



MEETING OF THE NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

Date: Friday, 24 April 2026

Invitees

Name	Role	Organisation
Board Members		
Chris Hickey	Chair	Mercury Hampton
David Baines MP	Member of Parliament, St Helens North	Member of Parliament, St Helens North
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
Natalie Carroll (maternity cover for Amie Parsonage)	Portfolio and Partnerships Officer	Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner
Ian Lewis	Investment Manager	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Community & Co-Opted Board Members		
Alex Myhill	Community Representative	Willow & Ram
Joanne Edge	Community Representative	Newton Sports Club
Debbie Taylor	Business Representative	Es Paradis Salon & Domestic Abuse WA12 CIC
Fiona Ruddy	Third Sector Representative	Newton Community Centre
John Unsworth	Cultural, Arts, and Heritage including Sports Groups Representative	Sea Cadet Corps
Rev Chris Stafford	Faith Representative	Team Rector at St Peters, Emmanuel Wargrave, and St John's
Catherine Twist	Education and Opportunity Representative	Independent Member for Admissions and Exclusion appeal in St Helens
Claire Glover	Health and Wellbeing Representative	Operations Manager at St Helens Wellbeing Service (CHCP)
Local Authority Representatives		
Matthew Valentine	Programme Lead	St Helens Borough Council
Rachel Bebbby	Project Officer	St Helens Borough Council
Glenn Taggart	Programme Manager	St Helens Borough Council
Donna Wilby	Finance Business Partner - Regeneration	St Helens Borough Council
Apologies Received		
Jon Julian Smith	Chief Inspector, St Helens	Merseyside Police

Mark Palethorpe	Chief Executive	St Helens Borough Council
Paul Romanko	Business Representative	United Utilities Water Ltd



MEETING OF THE NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

Friday 24 April 2026

AGENDA

Item	Title	Lead
1.	Welcome and Introductions	CH
2.	Declarations of Interest	CH
3.	Minutes of the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting held on 6 March 2026	CH
4.	Board Appointments	MV
5.	Pride in Place Programme Update	MV
6.	Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Branding Update	MV
7.	Early Delivery Projects Update	MV
8.	Community Pot Approach	MV
9.	Any Other Business	All

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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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1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the declarations of interest.

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ITEM 3

 ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL	NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD HELD ON 6 MARCH 2026
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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose is to give an overview of the previous Board meeting (held 6 March 2026), 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 (6 March 2026)

Appendix 1 – Minutes of Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board (6 March 2026)



Minutes of Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board

Friday 6 March 2026

Invitees			
Name	Initials	Role	Organisation
Board Members			
Chris Hickey	CH	Chair	Mercury Hampton
Councillor Kate Groucutt	KG	Cabinet Member for Business & Inclusive Growth and Deputy Leader	St Helens Borough Council
Ian Lewis	IL	Investment Manager	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Jon Julian Smith	JJS	Chief Inspector, St Helens	Merseyside Police
Community & Co-Opted Board Members			
Alex Myhill	AM	Community Representative	Willow & Ram
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
Local Authority Representatives			
Matthew Valentine	MV	Programme Lead	St Helens Borough Council
Rachel Bebbby	RB	Project Officer	St Helens Borough Council
Donna Wilby	DW	Finance Business Partner - Regeneration	St Helens Borough Council
Apologies Received			
David Baines MP	DB	Member of Parliament, St Helens North	Member of Parliament, St Helens North
Councillor Anthony Burns	AB	Leader of the Council	St Helens Borough Council
Mark Palethorpe	MP	Chief Executive	St Helens Borough Council
Amie Louise Parsonage	ALP	Portfolio and Partnerships Officer	Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner

Joanne Edge	JE	Community Representative	Newton Sports Club
Reverend Chris Stafford	CS	Faith Representative	Team Rector at St Peters, Emmanuel Wargrave, and St John's

Item	Title	Lead
1.	Welcome and Introductions	CH
2.	Declarations of Interest	CH
3.	Minutes of the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting held on 16 January 2025	CH
4.	Appointment of Branding Specialist	MV
5.	Recruitment Approach	MV
6.	Investment Theme Sub-Group Formations	MV
7.	Plan for Neighbourhoods / Pride in Place Programme Update	MV
8.	Any Other Business	All

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chris Hickey (CH) welcomed the Neighbourhood Board and advised members that due to the cancellation of last week's Neighbourhood Board, an online extraordinary meeting has been arranged to ensure decisions within the agenda pack can be taken in a timely manner.

CH acknowledged apologies received from David Baines (DB), Councillor Anthony Burns (AB), Mark Palethorpe (MP), Joanne Edge (JE), and Chris Stafford (CS).

CH stated Amie Louise Parsonage (ALP) remains on maternity leave and is anticipated to return to Neighbourhood Board meetings on her return. Matthew Valentine (MV) noted that maternity cover has been arranged for ALP, with this to be referenced further in AOB.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting held on 16 January 2026

CH stated that the minutes are agreed and live on the Council website, and provided an overview of the key discussions and endorsements from Board including:

- The Neighbourhood Board approved the extension of the term of office of all current Board members until March 2030, in alignment with the first 4-year investment period cycle.
- The Neighbourhood Board agreed to appoint two new Board Members with specialisms of 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Education and Opportunity' to align with the 4- Year Investment Plan priorities.

- The Neighbourhood Board noted the appointment of Ian Lewis as Deputy Chair, in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- The Neighbourhood Board agreed the updated Terms of Reference, following updated guidance provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- The Neighbourhood Board endorsed £0.361m of Year 1 funding for Early Delivery Projects comprising £0.203m St Johns Playground, £0.134m Earlestown Town Hall AV equipment, and £0.024m Arts on Prescription.
- The Neighbourhood Board endorsed the £1.2m funding allocation for a Earlestown town centre Building Improvement Scheme, subject to the Council's formal approvals. In addition, the Neighbourhood Board endorsed Option 1 Internal Council Delivery management approach for the Building Improvement Scheme, subject to Council's formal approvals.

4. Appointment of Branding Specialist

A summary of the progress undertaken to commission a Branding Specialist, to assist in the development of a brand for the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board, was provided.

MV confirmed that an expression of interest for joining the Branding Sub-Group was issued to all Neighbourhood Board members on 26 January 2026, with the application window closing on 3 February 2026. Following, the applications were reviewed, with appointments made to the Branding Sub-Group ahead of meeting on 11 February 2026. This Workshop provided an opportunity to develop a scope of works, including the objectives, deliverables, usage, audience and key considerations for the logo creation.

Neighbourhood Board members submitted nominations for local designers and the scope of works, developed by the Branding Sub-Group, was circulated to five candidates, with three quotes received. MV highlighted the scope of works included:

- 2 x logo – inclusive of a full title of 'Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board' and a shortened title of 'NLW Neighbourhood Board' noting the long title name.
- A 'brandmark'.
- A primary logo in full colour and a black and white version.
- Scalable vector files and PNG and JPEG formats in various resolutions.
- A style guide.

All quotes were assessed by the Project Team, ahead of presentation to the Branding Sub-Group, to approve the recommendation to appoint Notch Digital Marketing, who achieved the highest score.

MV added that this appointment would be funded via capacity funding, with the recommendation for Neighbourhood Board to endorse the associated expenditure, with an additional allocation for contingency and trademarking.

Board members discussed guidance provided on Pride in Place branding, and whether this needs to be included. MV confirmed that Branding Sub-Group had discussions on this matter, but as separate branding guidelines exist for the funder's logo, it was decided against. This approach allows for the Neighbourhood Board's individual identity whilst also complying guidance from MHCLG. MV further noted that the Government's Pride in Place branding will be included alongside the Neighbourhood Board branding in communications, as per MHCLG guidelines.

Board members discussed quotes received and asked for confirmation of views from the Branding Sub-Group on the appointment. The Programme Lead advised that the submission provided by the recommended specialist was of the graphic design quality required and the price was also acceptable. Board members discussed that due to timescales it is key to have this in place ahead of projects commencing and therefore the Branding Sub-Group will work with the specialist to achieve a logo fit for the Neighbourhood Board, to be brought back for endorsement.

Further discussion took place around the recently announced St Helens Borough Council Budget and the 'Pride in Place Grant Scheme', clarity was sought on whether this is linked to the Newton-le-Willows Pride in Place programme. It was confirmed that the funding announced via the Council Budget is separate to the Newton-le-Willows Pride in Place Programme and is funded through the Council, via smaller grant awards. MV noted that delineation will be achieved through the 'Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board' branding.

NOTE: The update on the formation of a Branding Sub-Group.

NOTE: The Branding Scope contained in the Agenda Pack appendices.

DECISION: Board endorsed the appointment of local branding specialist, Notch Digital Marketing, to create a logo for the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board.

5. Recruitment Approach

An update was provided on the progress made in the recruitment of Neighbourhood Board members with specialisms aligned to the 4-Year Investment Plan priorities, as below:

- 1 representative from a 'Health and Wellbeing' background.
- 1 representative from a 'Education and Opportunity' background.

MV confirmed that the Project Team are launching a public recruitment exercise w/c 9 March 2026, and a nomination sheet will be circulated to key stakeholders. MV noted that this process follows the process adopted with the previous co-opted appointments. Neighbourhood Board members, senior Council officers, and Ward Councillors will be asked to nominate suitably qualified representatives.

Following approval, both the nominations and public recruitment exercise will be launched for a period of two weeks. It is a minimum requirement for those appointed to be in an active role within the specialisms they are applying for and live and/or

work within Newton-le-Willows. Once the applications are received, they will then be reviewed via the Chair (CH) and David Baines MP (DB), prior to formal appointment of the successful applicants at the April Neighbourhood Board meeting.

NOTE: Board recognised the progress and approach for the recruitment of two Neighbourhood Board representatives, from an 'education and opportunity' background and from a 'health and wellbeing' background.

6. Sub-Group Formations

Following endorsement of the Sub-Group approach at the previous Neighbourhood Board meeting (via the Terms of Reference), a recommendation was provided on the formation of Sub-Groups to act as Task and Finish Groups for specific and appropriate elements of the Board's business. This will strengthen delivery capacity and reduce the time burden on the full Neighbourhood Board.

An overview was given of the responsibilities of Sub-Groups and the appointed members to:

- Be established for specific, defined purposes aligned to Board priorities at intervals necessitated by programme requirements.
- Operate under formal Terms of Reference and abide by the decision-making structures, and Code of Conduct of the Board.
- Act in an advisory and preparatory capacity, with decision-making authority remaining with the Board.
- Provide regular progress reports and recommendations to the Board, to a schedule agreed by the Board as appropriate to its agenda.

A summary was provided relating to the membership and participation of Sub-Groups, with each Sub-Group to be chaired/project sponsored by non-mandated Board positions. This will ensure that community voices can drive the strategic direction of the Sub-Group. The endorsement recommends that each Sub-Group will comprise of a maximum of 4 Board Members and be supplemented with up to 4 advisory members, where required, to ensure appropriate and proportional expertise is provided. To ensure the widest breadth of views, it is recommended that Board members are to serve on a maximum of 2 Sub-Groups at any one given time.

Any additional non-Board members (acting as advisors) will not have any voting rights and Sub-Groups do not have a decision-making authority in place of a full Neighbourhood Board meeting. A summary of the appointment process was presented to Board.

Neighbourhood Board members recognised the importance of Sub-Groups, and the need to extend the reach and knowledge of the Board as it moves into delivery. Board acknowledged the need for them to retain the strategic decision-making authority and accountability whilst agreeing that Sub-Groups will be vital in project development and the sifting of projects to be brought to Neighbourhood Board. Clarity on the scope and capacity of the role must therefore be provided to Sub Group members.

It was confirmed that any advisors to the Neighbourhood Board will be subject to the full governance and Terms of Reference (ToR) of Board members, including declarations of interest, Nolan principles and scrutiny.

DECISION: Board endorsed the proposed governance arrangements for the formation of Sub-Groups, as outlined within the agenda item.

7. Plan for Neighbourhoods/ Pride in Place Programme Update

Neighbourhood Board members were provided with an overview of the updated prospectus for the Pride in Place initiative, which has superseded the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme and key dates as follows:

- 25 September 2025 – Publication of the Pride in Place Strategy.
- 3 December 2025 - Publication of Pride in Place guidance.
- 6 February 2026 – Government announced a further 40 places are to join the Pride in Place Programme (place details yet to be announced).

An overview was provided following Council Officers attendance at an MHCLG webinar, to understand the impact of Pride in Place on Phase 1 beneficiaries as follows:

- An updated interventions list – featuring an additional investment theme option to focus on building ‘community power’.
- Greater resident representation – Boards should aim, over time, for the majority (at least 51%) of members to live or work within the boundaries of the neighbourhood.
- Importance of community engagement reiterated.
- Enhanced MP involvement – additional guidance has been published on the role of MPs in the programme.
- Shift to community-led models – Recent guidance has stated that all Boards will be expected to transition to a community-led model by year 3, with more guidance to be published by Government on the mechanisms of this. This will be reviewed with Board as further details emerge.

There are no immediate changes to the submitted Regeneration Plan or 4-Year Investment Plan.

A recommendation was given to the Neighbourhood Board to adopt the Pride in Place name change, to ensure strategic alignment with the wider Pride in Place Programme. This was agreed by Board.

It was recognised that the community development approach is positive but there will need to be a careful review of which mechanism is adopted to meet the needs of Newton-le-Willows.

NOTE: Board noted the contents of the report and the updates within the revised ‘Pride in Place’ prospectus, replacing the previous Plan for Neighbourhoods programme prospectus.

DECISION: Board endorsed the adoption of the new 'Pride in Place' programme name, in alignment with Government prospectus.

8. Any Other Business

CH thanked Neighbourhood Board members for their contributions inviting any other business.

Rachel Bebbby (RB) updated that Natalie Carroll will be joining the Neighbourhood Board at the April meeting, following agreement with the Chair, during the maternity leave period for Amie Parsonage. This is a permissible appointment due to exceptional circumstances.

Members were reminded that under the Terms of Reference, short-term substitutes for Neighbourhood Board meetings are not permitted.

RB added that following the creation of a Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board logo, and anticipated approval for the early delivery projects at the Council's Cabinet meeting of 18 March 2026, communication opportunities will be explored for a delivery launch via a video.

Neighbourhood Board Members were also made aware that declaration of interest forms will be circulated for population.

A request was logged by Neighbourhood Board members for inclusion of an agenda item at the next meeting pertaining to the Community Pot approach, which was noted by the Project Team. MV gave a brief update on progress to date of this item, adding that a proposal will be brought to the April Neighbourhood Board meeting.

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 ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL	Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Board Appointments
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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update pursuant to the recruitment and appointment of a 'Health and Wellbeing' representative and an 'Education and Opportunity' representative to the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the appointment of the 'health and wellbeing' and 'education and opportunity' positions for the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board.**

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Neighbourhood Board meeting of 16 January 2026, the Neighbourhood Board endorsed the recruitment approach of two representatives in alignment with the investment themes identified as priorities in Investment Period 1 (from April 2026 to March 2030).
- 3.2. The current Terms of Reference states that 'at the discretion of the Chairperson, applications for Board may be considered from exceptional individuals should they display skills or experiences that will complement and enhance the Board'.
- 3.3. Accordingly, on 10 March 2026, a public advertisement was launched, in addition to emails circulated to Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board, senior internal officers, and Ward Councillors to seek nominations by Monday 23 March 2026, for representatives from the following specialisms:
 - 1 representative from an 'Education and Opportunity' background.
 - 1 representative from a 'Health and Wellbeing' background.
- 3.4. Following closure of the recruitment period at 23:59 on 23 March 2026, seventeen applications were received either through public recruitment or via

nomination, with eight for the 'Education and Opportunity' specialism, seven for the 'Health and Wellbeing' specialism, and two across both specialisms .

- 3.5. On 2 April 2026, nominations and applications were reviewed by the Neighbourhood Board Chair, Chris Hickey, following prior written consultation with the Member of Parliament for St Helens North, David Baines, pursuant to development of a shortlist of candidate(s) for each position.
- 3.6. The outcome of this process identified one candidate for each position, as outlined in Table 1 below, who were subsequently invited to an informal 'Welcome Meeting' w/c 13 April 2026. This meeting provided the opportunity for prospective Neighbourhood Board Members to learn more about the Pride in Place programme, meet the Chair of Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board and the Council's Project Team before being formally appointed.

Table 1: Board Members invited to the 'Welcome Meeting'

Board Members		
Names	Role	Organisation
Catherine Twist	Education and Opportunity	Independent Member for Admissions and Exclusion appeal in St Helens.
Claire Glover	Health and Wellbeing	Operations Manager at St Helens Wellbeing Service (CHCP)

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Appointment of the 'Education and Opportunity' and 'Health and Wellbeing' representatives will ensure the Board is serviced by experienced individual's representative of their section, which will ensure the Board is equipped with the skills to meet the 4-Year Investment Plan priorities. The recommendation of this report is therefore for the Neighbourhood Board to note the appointment of two additional Neighbourhood Board members, as outlined in Recommendation 1 and paragraph 3.6.

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 ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL	Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Pride in Place Programme Update
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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Neighbourhood Board members with an overview of communications from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), following submission of the Regeneration Plan and release of monitoring guidance.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the approval of Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board's Regeneration Plan, following review from MHCLG.**
- 2) Note the contents of this report and the updates within the monitoring guidance released by MHCLG.**
- 3) Endorse the draft monitoring report in Appendix 1 to be submitted as part of the first submission for Phase 1 monitoring returns.**

3. Background

Approvals

- 3.1. Following Neighbourhood Board endorsement for the Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan at the 3 October 2025 Neighbourhood Board meeting, and subsequent Council Cabinet approvals secured on 19 November 2025, the Plans were submitted to Government ahead of the 28 November 2025 deadline, symbolising a key milestone for the programme.
- 3.2. As of 23 March 2026, the Project Team received correspondence from MHCLG, confirming that the Newton-le-Willows Regeneration Plan has received full approval. MHCLG reaffirmed that the Project Team are to receive a Memorandum of Understanding, which will require a signature and return to MHCLG prior to the Year 1 delivery funding being released.
- 3.3. To demonstrate early progress, in accordance with receipt of the initial tranche of delivery funding, the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board

endorsed three 'early delivery projects' for Year 1 of the programme (April 2026 – March 2027). In addition, a Building Improvement Programme for Earlestown Town Centre, which will be delivered within Year 2 to Year 4 of the programme, was also endorsed by the Neighbourhood Board. Subsequently, the above delivery programmes were approved by Council's Cabinet on 18 March 2026, as required in the Council's role as the accountable body of the programme.

Monitoring Guidance

- 3.4. On 2 March 2026, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published [monitoring guidance](#) for the Pride in Place Programme. The monitoring guidance outlines the requirements for the first submission of the Phase 1 programme, which opened on Wednesday 1 April 2026, closing on Thursday 30 April 2026. The second submission is required for October 2026 and thereafter, every April, all places will be required to submit their 12-month return, supplemented by a 6 month return every October.
- 3.5. MHCLG confirmed that all information submitted as part of the monitoring return must be formally approved by Neighbourhood Boards and made publicly available following submission. Accordingly, Appendix 1 contains the draft monitoring submission for the Neighbourhood Boards endorsement.
- 3.6. The monitoring submission contains the below key reporting that the Project Team will be asked to provide details on:
 - Capacity funding activities.
 - Projects delivered using programme funding (to be skipped on the first monitoring return).
 - Projects planned which will draw upon programme funding.
 - Neighbourhood Board details.
 - Forecast capacity funding spend.
 - Outputs.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The development of the monitoring return has been informed by the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Boards progress to date, drawing upon capacity spend to date, project endorsements and outputs expected, Neighbourhood Board membership changes, and future funding forecasts. Should the monitoring report be endorsed by the Neighbourhood Board at the 24 April 2026 Board meeting, the monitoring report will be updated to reflect this, prior to submission before 23:59 on Thursday 30th April 2026 to MHCLG.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Newton-le-Willows Draft Monitoring Return

Appendix 1 – Newton-le-Willows Draft Monitoring Return - redacted from publication under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act Section 3

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 ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL	Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Branding Update
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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to gain approvals to adopt a logo created for the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board, and to note the contents of the Branding Scope developed in consultation with the Branding Sub-Group.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Endorse the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board logo contained at Appendix 1, as developed by Notch Digital Marketing in consultation with the Branding Sub-Group.**

3. Background

- 3.1. It was agreed at the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board meeting on 6 March 2026 to appoint Notch Digital marketing to develop a logo that will provide the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board a cohesive and distinctive brand, as a separate entity to the Council.
- 3.2. On 19 March 2026, a Branding Sub-Group Workshop was delivered by Andrew Fairley (from Notch Digital Marketing) undertaking a 'discovery and briefing session' alongside members of the Branding Sub-Group and Council Officers. This session allowed the Branding Specialist to understand the Branding Sub-Group and wider Neighbourhood Board's aims, values, audience, and the role the logo will play within the community, ahead of concept development of logos.
- 3.3. Following the Branding Sub-Group Workshop on 19 March 2026, it was agreed that an illustrative design would be appropriate to the Neighbourhood Boards brand, avoiding a corporate feel, with Notch Digital Marketing to develop a series of concept logos.
- 3.4. On 1 April 2026, a series of concept logos were received from Notch Digital Marketing before being presented to the Branding Sub-Group for further development, ahead of a preferred logo being brought to Neighbourhood Board for their consideration at the 24 April 2026 meeting.

- 3.5. The Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board logo found in Appendix 1 has been developed by the Branding Sub-Group and steered by the direction below to:
- To symbolise Newton-le-Willows and represent the community collaboration, regeneration, local empowerment and future aspirations.
 - To convey a sense of growth, togetherness and progress.
 - To recognise the heritage of Newton-le-Willows.
 - To be visually appealing and easily recognisable.
- 3.6. If endorsed by Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board, a full set of deliverables and expectations will be created as below:
- 2 x logo – inclusive of a full title, and a shortened title
 - A 'brandmark'
 - Primary logo in full colour
 - Black and white version
 - Scalable vector files (SVG, EPS)
 - PNG and JPEG formats in various resolutions
 - A simple style guide including colour codes and usage details
- 3.7. Following approval of the logo, and commencement of the delivery period from April 2026, the Project Team will continue to work with the Neighbourhood Board to produce a video showcasing the early delivery projects, community pot details, and showcase the new Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board logo. This will facilitate an official launch of the early delivery projects, as endorsed by the Neighbourhood Board at the meeting of 16 January 2026.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The logo appended to this report sets out the brand that is proposed to be utilised for the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board, on promotional and press materials alongside the Council and funders logos. The Neighbourhood Board is therefore recommended to endorse the logo, following consultation with the Branding Sub-Group.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Logo

Appendix 1 – Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Logo

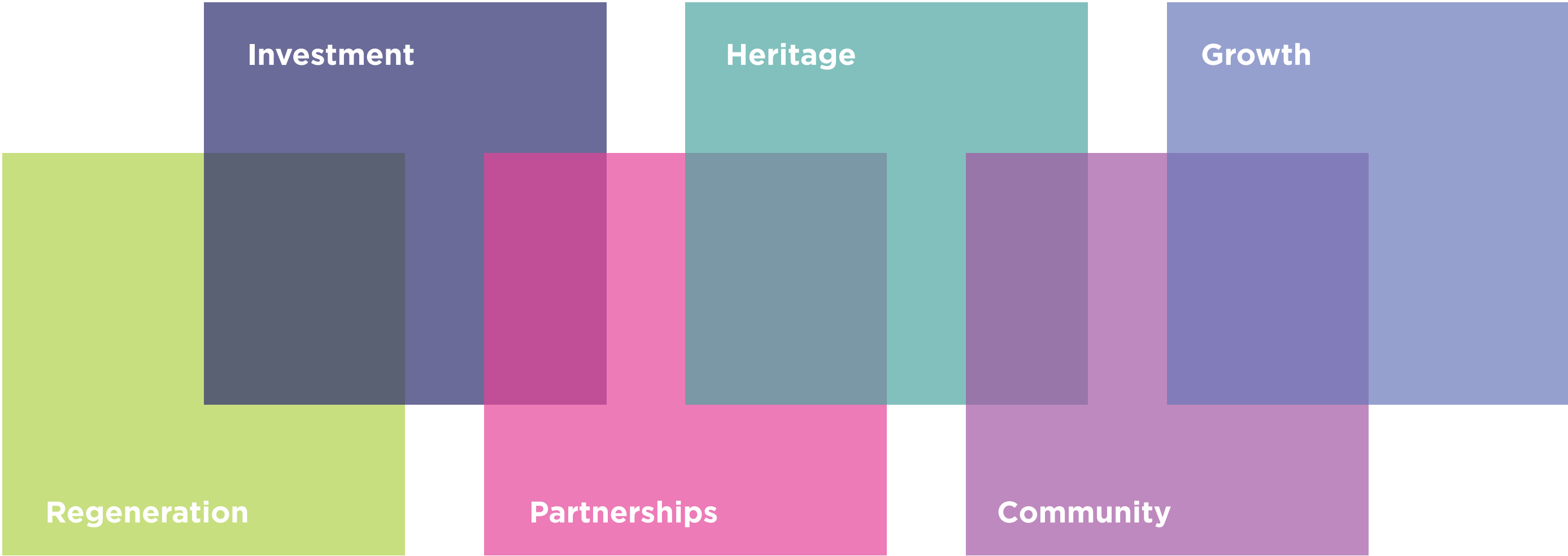
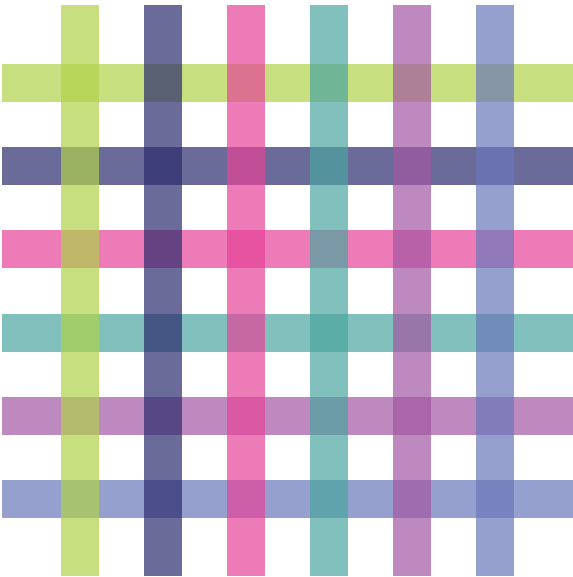
Heritage Logo Concept



Newton-le-Willows

Neighbourhood Board

The tapestry concept is used as a unifying device, bringing together the key elements that define the N-L-W Neighbourhood Board.





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 ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL	Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Early Delivery Projects Update
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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Neighbourhood Board on the progress made in the delivery of 'Early Delivery Projects' for Year 1 of the programme, following endorsement of the Neighbourhood Board.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) Note the progress relating to the delivery of the endorsed 'Early Delivery Projects'.**

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Neighbourhood Board meeting of 16 January 2026, the Neighbourhood Board endorsed three 'Early Delivery Projects' to be undertaken within the funding allocations provided for Year 1 of delivery, being:

- **St Johns Playground** - £0.203m for the installation of a new playground at St Johns Park in Earlestown to replace existing equipment and create an inclusive, fully accessible recreation space for young people in the heart of the community.
- **Earlestown Town Hall AV and Lighting** - £0.134m for the installation of professional, high-quality Audio-Visual and lighting infrastructure in the main hall of Earlestown Town Hall to add further functionality and community uses beyond the restoration of the historic building into a flexible, multi-use space for the community.
- **Arts on Prescription** - £0.024m for a programme of arts and creative workshops for adults experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues such as stress, anxiety and depression, providing a creative route to wellbeing based at Newton Library.

- 3.2. Following Neighbourhood Board endorsement on 16 January 2026, and Council Cabinet approval on 18 March 2026, the project delivery teams have provided the Pride in Place Project Team with further information via project initiation documents, forming the baseline and scope for project delivery.

St Johns Playground

- 3.3. A key objective of St Johns Playground regeneration includes the provision of a play facility for all based on PiPA Play (Plan Inclusive Play Areas) definition of accessible and inclusive play spaces, covering two core elements being accessibility, nurturing the senses and dynamic play. This will ensure that a range of ages and abilities can learn, interact, imagine and play together.
- 3.4. It includes the installation of a dedicated playground, to expand on the existing playground in St Johns Open Space, Earlestown, and provide accessible equipment. This facility will include 100+ features able to accommodate eighty users aged from two to fourteen. The total cost also includes improvements to accessible footpaths and landscaping, whilst doubling the size of the existing playground.
- 3.5. It is expected that consultation with the community will commence from May 2026 for up to four weeks, as required, to understand the preferred theme for the playground and the local sentiment to reflect the heritage and community of Newton-le-Willows.
- 3.6. Consultation will include a published online survey accessible through the St Helens Council website and promoted via social media, alongside in-person consultation sessions with key stakeholders.
- 3.7. Following community engagement, the start of the planning process will commence prior to a procurement exercise via STAR Procurement to award a contract for the formal design process, equipment order and installation. As of April 2026, it is expected that the project will be completed in Winter 2026, subject to requisite planning approvals and procurement activity.

Earlestown Town Hall AV and Lighting

- 3.8. The project purpose is to install a high-quality, integrated AV and lighting system within the main hall at Earlestown Town Hall, enabling the venue to operate as a flexible community, leisure and performance space.
- 3.9. As part of this project, the below equipment is to be installed:
 - An Audio System – inclusive of main loudspeakers, stage monitors, mixing console, and both wired and wireless microphone systems.
 - A Lighting System – inclusive of a lighting control console, truss infrastructure and rigging, stage and profile fixtures, haze machine, and accessories.
 - A Video System – inclusive of a high-performance projector and motorised screen, with wireless presentation switch and dongles for HDMI and USB-C connectivity.
 - A Stage Drape Package – inclusive of a motorised velvet front curtain, side legs, pelmet and upstage backdrop.

- 3.10. Engagement was undertaken throughout initial stages of project development with prospective user groups to inform and validate the AV and lighting specification. NADOS, a local amateur dramatic and operatic society, stated they were “delighted to be included in the consultation process” and emphasised that the audio-visual and staging facilities are “paramount to [their] needs when producing theatre shows, musicals, and pantomimes.”
- 3.11. Procurement is expected to commence in Spring 2026, via STAR Procurement, through a competitive tender and evaluation process. Contractor award will be executed pursuant to equipment installation in Autumn 2026, following the Earlestown Town Hall main construction contract completion.

Arts on Prescription

- 3.12. This project will launch a trial of the Arts on Prescription programme in Newton-le-Willows, offering three iterations of a 12-week programme of arts and creative workshops for adults experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues such as stress, anxiety and depression, providing a creative route to wellbeing.
- 3.13. Taking place in Newton Library, the provision will allow for three cohorts of ten people to engagement with the programme. To ensure uptake, the delivery team will be contacting internal stakeholders and local providers such as NHS social prescription teams local to Newton-le-Willows, in addition to producing posters or leaflets to take to key local organisations such as community centres, GP surgeries, and wider advertising via their specialist arts ezine service.
- 3.14. From April 2026 onwards the delivery team will contact referral partners, prior to Creative Alternatives (the delivery partner) hosting taster sessions and onboarding ahead of the first cohort in late Spring 2026, with cohorts two and three engaging with the project up until Spring 2027.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 In conclusion, the endorsed ‘early delivery projects’ as outlined in this report remain on track to commence from April 2026 onwards and will provide impactful and meaningful projects for Year 1 of delivery. Each project will involve wider engagement and advertising with the community of Newton-le-Willows to maximise the reach and impact of the projects.

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 ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL	Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Community Pot Approach
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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Neighbourhood Board of the proposed approach to the 'Community Pot' grant scheme, with a pilot scheme developed for Year 1 of the programme.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Board is recommended to:

- 1) **Note the progress made in the development of a Community Pot approach.**
- 2) **Endorse the proposed approach for the Community Pot, subject to accountable body approvals, as a pilot for Year 1 of the programme (April 2026- March 2027), with review of the delivery mechanism on completion.**

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Neighbourhood Board Workshop on 4 July 2025, Neighbourhood Board resolved that Cohesion should be a priority Investment Theme, in addition to Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage, Education and Opportunity and Health and Wellbeing. This was due to the strong alignment with the broader Investment themes and the potential to develop a 'Community Pot', enabling community capacity building and social infrastructure projects on a competitive grant basis. It was recognised by the Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board that these projects will help to both enhance social cohesion, building on the strength and diversity of existing third-sector organisations in Newton-le-Willows and act as a facilitator for delivery across a broad range of themes, directly related to the Pride in Place (previously known as Plan for Neighbourhoods) objectives.
- 3.2. On 3 October 2025, as part of the Regeneration Plan, Neighbourhood Board endorsed an allocation of £250,000 to enable a grant fund for community projects, referred to as a 'Community Pot' for Investment Period 1 of the programme. At the aforementioned Neighbourhood Board meeting, it was discussed that the development of the 'Community Pot' and relevant eligibility

would be aligned to the chosen Investment Themes (Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage, Education and Opportunity, Health and Wellbeing), with the Cohesion theme selected only for the development of a 'community pot'.

3.3. At the 3 October 2025 Neighbourhood Board meeting it was agreed that the Community Pot would provide a grant allocation of:

- £25,000 in Year 1 (from April 2026 – March 2027)
- £75,000 in Year 2 (from April 2027 – March 2028)
- £75,000 in Year 3 (from April 2028 – March 2029)
- £75,000 in Year 4 (from April 2029 – March 2030)

Community Pot Approach – Year 1

3.4. The Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Community Pot Grant Scheme (also sometimes known as community grants or chests, formal name to be determined) offer small but strategic funding allocations to enable local action, encourage participation, and unlock the potential of grassroots groups who are often best placed to understand and respond to local needs.

3.5. The approach developed is proposed to be utilised for Year 1 of the programme (from April 2026 - March 2027) utilising an Internal Delivery Model, led by the Council, and reviewed throughout and upon completion by the Neighbourhood Board, in conjunction with appropriate Council Officers. As discussed at the 2 October 2025 Neighbourhood Board meeting, it will be a Board decision if they wish to decide to appoint external support for this theme from Year 2 onwards, which could be funded via the capacity funding allocation. In summary, the proposed Year 1 delivery model allows for the full £25,000 allocation for Year 1 to be available to eligible grant applications, without any additional cost to the Neighbourhood Board.

3.6. It is recommended that there are two sizes of grant pots available:

- **Micro grants from £500 up to £1,000 per project** - specifically aimed at those projects that support or extend the daily running of a project, for example training, group activities, events and running costs.
- **Grow grants from £1,000 up to £5,000 per project** - specifically aimed at projects such as purchasing, renovating, or improving physical assets that serve a local area, rather than day-to-day running costs.

3.7. The first round of applications is expected to open in May 2026 and will run to mid-June 2026 for decision on grant award via Neighbourhood Board endorsement in July 2026, with grant payments following. If the full grant allocation (£25,000 for Year 1) is not spent, a further application window will be held.

3.8. Eligible projects may include both revenue and capital funds, for grant funding for those who are operating within Newton-le-Willows, delivering activities relating to at least one of the Pride in Place intervention themes:

- Funding for improvements to town centres, neighbourhoods, and high streets, including capital spend and running costs.
- Enhanced support for arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, projects, facilities, and historic institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.
- Creating and improving green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments in the local area, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- Support for community-based learning and development.
- Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.
- Support for families and young children.
- Funding for local sport and activity facilities, events, teams and leagues to foster community engagement and connection.
- Supporting community-level health provision.
- Integration and co-location of health and wellbeing services.
- Measures to improve community cohesion.
- Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local place.
- Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society, youth and community groups.

3.9. Community organisations and not for profit organisations will be permitted to submit one application per application window, per fund. Therefore, each group would be able to submit a maximum of two bids (both via the micro grant and grow grant, grant programme names to be determined) for consideration in the first application round.

3.10. Those who are eligible to apply for grant funding must be registered community organisations or community interest companies based or working within Newton-le-Willows. Those who can apply must be:

- Be a community organisation (including Community Interest Company, Charity, etc.) based in Newton-le-Willows, particularly small community based local groups, that encourage community spirit, engage volunteers.
- Be an organisation with a constitution and who have a community bank account with 2 signatories (not at the same address). The account must be in the name of the community group.
- Be an organisation that are not for profit. (All income is used to achieve the organisation's charitable aims and cannot be paid out to members, shareholders, or owners).

3.11. It is proposed that a review panel is formed with a mix of Council Officers and Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board members, to ensure there is compliance in relation to the Councils role as the accountable body, whilst ensuring there is a key community voice and aspect to reviewing the proposals. It will be for the review panel to assess each bid, before

recommending eligible projects to take forward for Neighbourhood Board's endorsement at a full Neighbourhood Board meeting.

- 3.12. Any Neighbourhood Board Member who is submitting on behalf of (or has direct or indirect links to) an organisation bidding for the community grant pot, must declare an interest and they will not be eligible to join the review panel process, to ensure conflicts of interest are managed.

Finance

- 3.13. As of 23 March 2026, the Regeneration Plan, inclusive of the 4-Year Investment Plan priorities, was approved by MHCLG. This included an allocation of £0.250m of delivery funding towards 'Community Pot' for Investment Period 1 (April 2026-March 2030). At the Neighbourhood Board meeting of 3 October 2026, the yearly allocations for the Community Pot were shown as below:
- Year 1 = £25,000
 - Year 2 = £75,000
 - Year 3 = £75,000
 - Year 4 = £75,000
- 3.14. The £0.250m delivery funding includes a split of 61%/ capital 39% revenue funding, with the capital allocation for Year 1 being £15,225 and £9,775 revenue allocation for Year 1. As such, projects will be reviewed and allocated in accordance with a capital/ revenue split.
- 3.15. As recommended under 3.6 of this report two sizes of grant pots are proposed to be made available for Year 1 of the Community Pot, Micro Grants from £500 up to £1,000 per project, and Grow Grants from £1,000 up to £5,000 per project, as this allows for a mix of capital/revenue grants, whilst providing small-scale funding to maximise the impact of the fund in Year 1.
- 3.16. If the lower value is to be met for both the micro grants and grow grants and in alignment with the capital/revenue split, the Neighbourhood Board could fund up to thirty-four projects in Year 1 of the Community Pot programme, with the allocation weighted higher for years two to four, building momentum for a larger benefit for Newton-le-Willows.
- 3.17. Any organisation applying who are unable to recover costs of VAT that apply for grants, will need to request the cost inclusive of the VAT added onto the cost. The Council will require appropriate evidence as accountable body for the funds, to ensure that any items funded from capital grant comply with the accounting requirement classifications. Any requirements that the Council must comply with in order to meet MHCLG requirements for the grant funding will need to be passed onto other bodies expending this as appropriate.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The development of the Community Pot follows the Board's consensus that Cohesion should be a priority Investment Theme, to further build on the strength and diversity of existing third-sector organisations in Newton-le-Willows, enhancing social cohesion. The development of the Community Pot approach represents a key output in the delivery of the 4-Year Investment Plan priorities for the first Investment Period (April 2026 – March 2030), with the Neighbourhood Board recommended to endorse the approach developed via the internal delivery model.

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ITEM 9

 ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL	Newton-le-Willows Neighbourhood Board Any Other Business
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1. Summary

- 1.1. This report item provides an opportunity for Board members to raise any other relevant business that has not been previously discussed within these papers.