



Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 10 June 2025

Portfolio Holders: Councillor Claire Penny - Sustainable Economic Development
 Councillor Paul Peacock - Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Leads: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth
 Sanjiv Kohli, Director - Resources

Lead Officers: Neil Cuttell, Business Manager - Economic Growth & Visitor Economy, Ext. 5853
 Sarah Husselbee, Programmes Manager, Ext. 5802

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report / Key Decision
Report Title	Plan for Neighbourhoods Update
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the announcement of the Plan for Neighbourhoods scheme, and next steps to programme delivery.
Recommendations	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the contents of the report, including the announcement of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme, and the award of up to £19.5m to Newark over a 10-year period, in accordance with paragraph 1.2 of the report, subject to the development of a Local Regeneration Plan, and subsequent Government approvals; b) approve the addition of a £200,000 revenue budget in 25-26 funded by programme capacity grant, to be allocated by Newark Town Executive Board, in accordance with paragraph 1.10 of the report; and c) note that a future update report will be presented to Cabinet regarding local programme plans, prior to submission of the Regeneration Plan in 2025, in accordance with paragraph 1.11 of the report.
Alternative Options Considered	There is an option to choose to inform Government that Newark does not wish to retain the offer of the Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme. This option has been discounted as the resource would achieve shared goals identified by the Community Plan and the Newark Town Board.

Reason for Recommendations	The recommendations are provided on the basis of the next steps in the delivery of the Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme with Newark Town Board. The opportunity provided through this programme will assist in achieving shared objectives over the next 10 years for Newark.
-----------------------------------	--

1.0 **Background Information**

- 1.1 On 4 March 2025, the UK Government published details of the ‘Plan for Neighbourhoods’ (PfN) scheme, as a £1.5 billion programme to invest in 75 areas over the next decade. The announcement of this programme follows the former, proposed Long-Term Plans for Towns (LTPT) initiative. The metrics used for selection included indices of multiple deprivation, population size, healthy life expectancy, Gross Value Added per hour worked and local skills levels.
- 1.2 The commitment of up to £19.5m over a 10-year period, will now continue to be available to Newark through the PfN programme, with the focus of the fund surrounding three core objectives of ‘thriving places; stronger communities; and taking back control’. The list of all eligible places remains unchanged from that determined through the previous LTPT scheme; however, the new programme offers a revised fixed funding profile, with core delivery funding now set to commence in April 2026. Details of the new funding profile, set out through the PfN scheme, are available in **Appendix A** of this report.
- 1.3 The PfN scheme provides the opportunity for places to invest in a choice of over 40 different pre-approved interventions, set out by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Each intervention sits within one of 8 core programme themes, as listed below, building on from the previous capabilities of LTPT.
- Regeneration and High Streets
 - Housing
 - Work, productivity and skills
 - Education and opportunity
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Cohesion
 - Transport
 - Safety and Security
- 1.4 The PfN prospectus now refers to Town Boards as ‘Neighbourhood Boards’ for the purpose of governing the delivery of the local PfN scheme, responsible for creating a local Regeneration Plan for submission to Government for approval, by Winter 2025. The programme continues to operate with a community led focus, with Neighbourhood Boards required to work in partnership with the Local Authority to develop the plan for their area and distribute funding to the projects to deliver on local vision.
- 1.5 The local Regeneration Plan should outline the areas overarching vision for change over the next decade to deliver the strategic objectives of the programme, developed through engagement to reflect local priorities. As part of the 10-year Regeneration Plan, Boards will need to provide a more detailed Investment Plan for the first 4-year investment period cycle (2026/27 to 2029/30), which will include details of interventions the board would like to pursue over the period.

- 1.6 In addition to facilitating the development of a place's plan, while recognising the role of the Neighbourhood Board as the decision-making forum, the Council will act as the Accountable Body for the funds. This includes 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. The Programme also requires the council to ensure appropriate contract and performance management, claim assessment and monitoring and evaluation of individual projects within the programme.
- 1.7 Shortly after the announcement of PfN, all places were notified of a requirement to submit confirmation of local governance and geographical boundary arrangements to Government by no later than 22nd April 2025. This included details of Neighbourhood Board Membership, confirmation of the Board Chair(s), and supplementary governance documents. This information was submitted to Government within the required timescales, and the Council awaits confirmation of suitable local processes, from MHCLG.
- 1.8 Due to the interdependencies between the PfN scheme, Towns Deal and former LTPT, the Newark Town Executive Board will act as the 'Neighbourhood Board' for the purpose of the PfN scheme. At a recent meeting of the Newark Town Executive Board Meeting held on 9th April 2025, both the Neighbourhood geographical boundary and local governance arrangements were approved for the purpose of PfN, enabling prompt confirmation of arrangements to Government. This includes the continued adoption of the existing Newark Town Executive Board Membership and Chair arrangements as well as confirmation of the proposed geographical boundary, as demonstrated in **Appendix B** of this report. In accordance with process set out within the scheme's prospectus, the local MP was consulted at the time and endorsed both the boundary and governance arrangements.
- 1.9 At the time of writing, local arrangements are under review by Government and will be formally implemented following confirmation of suitable and robust governance processes. To ensure the operations of Newark Town Executive Board remain aligned to the PfN prospectus, in addition to the existing Towns Deal, the Council is undertaking a review of the Newark Town Executive Board Assurance Framework, to be presented to the Board for future approval, in addition to approval from the Accountable Body.
- 1.10 To facilitate the development of local plans, and support the costs associated with scheme delivery, £200,000 revenue capacity funding was announced for PfN in 25/26, and a further £150,000 revenue capacity funding is expected to follow in 26/27. The first £200,000 is to be received by each Local Authority in the coming weeks, and once the local governance and boundary arrangements are confirmed by MHCLG. It remains the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Board to decide the most appropriate uses of future capacity funding, depending on local context and planning. Example uses will include resourcing, capacity, marketing, business case development, communications, engagement and feasibility to support local strategy/project development. To facilitate flexible and responsive formation of plans, the revenue budget of £200,000 capacity funding is required to be established in 25/26, as set out above.

- 1.11 The Newark Town Executive Board will continue to engage with a range of key stakeholders and the community to identify local priorities for the Town. This aligns to the requirements set out within the PfN prospectus, focussing on a community-oriented approach to Board investment decisions. It is expected that the local Regeneration Plan will be submitted Winter 2025, following agreement of plans by the Newark Town Executive Board, and a future report to Cabinet, detailing local proposals, and to seek approval for the establishment of programme budgets from April 2026 onwards, funded by grant.
- 1.12 It should be noted that the focus of the local Plan is expected to surround interventions, and objectives, rather than identifying fully defined projects for delivery through the scheme, with full details yet to be published by Government. It is anticipated that the project selection process will finalise following submission of plans in Winter 2025, with alignment to the objectives and priorities agreed within the future local Regeneration Plan.

2.0 Implications

- 2.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications (FIN25-26/4144)

- 2.2 Appendix A outlines the anticipated grant over a 10-year period starting from 2025/26. This grant has not yet been included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan. However, with the Government's recent publication of the 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' (PfN) confirming £19.537 million (previously committed under the Long-Term Plans for Towns (LTPT) initiative) a budget in 2025/26 can now be allocated from that expected Capacity Funding in this financial year for the costs described in paragraph 1.10.
- 2.3 Regarding future funding expectations, the income and expenditure for the Revenue element can be included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) during the budget process for 2026/27 to 2029/30, as outlined in paragraph 1.5.
- 2.4 Regarding the Capital element of the grant, once local proposals are agreed upon by the Newark Town Executive Board and reported to the Cabinet, consideration can be given to adding the associated budgets to the Capital Programme. If any of the proposed projects belong to NSDC, full financial implications will be provided.

Legal Implications (LEG2526/270)

- 2.5 Cabinet is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Levelling Up White Paper, 2022

Levelling Up Fund Prospectus and Guidance, 2022

[Plan for Neighbourhoods: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Appendix A – Plan for Neighbourhoods Funding Profile (set by Government)

Each community will receive funding and support, totalling up to £20 million. The funding will be split 75% capital and 25% revenue, to the following profile:

Grant type	2025 to 2026	2026 to 2027	2027 to 2028	2028 to 2029	2029 to 2030	2030 to 2031	2031 to 2032	2032 to 2033	2033 to 2034	2034 to 2035	2035 to 2036
Total revenue funding	200k	382k	256k	432k	432k	432k	432k	437k	450k	450k	450k
Revenue funding (capacity)	200k	150k	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue funding (grants)	-	232k	256k	432k	432k	432k	432k	437k	450k	450k	450k
Capital funding (grants)	-	360k	1.7m	1.6m							
Total		19,537									

More information available [here](#)

Appendix B – Geographical Boundary (Plan for Neighbourhoods)

