

## Clifton Town Board meeting

27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Clifton Cornerstone/ Teams

#### In attendance:

Cllr Hayley Spain	PC Jane Gibson
Cllr Steve Battlemuch (rep Cllr Radford)	Lilian Greenwood MP
Clare Ashton	Sarah Speight
Stephen Hackney (Chair)	Mel Phythian
Jemma Malloney	Mark Armstrong
Holly Dagnall	Claire McCurdy (notes)
Gene Warburton	
Charlotte Batterham	

#### Apologies:

Sue Whitehead	Cllr Maria Watson
Kevin Davis	Matt Wheatley
Tracy Osborne	Edward Peck
Insp Steve Dalby	

#### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

Notes from previous meeting accepted, no matters arising that are not covered in this meeting agenda.

#### 2. Revised prospectus

Mel gave an overview of the information that is known about the revised prospectus, which is still waiting to be released, expected soon. There is a reset of the team and so Mel will likely have less input in local teams going forward. The messages are that the engagement work is not to be undone, but built on. There remains a need for a partnership board but this may be known by a different name. It's not expected that there will be wholesale changes to the board, but there may be the option to expand to fit with the new range of interventions. It's expected that the vision and plan will not have a set deadline for submission, but a window of time, and will be assessed before funding is released in 2026. There will be a wider range of "on menu" interventions, possibly including skills and health, but nothing should be removed from the previous list. There will likely also be less emphasis on selecting from the themes, and more choosing what is right for us as an area. Lots of comparisons have been drawn from the New Deal for Communities work that began in the late 90s.

The fund profile remains the same with a 75/25 split of capital to revenue, although the payment amounts may have changed slightly. Boards will receive a further capacity building payment in April 2025 on receipt of confirmation of the board and boundary (previous boundary changes such as Clifton made in April 2024 will be honoured). In the first year the amount of capital funding is smaller, and boards may be encouraged to capitalise costs if possible. There may still be a "top slice" of funding from all boards to provide support, advice and guidance.

Discussed plans fitting in with the EMCCA role and strategy, and Mel will be linking with the teams there to see how this work fits with them.

Thanks from all to Mel for the support and guidance she has given consistently to the Board, and all wished her well in the restructure of her department.

### **3. Oasis proposal – youth and community work**

Discussed the potential of NTU loaning the funding to purchase the former St Francis church site at the end of Southchurch Drive as the location for a youth centre. What is needed to ensure that a project like this is successful is having the resources to deliver. The Board have received a proposal from [Oasis Trust](#) (see appendix 1) who are interested in helping deliver this – it is for the Board to consider if this is the right direction to move in, and if they are the right group to work with.

The proposal follows a visit in November 2024 to Oasis and one of their projects in Waterloo. To note NTU are comfortable working with Oasis as a potential delivery partner based on meeting them and looking at their processes and ways of operating.

Following discussion there were a number of questions – some related to what examples of work in Clifton would look like, what ongoing costs would there be beyond the proposal, and others around specifics such as travel costs.

There are lots of things to consider – is this the right direction of travel, and are there any local providers who can replicate or offer similar support if the youth centre is pursued?

**Action:** invite representatives of Oasis Trust to next board meeting, and if anyone has questions that they wish to put forward to send to Claire in advance of the meeting.

### **4. Community spaces update**

No firm decision made yet on what the ask will be for the community centre for costs as this will be made in March 2025, but costs for maintenance and insurance will be passed to the centres, and it must be cost neutral for the Council. There was a meeting for all centres to attend where this was discussed, and proposals will be taken forward to the Executive Group meeting in March. At that meeting it was also discussed that centres could jointly fund a worker to support them as it's recognised there is a real need to increase the numbers of volunteers at centres and support with financial planning.

### **5. Board development and direction**

Discussed proposal to fund development sessions (appendix 2) via Place Matters who delivered the Collective Impact training and who are working with other Town Boards.

**Action:** consider proposal and ask Place Matters to present at April meeting.

### **6. Funding for community support/ activities proposal**

Discussed a draft proposal for grant funding (appendix 3, 4 and 5). The example presented looked at youth activity, but the process could be applied to other funds as agreed by the board. The processing of grants can be resource intensive, so may need to use capacity funding to cover administration of this. Proposal via the Safer Streets 5 funding to offer commissioning training to young people who have taken part in the listening training so they can have an effective input into decision making for activities.

**Action:** decision making framework needs to be clarified and confirmed – does the board delegate authority to decide funding to a working group, etc. Claire to present different flow charts at the next meeting.

Agreed this could be a good pilot to see how things work, try new providers and approaches etc before committing to longer term funding in the delivery years.

## **7. AOB**

Nethergate (Greenwood Academy Trust) have asked for feedback on their proposed use of the former Green Lane Youth Centre. Closing date for feedback is 24/3/25. Letter attached (appendix 6).

**Next meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 5-7pm at NCHA offices, Farnborough Road.