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Pride in Place Blackburn, Fauldhouse and Whitburn Neighbourhood Board Meeting - Whitburn Community Centre
Minute and Action Note
03 July 2026

Present – Eric Lumsden (Chair), Kirsteen Sullivan MP, Gregor Poynton MP, Councillor George Paul, Gerry Burns, Alistair Fenton, Alison Kerr, Douglas McGown, Robert Russell

In attendance – Craig McCorriston, Michelle Murray, Finlay Brown, John Erskine, Euan Murray

Apologies – Councillor Craig Meek, Ben Lamb, Wendy Gilchrist, Carlyn Simpson

Agenda Item	Action Note
Welcome and Introductions	Eric Lumsden welcomed members to the inaugural Board meeting and outlined the purpose of the Pride in Place programme and the Board's role in overseeing the £20 million investment over the next 10 years. Members introduced themselves and highlighted priorities including community-led decision making, strong engagement, youth involvement, wellbeing outcomes, collaboration across the three communities and ensuring long-term benefits from the investment. The Board noted the importance of supporting existing community activity and building local capacity. **Action**: • Continue to explore future youth representation on the Board.
Overview of Pride in Place	Craig McCorriston provided an overview of the programme, key deadlines and funding arrangements. The Board noted the requirement to submit governance arrangements, Board membership details and an engagement plan to the UK Government by 17 July 2026, with a Pride in Place Plan required by November 2026. The importance of developing clear themes and outcomes informed by community engagement was recognised. Funding criteria and decision-making processes should be transparent and accessible. **Action:** • Craig McCorriston to circulate the annual funding allocation profile to Board members.

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<tr><td>Governance Arrangements</td><td>The Board considered the Terms of Reference and governance arrangements. Members acknowledged that the Nolan Principles should underpin Board activity and that The Terms of Reference and conflicts of interest should be declared at meetings where applicable and reviewed annually. The Board supported recruiting additional community representatives to strengthen local participation and agreed that governance documents should be reviewed annually.

Decisions:
Terms of Reference approved.
Board name agreed as Blackburn, Fauldhouse and Whitburn Pride in Place Board.
Terms of Reference to be reviewed annually.
Actions:
Submit approved governance arrangements and Board membership to the UK Government by 17 July 2026.
Explore recruitment of additional community members to vacant Board positions</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Community Engagement</td><td>Michelle Murray summarised previous engagement activity undertaken across Blackburn, Fauldhouse and Whitburn and highlighted common themes including health and wellbeing, poverty, employment, environment and community development. The Board agreed that existing evidence should be utilised to avoid consultation fatigue while ensuring that future engagement reaches a broad and diverse range of residents. The importance of developing a recognisable Pride in Place identity and digital presence was also highlighted.

Actions:
Michelle Murray to circulate the Community Engagement Toolkit to Board members.
Community Wealth Building Team to support the development of surveys and engagement activity.
Explore development of a Pride in Place website and communications platform.
Develop a clear Pride in Place brand and identity.</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Engagement Plan</td><td>The Board discussed engagement activity to be undertaken during August and September, making use of existing community events, schools,</td></tr>
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	businesses, older people's groups and local networks. Eric Lumsden advised that he would initially lead engagement activity, supported by Board members where possible. Members emphasised the need to focus on long-term outcomes and sustainable community capacity building. **Actions:** • Develop and implement a community engagement programme for August and September 2026. • Board members to support engagement activity where appropriate.
Schedule of Meetings	The Board agreed to meet quarterly, with meetings held in a hybrid format and rotated between Blackburn, Fauldhouse and Whitburn. Members also discussed the potential future provision of audio-visual equipment to improve participation and accessibility. **Decisions:** • Future Board meetings to be held quarterly. • Meetings to be held in hybrid format and rotated between communities. **Action:** Arrange for the next Board meeting for September 2026.
AOCB	The Board noted that clarification is required from the UK Government regarding the programme boundary and whether East Whitburn forms part of the designated area. Members agreed that community engagement planning support from the Community Wealth Building Team would be beneficial. The importance of ensuring the programme promotes inclusion and avoids creating divisions between communities was recognised. Actions: • Seek clarification from the UK Government regarding programme boundary arrangements, including East Whitburn. • Community Wealth Building Team to support preparation of the engagement plan.