

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Enterprise and Fair Work Committee

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref PFN/MH

Date 02/05/25

Coatbridge Plan for Neighbourhoods Update

From Pamela Humphries, Chief Officer (Place)

E-mail hyndsm@northlan.gov.uk

Telephone

Mark Hynds,
07583 023 248

Executive Summary

In September 2023, the UK Government announced that 55 towns would benefit from £1.1 billion levelling up investment as part of a long-term plan for towns across the UK. Coatbridge was awarded £19.51m in UK Government funding through the Long-Term Plan for Towns programme. A Town Board had to be established to oversee the development and delivery of the plan for Coatbridge.

It was initially expected that Long-Term Plans would have to be submitted for UK Government approval by August 2024 however this submission date was delayed following the election of a new UK Government in July 2024, which advised it was reviewing all previously made funding commitments. The funding stream was confirmed in late 2024 with confirmation that updated guidance would be published in the New Year.

The UK Government has now issued a new funding prospectus in relation to the 'Plan for Neighbourhoods', the successor programme to the previous government's 'Long-Term Plan for Towns' funding.

This paper provides a summary of progress made to date alongside a review of the new guidance issued so far, highlighting key changes, including the establishment of a Neighbourhood Board and related governance arrangements, development of a Regeneration Plan and an accompanying initial 4-year Investment Plan and governance requirements.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- (1) Acknowledges the content of this report and the updated guidance in relation to the development and delivery of a Regeneration Plan and related Investment Plan for Coatbridge to secure £19.5m over a 10 year period.
- (2) Endorse the arrangements for the development of the 4 year Investment Plan which will be reported to a future Committee prior to submission to the UK Government for approval.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	All priorities
Ambition statement	(2) Refocus our town centres and communities to be multi-functional connected places which maximise social, economic, and environmental opportunities
Programme of Work	Transforming Places

1. Background

- 1.1 On 30th September 2023, the UK Government announced that 55 towns will benefit from £1.1 billion levelling up investment as part of a long-term plan for towns across the UK. Coatbridge was awarded £19.51m in UK Government funding through its Long-Term Plan for Towns programme.
- 1.2 As part of this investment, 7 towns in Scotland were awarded £20M each to deliver activity over a ten-year period (£2M funding per year) including Coatbridge
- 1.3 The council is the accountable body for this funding and responsible for establishing and supporting Coatbridge Town Board which will oversee the development and delivery of the Long-Term Plan for Coatbridge.
- 1.4 Following a review of previous funding commitments, the current UK Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) has introduced the "Plan for Neighbourhoods," a £1.5 billion initiative successor scheme aimed at investing in 75 areas across the UK over the next decade.
- 1.5 The programme seeks to address regional disparities by empowering local communities to rejuvenate their neighbourhoods, fostering economic growth, and enhancing living standards.
- 1.6 As with the Long-Term Plan for Towns, Scotland will receive a £200 million share of the funding, distributed among ten neighbourhoods. Each area is set to receive up to £20 million over a decade, empowering local communities to determine investment priorities through Neighbourhood Boards composed of residents, businesses, and community organisations. Coatbridge was confirmed as one of the ten Scottish towns to receive this Plan for Neighbourhoods funding.
- 1.7 Significant work has already been undertaken to establish the Town Board in Coatbridge and engage with the people and communities of Coatbridge to establish priorities and inform the future Investment Plan. Following issue of the new guidance, the Draft Investment Plan will be produced for final consultation prior to submission to the UK Government for approval during 2025.

2. Report

Progress to Date

- 2.1 As approved at Committee in May 2024, a Town Board was established in accordance with the Guidance from the UK Government, with the first meeting taking place in April 2024.

- 2.2 Consultants were also appointed to support the development of the Long-Term Plan for Coatbridge, including conducting a wide range of stakeholder engagement and face to face surveys.
- 2.3 A significant amount of community and business engagement was conducted during Summer 2024, following the establishment of the Town Board and to aid in the development stage of the Long-Term Plan for Coatbridge. This included:
 - 751 face to face surveys
 - 726 responses to online survey
 - Family fun day events, each attracting hundreds of participants, at Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Centre and Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life
 - A programme of arts-based engagement with schools, including Greenhill and St Timothy’s primaries and Coatbridge and St Ambrose high schools.
 - Bespoke engagement sessions with children in care, Coatbridge Youth Action Group and older people’s groups
 - An event for Main Street retailers
 - Discussions with key town centre interests, including ASDA and Eurocity (which owns and manages 52 retail units on Main Street)
 - Workshops with the Coatbridge Town Board and key council officers
- 2.4 Following the change of government in July 2024, the development of the Long Term Plan and the Investment Plan was put on hold, awaiting confirmation from the new government regarding the future of the funding and any revised guidance.

Plan for Neighbourhoods

- 2.5 The UK Government has now started to issue new guidance around the Plan for Neighbourhoods. The key differences with the “Long Term Plan for Towns” have been summarised below
- 2.6 The Long-Term Plan for Towns funding and the rebranded Plan for Neighbourhoods are not dissimilar. However, some of the terminology has changed between the two funds. The table below sets out some of the key terminology changes to note:-

Long-Term Plan for Towns (previous fund)	Plan for Neighbourhoods (current fund)
Town Board	Neighbourhood Board
Long-Term Plan	Regeneration Plan
Investment Plan (covering years 1-3 of delivery from 2025/26)	Investment Plan (covering years 1-4 of delivery from 2026/27)
Investment Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and security • High streets, heritage and regeneration • Transport and connectivity 	Strategic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thriving places • Stronger communities • Taking back control

Funding

- 2.7 Coatbridge will receive funding and support totalling just over £19.5 million. The funding will be split 75% capital and 25% revenue. Delivery funding will be released from the beginning of the 2026/27 financial year with ‘capacity funding’ of £0.6m being released between 2023/24 and 2026/27. A detailed funding profile is available at Appendix 1 of this report.

- 2.8 Technical guidance sets out more detail on the funding and spending rules with additional information issued via forthcoming supplementary guidance. This would include details on the ability to borrow against a guaranteed future revenue stream and roll underspends forward.
- 2.9 North Lanarkshire Council will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles.
- 2.10 The council will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

Timeline

- 2.11 The following timescales and key milestones have been published so far:
- **22 April 2025:** Neighbourhood Boards are required to confirm their final membership and submit any proposals for altering existing place boundaries.
 - **Spring to Winter 2025:** Neighbourhood Boards will develop and submit their Regeneration Plans to MHCLG for assessment and approval. These plans should outline the strategic vision for the area, specific projects to be undertaken, and expected outcomes.
 - **From April 2026:** Upon approval, funding will be released to local authorities, marking the commencement of the programme's delivery phase. This phase will involve the implementation of approved projects and ongoing community engagement to monitor progress and make necessary adjustments.

Fund Objectives

- 2.12 UK Government encourages Neighbourhood Boards to focus the funding and interventions into those neighbourhoods and communities within the boundary area that have the greatest need.
- 2.13 The Board, working with North Lanarkshire Council, is responsible for producing a 10-year Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge, setting out the activity that will be pursued to achieve the 3 strategic objectives of this programme:-
- thriving places
 - stronger communities
 - taking back control
- 2.14 There is a broader range of interventions that the funding can be used for to support delivery of the strategic objectives, including:
- Regeneration, high streets and heritage
 - Housing
 - Work, productivity and skills
 - Community cohesion
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Transport
 - Safety and security
 - Education and opportunity

Neighbourhood Boards

- 2.15 There is a requirement to establish a Neighbourhood Board with an independent Chair to oversee development and delivery of the Regeneration Plan, and as with the Town Boards membership must include:
- MP and MSP for the local area
 - 2 councillors from the local authority
 - A senior representative from Police Scotland
- 2.16 The council must confirm the board chairperson, membership and boundary arrangements to MHCLG by 22 April 2025, following consultation with the local MP. For further information on the current Town Board membership, see Appendix 2.

Regeneration Plans

- 2.17 Neighbourhood Boards must work with local people and the local authority to draft a Regeneration Plan. Future guidance will confirm content and form required for this Plan.
- 2.18 The Plan should outline the community's overarching vision for change over the next decade to deliver the strategic objectives of the programme, developed through grassroots engagement to reflect local people's priorities.
- 2.19 As part of the Regeneration Plan, Boards will need to provide a more detailed investment plan for the first 4-year investment period cycle, which will include the interventions the board would like to pursue over the period and how that activity delivers across the 3 strategic objectives of the programme.
- 2.20 UK Government recognises the previous work that has gone into engaging communities and developing the 'Long-Term Plan' for the previous administration's Long-Term Plan for Towns. That progress should not be undone, nor should places undo their governance arrangements.
- 2.21 The Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan will be progressed over coming months and reported to a future Committee for endorsement prior to submission to the UK Government for approval. The timescale for submission to the UK Government is between Spring and Winter 2025.

3. Measures of success

- 3.1 Measures of success will be established during the development of the Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge. The Plan for Neighbourhoods will aim to raise living standards, reduce social exclusion, spread opportunities for young people, improve health and wellbeing, build stronger and more cohesive communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in some of the most left-behind areas in the country.
-

4. Supporting documentation

4.1 Appendix 1 Funding Profile

4.2 Appendix 2 Town Board Membership

4.3 UK Government Guidance: [Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Humphries'.

Pamela Humphries
Chief Officer (Place)

5. Impacts

<p>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Potential positive impact to promote equality. An EQIA will be carried out as part of the development of the Regeneration Plan If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Additional funding of £19.5m over 10 years to support regeneration activity in Coatbridge.</p>
<p>5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p>5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p>5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>5.6</p>	<p>Technology / Digital impact Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.7</p>	<p>Environmental / Carbon impact Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p>5.8</p>	<p>Communications impact Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Corporate Communications involved in the promotion of community consultation and communication related to the funding.</p>
<p>5.9</p>	<p>Risk impact Is there a risk impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p>
<p>5.10</p>	<p>Armed Forces Covenant Duty Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.</p>
<p>5.11</p>	<p>Children's rights and wellbeing impact Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Potential positive impact to promote wellbeing of children and young people. A CRWIA will be carried out as part of the development of the Regeneration Plan If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Funding Profile

Appendix 1

Grant type	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	TOTAL
Capacity funding (revenue)	200,000	150,000										600,000*
Revenue (grant)		232,000	256,000	432,000	432,000	432,000	432,000	437,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	3.999 million
Capital (grant)		360,000	1,736 million	1,605 million	1,605 million	1,605 million	1,605 million	1,605 million	1,605 million	1,605 million	1,605 million	14,936 million
TOTAL												19,535 million

*Note: For revenue capacity, £250,000 was provided over the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years which are not denoted on the table. Collectively, this will total £600,000 in capacity funding between 2023/24 and 2026/27.

Town Board Membership

Appendix 2

Name	Designation	Fit with new Neighbourhood Board Structure
Gavin Whitefield (chair)	Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire	Meets requirements of a chairperson under the Plan for Neighbourhood guidance and could be retained, following consultation with the local MP.
Frank McNally MP	MP for Coatbridge and Bellshill	Mandatory appointment.
Fulton MacGregor	MSP for Coatbridge and Chryston	Mandatory appointment.
Cllr. Allan Stubbs	Local councillor, Coatbridge North	2 local elected members should sit on the Neighbourhood Board. Cllr A. Stubbs is currently 1 of 2 elected members on the Coatbridge Town Board.
Cllr. Geraldine Woods	Local councillor, Coatbridge South	2 local elected members should sit on the Neighbourhood Board. Cllr Woods is currently 1 of 2 elected members on the Coatbridge Town Board.
Lesley-Anne Docherty	Area Commander, Police Scotland	Mandatory appointment.
Yvonne Lindsay	Managing Director, Telecom Networks	Representative from the local business community.
Liz McCutcheon	Chief Executive, Inspirent	Representative from the social enterprise sector.
Roddy Cameron	Proprietor, R. Cameron Jewellers	Representative from the local business community.
Willie McBride	Manager, Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Centre and Coatbridge Community Board Chair	Community partner representative
David Wood	Chief Executive, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	Community partner representative – Third Sector Interface
Professor Christopher Moore	Principal and Chief Executive, New College Lanarkshire	Representative from public agency and/or anchor institution – further education
Gwen MacIntyre	Interim Locality Manager, NHS Lanarkshire	Representative from public agency and/or anchor institution – health and social care