament, St Helens North	Member of Parliament, St Helens North
Mark Palethorpe	Chief Executive	St Helens Borough Council
Jon Julian Smith	Chief Inspector, St Helens	Merseyside Police
Reverend Chris Stafford	Faith Representative	Team Rector at St Peters, Emmanuel Wargrave, and St John's



MEETING OF THE NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

Friday 18 July 2025

AGENDA

Item	Title	Lead
1.	Welcome and Introductions	CH
2.	Declarations of Interest	CH
3.	Minutes of the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting held on 9 May 2025	CH
4.	Change in Board Membership	MB
5.	Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme Update	MB
6.	Consultation Findings	MB
7.	Any Other Business	All

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ITEM 1



1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose is to welcome Board members and make introductions.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the apologies received.**

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ITEM 2

	<p style="text-align: center;">NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p>
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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose is for Board Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests in relation to the agenda.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) **Note the declarations of interest.**

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ITEM 3

 <p>ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>	<p>NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD</p> <p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD</p>
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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose is to give an overview of the previous Board meeting, as agreed by the Board verbally.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the previous minutes.**

Appendices

Appendix 1: Minutes of Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board

Appendix 1 – Minutes of Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board

 <p>ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Minutes of Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday 9 May 2025 14:30 – 16:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newton Sports Club, Crow Lane East, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 9XE</p>
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Invitees			
Name	Initials	Role	Organisation
Board Members			
Chris Hickey	CH	Chair	Mercury Hampton
Councillor Anthony Burns	AB	Leader of the Council	St Helens Borough Council
Mark Palethorpe	MP	Chief Executive	St Helens Borough Council
Councillor Richard McCauley	RM	Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth and Regeneration	St Helens Borough Council
Ian Lewis	IL	Investment Manager	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Amie Louise Parsonage	ALP	Portfolio and Partnerships Officer	Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner
Community & Co-Opted Board Members			
Alex Myhill	AM	Community Representative	Riddling Rack
Joanne Edge	JE	Community Representative	Newton Sports Club
Debbie Taylor	DT	Business Representative	Es Paradis Salon & Domestic Abuse WA12 CIC
Paul Romanko	PR	Business Representative	United Utilities Water Ltd
Fiona Ruddy	FR	Third Sector Representative	Newton Community Centre
John Unsworth	JU	Cultural, Arts, and Heritage including Sports Groups Representative	Sea Cadet Corps
Reverend Chris Stafford	CS	Faith Representative	Team Rector at St Peters, Emmanuel Wargrave, and St John's
Local Authority Representatives			
Mary Jefferson	MJ	Head of Regeneration and Growth	St Helens Borough Council
Mark Bingley	MB	Programme Lead – Earlestown	St Helens Borough Council
Rachel Bebbby	RB	Project Officer	St Helens Borough Council

Matthew Valentine	MV	Project Officer	St Helens Borough Council
Apologies Received			
David Baines MP	DB	Member of Parliament, St Helens North	Member of Parliament, St Helens North
Jon Julian Smith	JJS	Chief Inspector, St Helens	Merseyside Police

Item	Title	Lead
1.	Welcome and Introductions	CH
2.	Declarations of Interest	CH
3.	Minutes of the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting held on 21 March 2025	CH
4.	Neighbourhood Plan Programme Update	MB
5.	Any Other Business	All

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chris Hickey (CH) acknowledged apologies received from David Baines MP and Jon Julian Smith.

CH welcomed Mark Palethorpe (MP) to the Neighbourhood Board in his new role as Chief Executive of St Helens Borough Council. MP introduced himself to the group within his new role, and CH welcomed Members and introductions were given around the table for MP's benefit.

2. Declaration of Interest

CH informed members that no declarations had been received ahead of the meeting and invited Neighbourhood Board Members to present any new declarations relevant to the agenda items.

No declarations were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting held on 21 March 2025

CH noted the minutes from the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting on Friday 21 March 2025 are agreed and live on the Council website. CH then provided an overview of the key discussions and endorsements from the previous Board, including:

- Board noted the updates of the prospectus and milestones for the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative.
- Board approved the approach to freeze Board membership until such time that the Regeneration Plan is developed, and a Skills Audit can be undertaken aligned to the projects defined in the Investment Plan.
- Board approved the proposal to alter the 'default' area boundary.

- Board approved the endorsement of the Engagement Strategy, Communications Plan and additional expenditure presented.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Programme Update

Mark Bingley (MB) gave an overview that this Agenda item would be split into three elements – providing an update on consultation, programme milestones, and the recommendations and endorsements sought by Board.

Update on consultation

MB explained a promotional 'Education Video' had been produced and published by the Council to provide information about the initiative and encourage people to take part in the consultation. For the benefit of those Board Members who had not yet viewed the video, MB played the promotional item.

MB thanked those Board Members who contributed to the creation of the Education Video, noted it is a powerful and important part of the endorsed Engagement Strategy, and promotes the opportunity for the community to learn more about Plan for Neighbourhoods and the consultation process.

MB provided an overview to Board Members on the Newton-le-Willows Plan for Neighbourhoods consultation progress, noting that the period of consultation runs from Monday 7 April 2025 to Sunday 18 May 2025. MB noted that as of the date of this Board meeting, the online consultation platform has received approximately 1500 views with 921 navigations through the website, resulting in 122 contributors through the online survey or through comments.

MB added that in addition to the online platform, the public consultation has enabled 357 people to directly engage so far through the pop-up events and drop-in sessions, with further engagement still planned.

MB outlined that the Project Team will continue to push participation by contacting key stakeholders such as community groups, heritage groups, and businesses until the consultation closes. Thanks were given to Board Members who have worked pro-actively across the consultation period in supporting consultation events and delivering 7,500 flyers to businesses, residents and community groups, with a special thanks given to Reverend Chris Stafford (CS) for his efforts.

MB assured Board that the final consultation numbers will increase ahead of completion, however MB stated that circa.500 people engaged to date is very positive and exceeds other consultations across the borough. In addition, the richness of some of the contributions in extensive face to face conversations offers real value to the Board.

Programme milestones

MB discussed programme milestones and informed Board Members that the first milestone had been reached, with the submission of a terms of reference, Board composition, proposal to alter the 'default' boundary line, and our committed

expenditure of capacity funding to date, submitted on 22 April 2025. MB detailed that assessment is to be undertaken by government officers who will revert with feedback and questions on the submission if necessary.

MB detailed a visit from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) took place on 30 April 2025 with the Project Team (MB and Rachel Bebb) alongside Board Members Chris Hickey (CH), Paul Romanko (PR) and Joanne Edge (JE), as part of Government's efforts to visit all 75 beneficiaries of the fund. MB noted a walking tour was provided of Earlestown, followed by a tour via car of the wider Newton-le-Willows area, before a presentation was given at Mercury Hampton outlining programme achievements to date and milestones ahead. MB provided feedback to Board that Government officers were pleased with the clear vision and programme progress and noted that Newton-Le-Willows Plan for Neighbourhoods programme is a strong innovator in delivery and produced strong examples of best practice.

MB announced the next key milestone for Board is to meet the submission of the Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan by Winter 2025.

Recommendations and endorsements

MB stated that a key decision for the Board in this meeting is to vote on endorsement of additional expenditure as discussed at previous Neighbourhood Board meeting of 21 March 2025. The expenditure relates to the updated prospectus provided by Government which expands the scope, specifically the addition of new criteria and feedback loops to the Board as development of the 10-year plan and 4-year investment plan evolves. MB stated the additional expenditure is largely driven by an increase of the investment themes from 3 to 8 within the reformed programme and the additional work involved to be undertaken by Neighbourhood Board Specialists in analysing the criterion to provide a clear local evidence-based needs assessment of investment themes.

MB added that this analytical work is critical to inform a Data Pack; that will be presented to the Board summarising the local data set of the area in addition to the consultation results, which will provide a clear and thorough evidence base for the development and selection of potential projects.

MB advised that the Neighbourhood Board Specialists have provided details of a fee uplift due to the extensive additional work required, which was shown to Board. MB reinforced that this uplift has been robustly challenged and is considerably lower than the initial given figure, through challenge and refinement, with confidence given that the fee reflects value for money. MB announced that a letter has been provided courtesy of CH to indicate the Board's intention is to endorse the uplift, given the key milestone of Winter 2025 and to ensure there is no delay to the programme's progress.

CH added that the uplift is needed to fit the requirements and stated the additional fee reflects good value for money for the Board taking into account the additional work which needs to be undertaken.

Fiona Ruddy (FR) confirmed that the fee uplift is for the additional scope of the project and asked for details of what work will be delivered as part of the package of works.

MB advised the original specification contained the data driven exercise for the 3 investment themes (regeneration, high streets and heritage, transport, and safety and security) which has now expanded to 8 (additional themes being: housing, work, productivity and skills, cohesion, health and wellbeing, and education and opportunity), and therefore additional spend is required for the extra work involved in analysing data sets relevant to the new investment themes.

MB added that in addition to the expanded scope, a series of workshops are now included with Board Members, which can be found at section 4.5 of the agenda pack for June and July 2025 in recognition of Government's new direction to ensure the requirement of additional feedback loops is met.

FR asked for clarity that the additional fee is pertaining to 5 extra investment themes, and additional workshops and asked for the committed expenditure to date.

MB confirmed that the additional fee breakdown was correct and further informed the programme committed spend to date on:

- Neighbourhood Board Specialists initial contract value.
- Additional consultation and engagement activities sought by the Board.
- The appointment of a Project Officer for 3 years.

MB gave a total of the committed expenditure to date, with a decision to be made regarding the fee uplift in reflection of the expanded programme.

FR identified total spend with Neighbourhood Specialists, and wanted to ensure that should the fee uplift be approved, that the Board ensure the Specialists are held to account with respect to value to the programme across the scope of delivery.

Paul Romanko (PR) added that it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure this fee does not increase nor further scope be added beyond what has been agreed.

MB reminded the Board that the Specialists were appointed on a competitive tender of 6 bidders of which the appointed team – Hatch Associates, PLACED and Layer.Studio (bidding jointly) scored the highest through price and quality assessment. MB added that fees to date include consultation, data analysis and development of the 10-year Regeneration Plan and 4-year Investment Plan.

Mary Jefferson (MJ) gave assurances that due to public contract regulations; scope cannot be extended any further. MJ stated the fees accrued to date meet the threshold of what is allowable under public procurement and that if any additional fees were required for further work, the market would need to be retested. MJ added the work to be delivered is a very intensive amount in a short amount of time and that the challenge is correct to be made but the initial contract and additional fees represent good value for spend.

Alex Myhill (AM) noted that it is important for public perception that value for money for the programme funds can be shown.

Joanne Edge (JE) supported this and added that a visual could be created to outline the timeline and all the work undertaken to date which explains the spend of funds, showing where money has been spent and why it is good value. CH added that visuals can bring programmes to life and provide a good display that the fee uplifts over the course of the programme are not excessive to the workload of delivery. CH further added a programme milestone visual was shown at the MHCLG presentation and this would be good to use.

Councillor Richard McCauley (RM) reassured Board Members that when the Investment Plan is brought forward, following the culmination of all evidence collated, it comes together and the value of spend will be clear with measurable outputs.

MB noted that without any physical outputs due to nature of work completed to date, the timing is for publication will need to be managed, but once the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan is brought forward, that it would be a better time to clearly show the outputs from the Board's investment.

Ian Lewis (IL) supported that the current spend is a small overhead given the production of the 10-year Regeneration Plan and 4-year Investment Plan and once the contract is executed it will be shown to be good value for money.

John Unsworth (JU) added that the fee uplift is not a large spend considering the governmental change in scope and requirement to rebrand the programme including the five additional investment themes.

PR added that the visit with MHCLG was very positive and represented the town strongly. CH agreed and added that the presentation was a great visual to bring the programme to life.

CH asked Neighbourhood Board Members if they endorse the additional expenditure via a vote, and this was passed unanimously.

DECISION: Board endorsed the expenditure of capacity funding for the additional works undertaken by Neighbourhood Board Specialists due to the significant expansion of the programme scope

5. Any Other Business

CH thanked Board Members for their contributions and asked Board to state any other business.

Chris Stafford (CS) enquired as to the response from the school workshop held at Hope Academy. Rachel Bebbby (RB) advised that Hope Academy was provided a full day workshop with a dedicated group of students to take part in various engagement activities, with 13 attendees from different ages. In addition, RB added 26 students from Wargrave House/Ascent College participated in a workshop.

FR added that Hope Academy published their engagement in the workshop on their Facebook page with images from the session. FR added they described the workshop as 'student engagement in community project' and wanted to highlight that the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme has more depth than a singular community project with huge potential and wanted to ensure communications with the school represents this.

MB responded that communications can be picked up with the school to ensure communications are relevant to the long-term vision of the programme. RB added that the school had received correspondence about the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative, outlining the scope and scale of delivery.

AM enquired where the promotional video is being circulated. MB stated that it is shared on the Council's social media with approximately 5000 views to date on Facebook as an organic post.

MB added that collectively the Neighbourhood Board should do everything they can within the next 10 days to ensure consultation is heard as wide as possible.

RB added that as part of the endorsed Communications Plan, the Project Team has been working closely with the Council's Communications Team to publish social media posts, including the commencement of consultation, the awareness of pop-up events and the educational video to push out communications. In addition, it is key to note that Board Members and key external stakeholders have shared this widely.

MJ added that a new communications resource will commence in post to promote the extensive Regeneration going on across the Borough, who will be dedicated to the team and will help to drive further communications across Regeneration programmes, including Plan for Neighbourhoods.

AM noted that the communications approach could be fun to ensure engagement is suitable for social media as generally it is driven by short form, fun and engaging content. AM highlighted the Council's Instagram as a good example of this.

MB highlighted the additional workshops in section 4.5 of the report highlights key dates to engage with and gave thanks to the Board noting the time demands thus far. MB added that these additional workshops held in June and July 2025 will contribute to the formation of a strong Regeneration Plan which will be submitted to Government.

ACTION: Process to be put in place to ensure an Email is circulated to Board Members when a communications piece is released.

ACTION: Education Video to be shared with Board Members.

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Neighbourhood Board of a change to St Helens Borough Councils Chief Executive, Cabinet and Portfolio Holder responsibilities for the Plan for Neighbourhood initiative, and resultant changes to Board membership.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the change in Chief Executive, Cabinet and Portfolio Holder responsibilities for the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative and resulting change in Board membership.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2025, former Chief Executive of the Council and Neighbourhood Board member, Kath O'Dwyer, retired from her position. In April 2025, Mark Palethorpe was appointed as the authorities new Chief Executive following a competitive recruitment process.
- 3.2 In May 2025, at the Annual Council meeting, it was agreed that responsibility for the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative would move from the Portfolio of Inclusive Growth & Regeneration to the newly formed Portfolio of Business & Inclusive Growth, which sits under the remit of Councillor Kate Groucutt (who has also since been appointed as the Council's Deputy Leader).
- 3.3 In accordance with the extant Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Board, the Chief Executive and Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Growth (with the remit for Plan for Neighbourhoods) occupy positions within the Neighbourhood Board. For clarity, it is the post holder of these positions that occupies a seat on the Neighborhood Board rather than the individual themselves. Consequently, the Chief Executive (Mark Palethorpe) and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Business & Inclusive Growth (Councillor Kate Groucutt) will now occupy their respective positions within the Neighbourhood Board, replacing Kath O'Dwyer and Councillor Richard McCauley.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The change in Board membership as a result of changes to personnel in the role of Chief Executive and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth is made in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board agreed by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in June 2025.

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Board members with an overview of the milestones ahead for the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative, the significant progress made to date, and to update Board on further guidance and information received from Government.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 On 9 June 2025, Government issued further [guidance](#) in relation to the development of a 10-Year Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan, a key requirement of the initiative, and provided a deadline for submission by 28 November 2025 (previously defined as Winter 2025). In addition, MHCLG confirmed:

- The programme will be divided into three investment periods, with a formalised progress review at the end of each:
 - Period 1 = 2026-27 to 2029-30 (4 years)
 - Period 2 = 2030-31 to 2032-33 (3 years)
 - Period 3 = 2033-34 to 2035-36 (3 years)
- At the end of each period, Boards will develop a new Investment Plan for the next investment period, completed at least 6 months prior to the next period starting.
- Boards have considerable financial flexibility with regard to rollover underspends within and between investment periods. It should, however, be noted that inflation means there is an advantage to avoiding unnecessary

rollover, as well as the need to ensure delivery is not concentrated in the later stages of each period.

- Within each investment period, the Board must forecast to spend at least 25% of the cumulative allocation for that investment period, meaning at least £1.702m (out of the £6.808m allocation) must be spent within the first investment period.

3.2 Further to this, the guidance details that a Regeneration Plan will constitute:

- **10-Year Vision** - setting out the strategic outlook for the place and where, why and towards whom funds will be targeted. This must take account of the local area's challenges and opportunities, and how funds will be managed across the decade; and
- **4-Year Investment Plan** - outlining how Boards will use the funding throughout the first investment period (from the 2026-27 financial year to the 2029-30 financial year).

3.3 In addition, on 9 June 2025, MHCLG also shared the updated Plan for Neighbourhoods Draft Data Pack for Newton-le-Willows that is designed to support the Board in identifying and evidencing the need in the area and will supplement the Board in developing the Regeneration Plans. MHCLG have advised that this Data Pack is in draft, with the final version expected by the end of July.

3.4 On 25 June 2025, Government confirmed approval of the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board composition, Terms of Reference, and amendments to the programme boundary agreed by Board at its meeting of 21 March 2025. As such, MHCLG have released the next tranche of capacity funding (£0.200m).

4. Programme

4.1 In March 2025, Government published new milestones for the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative. The first milestone – requiring the submission of governance arrangements, board composition, and a boundary map – was successfully met by the deadline of 22 April by the Project Team.

4.2 The next key milestone for the Neighbourhood Board includes submitting both our Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan by midday 28 November 2025.

4.3 Working with our Neighbourhood Board specialists, a comprehensive work programme has been developed to ensure this target is achieved, with the expected deliverables and programme detailed below shown to Board on 9 May 2025 Neighbourhood Board.

4.4 Neighbourhood Board meetings and workshops have been scheduled until October 2025, aligned with the programme deliverables. Hatch Associates and Layer Studios have utilised a series of workshops with the Board throughout

June and July to further understand the Strategic Case for Change, the 10-Year Vision, and priority Interventions for Newton-le-Willows. The key activities can be seen in the table below:

Key Activities	Approximate Date	Status
Additional Context Review Workshop with Neighbourhood Board	May 2025	Complete
Present Overview of Public Engagement Findings to Neighbourhood Board	June 2025	Complete
Strategic Case for Change Workshop with Neighbourhood Board	June 2025	Complete
Visioning Workshop with Neighbourhood Board	June 2025	Complete
Interventions Workshop with Neighbourhood Board	July 2025	Complete
Present Public Engagement Summary Report at Board	July 2025	On target
Draft Outputs of the Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan Workshop	July 2025	On target
Council and Board Review Period – Team Pause	July-September 2025	On target
Present Final Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan at Board	October 2025	On target
Regeneration Plan to gain Cabinet Approval	19 November 2025	On target
Submit Regeneration Plan to MHCLG	28 November 2025	On target

- 4.5 After a period of review during Summer 2025, the final Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan is to be considered by Neighbourhood Board on 3 October 2025 for approval. As the accountable body for the fund, endorsement of the Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan will be sought by the Cabinet of St Helens Borough Council at its November 2025 meeting.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan Guidance outlines the process for creating and submitting plans, ensuring they align with the initiative's objectives, and the deadline for submission of 28 November 2025. The Neighbourhood Board is therefore recommended to note the contents of this report and the milestones ahead.

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Neighbourhood Board members with an overview of the public consultation findings and to note the priorities of the Newton-le-Willows community.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report and the progress made through consultation and stakeholder engagement to develop the Regeneration Plan outcomes.**
- 2) Endorse the Engagement Summary (as seen in Appendix 1) with a detailed Public Consultation Findings Report to be further developed and released by the end of July.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Guided by an Engagement Strategy developed by Neighbourhood Board members, public consultation was undertaken from Monday 7 April to Sunday 18 May 2025. The consultation sought residents, businesses, visitors, and other stakeholders' views to help shape development of a Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan for the town.
- 3.2 The consultation period included a series of public facing events, including 2 pop-up events at well-established local events, 4 drop-in sessions targeted for specific stakeholders, alongside 2 school workshops, and an [online platform](#) inclusive of an online survey, interactive map, and ideas wall.
- 3.3 Engagement events and activities undertaken by PLACED for the public and targeted groups identified in the Engagement Strategy are detailed below. These activities/ events were supported by St Helens Borough Council:

- In-person flyer distribution – Friday 11 April 2025 (flyers distributed through Earlestown Town Centre, Sankey Valley Industrial Estate, Newton High Street, and Wargrave)
- Mobile self-led engagement boards – moved by the Council's Project Team throughout the consultation period (Newton-le-Willows Library, Newton-le-Willows Health and Fitness Centre, Newton Community Centre, Crownway Community Centre, Tesco Superstore in Earlestown, Newton Community Hospital, and Heald Farm Court)
- Pop Up Market, Earlestown – Saturday 12 April 2025 10am-4pm (public)
- St Peter's Church – Wednesday 23 April 2025 4pm-7pm (businesses)
- Ascent College School Workshop – Tuesday 29 April 2025 9am-3pm (young people)
- Newton Community Centre – Thursday 1 May 2025 11am-2pm (community groups)
- High Street Market, Newton – Sunday 4 May 2025 12pm-5pm (public)
- Newton-le-Willows Library – Tuesday 6 May 2025 2pm-5pm (heritage groups)
- Hope Academy School Workshop – Wednesday 7 May 2025 9am-3pm (young people)
- Newton-le-Willows Sports Club – Friday 9 May 2025 5pm-8pm (sports groups)

3.4 In addition, the Council's Project Team undertook additional targeted engagement through direct engagement sessions, and wider advertising through postcard and letter distribution, with the list below detailing these activities:

- All About Us – Council Staff Newsletter – Thursday 17 April 2025
- In-person business newsletter distribution – Wednesday 30 April 2025 (businesses in Earlestown town centre)
- Online Residents Newsletter Email – Friday 9 and 16 May 2025 (borough residents)
- In-person postcard and letter distribution – Friday 9 May 2025 (Earlestown town centre businesses)
- In-person postcard and letter distribution – Thursday 15 May 2025 (Newton High Street businesses)
- Newton-le-Willows Sea Cadets – Thursday 15 May 2025 6:30pm-9:00pm (direct engagement – young people)
- Woods Court – Friday 16 May 2025 12:00pm-1:20pm (direct engagement – retired people)

3.5 Furthermore, Hatch Associates and Layer.Studio led on the delivery of engagement with Neighbourhood Board and key stakeholders detailed below:

- Internal Council Teams – Monday 19 May 2025 1:00pm-2:30pm
- Ward Member Workshops – Monday 19 May 2025 3:00pm-5:00pm

- Key external representatives from each investment theme – Monday 9 June 2025 2:00pm-3:30pm
- 3.6 The collective efforts of both the Council, Neighbourhood Board Members, and PLACED has seen the distribution of 8000 leaflets and 30 posters across Newton-le-Willows to key businesses and public buildings and facilities across Newton, Earlestown, and Wargrave.

4. Public consultation findings

- 4.1 As a result of the above activities, approximately 60,000 stakeholders were reached during the consultation period (this includes website views, promotional materials distributed, and social media impressions), with 682 respondents providing their views through online engagement, pop-up events, drop-ins, school workshops, self-led engagement, email correspondence, and additional Council-led engagement.
- 4.2 This final number indicates that the consultation findings are statistically reliable and representative of the population. To achieve a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error in Newton-le-Willows (a town with a resident population of 25,350 people), a sample size of 379 people is required. Having engaged 682 people overall, the findings presented in this report are therefore statistically reliable and representative.
- 4.3 At the Neighbourhood Board Workshop of 13 June 2025, Board was given an overview of the public consultation response by PLACED. Further to the release of the Public Engagement Summary document (Appendix 1), a detailed Public Consultation Findings Report is being developed by PLACED and will be released by the end of July 2025.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 A comprehensive public consultation has been undertaken by the Neighbourhood Board guided by a well-considered and inclusive Engagement Strategy. The work undertaken by PLACED, Board members, St Helens Borough Council and stakeholders has driven a high level of engagement and raised awareness locally of the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative.
- 5.2 The Engagement Summary appended to this report sets out the high-level findings from the public consultation. Responses and feedback from the public will inform the Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan to ensure the projects which are developed are strongly linked to the communities' priorities.
- 5.3 A detailed, a Public Consultation Findings Report will be released at the end of July 2025, with the Board therefore recommended to endorse the Engagement Summary and following findings report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Newton-le-Willows Public Engagement Summary Report


Engagement Summary

Engagement Opportunities



682 People Engaged



 = People engaged at in-person events (433)

 = Young people engaged at workshops (39)

 = Individual online participants (199)

Most Popular Investment Themes



Regeneration and High Streets



Education and Opportunity



Health and Wellbeing



Safety and Security



Transport

433 people engaged at in-person events

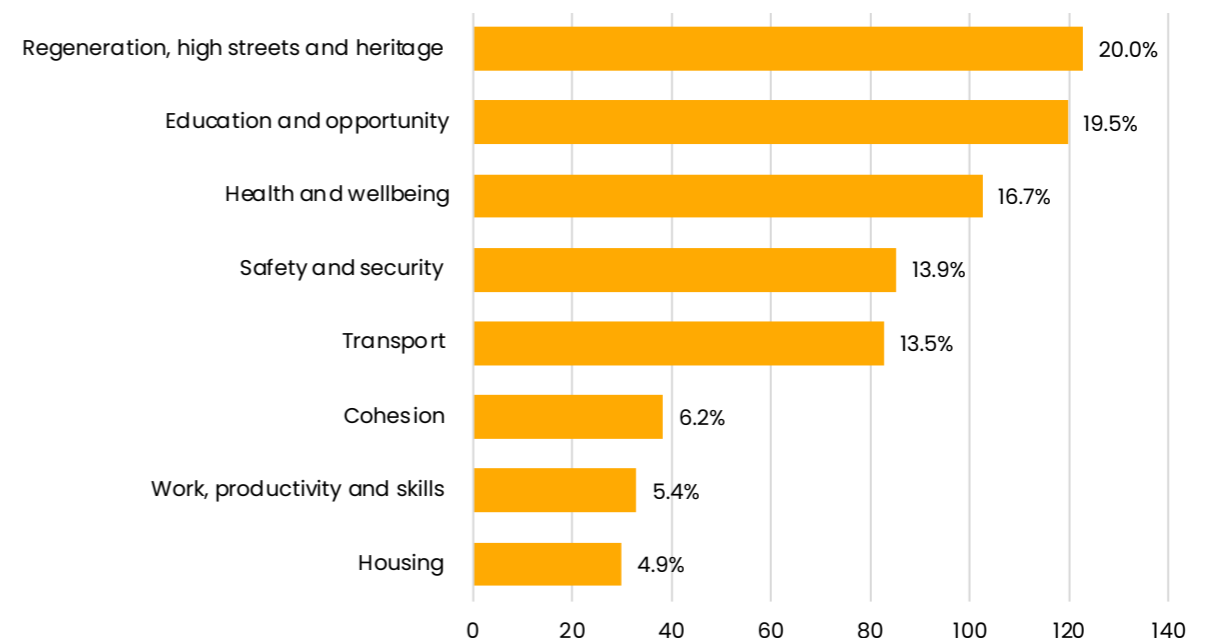
199 online participants

39 young people engaged via school workshops

60,000 people reached

Key Findings

% Investment Themes Overall



In no more than three words, how would you like to describe Newton-le-Willows in the future?



Engagement Overview

In total, PLACED and SHBC have engaged with 682 people via online engagement, in-person events, self-led engagement materials, school workshops, and email correspondence. This number indicates the number of people PLACED and SHBC engaged in substantial conversation or who properly participated in the activities delivered. It does not include those who only viewed PLACED's engagement materials in-person or online, or who were only engaged in shorter, fleeting conversations. In the context of this report, 'engagement' is defined as meaningful, quality conversation and participation.

This final number indicates that the consultation findings are statistically reliable and representative of the population. To achieve a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error in Newton-le-Willows (a town with a resident population of 25,350 people), a sample size of 379 people is required. Having engaged 682 people overall, the findings presented in this report are therefore statistically reliable and representative.

Whilst significant effort has been made to reach a broad audience, including hard-to-reach groups through targeted consultation, it should be recognised that there will always be limitations in achieving a fully representative result when working within the constraints of budgets and wider programme timeframes. In addition to this, some audiences may not want to partake, and consultation fatigue can be a barrier. The key aim of this public engagement was to understand common themes and use this to supplement the knowledge and experience of SHBC, Neighbourhood Board and specialist consultants who are producing the Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan, as part of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme.

PLACED's engagement for Newton-le-Willows Plan for Neighbourhoods took place for 6 weeks between Monday 7th April and Sunday 18th May 2025 and included the following:

Online Engagement

A dedicated online engagement platform to provide information on Newton-le-Willows Plan for Neighbourhoods and collate comments from the community via a survey, comments collection, and mapping tool.

Monday 7th April – Sunday 18th May, Plan for Neighbourhoods Project Website, <https://placed.mysocialpinpoint.com/newton-le-willows-plan-neighbourhoods>

- **2,297 views** – the number of times people have viewed the platform
- **1,516 visits** – the number of times people have viewed the platform and clicked through the pages and features
- **199 participants** – the number of individual participants (noting individual IP addresses)
- **167 survey responses** – the number of individual survey responses (noting individual IP addresses)

In-person Events

These included pop-ups and drop-in events. Whilst pop-ups were visual, interactive displays at high footfall events and locations open to everyone, drop-in events were targeted towards specific groups (e.g., businesses, community, heritage and sports). All events were supported by staff from SHBC and PLACED Ambassadors.

- Saturday 12th April, 10.00am – 4.00pm, The Pop-up Market (90 attendees)
- Wednesday 23rd April, 4.00pm – 7.00pm, St Peter's Church (21 attendees)
- Thursday 1st May, 11.00am – 2.00pm, Newton Community Centre (17 attendees)
- Sunday 4th May, 12.00pm – 5.00pm, High Street Markets (180 attendees)
- Tuesday 6th May, 2.00pm – 5.00pm, Newton-le-Willows Library (10 attendees)
- Friday 9th May, 5.00pm – 8.00pm, Newton-le-Willows Sports Club (66 attendees)

Self-led Engagement

Self-led engagement materials that were accessible at businesses and organisations across the town including A1 boards and postcards.

- Monday 14th April – Monday 19th May, Various Locations across Newton-le-Willows (11 responses including self-led postcards and email responses)

A1 engagement boards to advertise the scheme, inclusive of a link and QR code to access the online platform, were displayed at various locations and for varying durations, across the 6-week period of consultation. Locations included Newton Community Centre, Crownway Community Centre, Newton-le-Willows Health and Fitness Centre, Newton Community Hospital, Newton-le-Willows Library, Cross Lane Church, Tesco Superstore, and Heald Farm Court.

In addition, SHBC distributed self-led postcards to hard-to-reach groups such as businesses, retirement homes, and the Muslim Community Centre. The responses received were largely from businesses and older residents.

School Workshops

Full-day structured workshops at local schools with groups of young people.

- Tuesday 29th April, 9.45am – 3.00pm, Wargrave House School (26 students, years 7 – 11)
- Wednesday 7th May, 9.10am – 3.10pm, Hope Academy (13 students, years 7 – 8)

Additional Council Engagement

Targeted drop-ins to reach groups who experience barriers to attending consultation events or who are lesser-heard voices (e.g., elderly people and young people).

- Thursday 15th May, 6.30pm – 9.00pm, Newton-le-Willows Sea Cadets (42 attendees, 27 of these being young people)
- Friday 16th May, 12.00pm – 1.20pm, Woods Court Sheltered Housing (7 attendees)

Pop-up events

- The Pop-up Market, Earlestown
- High Street Markets, Newton

Drop-in events

- St Peter's Church
- Newton Community Centre
- Newton-le-Willows Library
- Newton-le-Willows Sports Club

School workshops

- Wargrave House School
- Hope Academy

Business Flyer locations

- Earlestown Town Centre
- Sankey Valley Industrial Estate
- Newton High Street
- Wargrave
- Park Road South

Council engagement

- Newton-le-Willows Sea Cadets
- Woods Court Sheltered Housing

A1 self-engagement boards

- Newton Community Centre
- Crownway Community Centre
- Newton-le-Willows Health and Fitness Centre
- Newton Community Hospital
- Newton-le-Willows Library
- Cross Lane Church
- Tesco Superstore
- Heald Farm Court

