

Clifton Neighbourhood Board meeting

Thursday 22nd January 2026,

Hope Centre/ Teams

Present:

Stephen Hackney (Chair)
Jemma Malloney
Sue Whitehead
Insp Steve Dalby
Matthew Wheatley
Sarah Mayfield

Cllr Hayley Spain
Clare Ashton
Mark Armstrong
Ed Hickey, MHCLG
Paula Torres-Silva - MHCLG
Claire McCurdy (notes)

Apologies:

Cllr Linda Woodings
Tina Paddon
Lilian Greenwood
Charlotte Batterham
Cllr Maria Watson

Tracy Osborne
Holly Dagnall
Stacey Trainer
Gene Warburton

Welcome, apologies and introductions:

Notes accepted as a record of the last meeting. Ed and Paula introduced themselves and their role as Delivery Managers at MHCLG.

Update on progress to date

10-year Vision and Regeneration Plan have been received and are being looked at by MHCLHG. There have been a couple of requests for clarification and further information, mainly focussing on the community engagement, and around the governance and scrutiny elements. An updated version of the 10-year vision was circulated – this has not removed any information that was agreed but added information to strengthen the points. It was fed back by Ed and Paula that it's in a strong place, and they will confirm what additional information may be required. The process now is for the information to be assessed and clarified before being shared with a panel of senior civil servants for recommendation of approval and then will require Ministerial sign off. It's not a pass or fail process, with Ed and Paula working with us to get it to the right place for the next stage. There isn't a firm date for this process, potentially by the end of February. There will be a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the council's S151 officer before the funding is released, expected to be at the start of the new financial year.

The board agreed that the next focus needs to be on marketing and branding of the programme and raise the profile in a spring launch, to raise community awareness and consult with groups on plans/ build capacity for working groups.

For reference, the programme management processes that are happening now includes presenting the information and plans via the Capital Board and Executive Panel – this is part of the process of financial management.

Welcome – MHCLG team

Ed and Paula spoke about their role and invited questions. Clarification about the updated guidance relating to moving towards a community-led model by year 3 of the programme: there are no set rules and further guidance will be issued as the programme progresses. Whatever proposition is moved forward, it needs to be suitable for the local area, but it gives boards the space to not always assume that the local authority will be the accountable body and explore local solutions. It was agreed that this is something to keep on the table but not necessary to focus on just yet, and can review with the support available locally and via MHCLG.

There will be further Zen City data available shortly – for Clifton and other Phase 1 projects, this will revisit the information originally shared last year and can look for changes.

There will also be a deeper dive through the programme support into how residents engage.

One of the ways of supporting programmes will be via a network for the East Midlands. There are also the networking events that were shared before Christmas – Sarah Mayfield or Heather Clarke from NTU have offered to attend on the Board's behalf. If there are any more board members who wish to attend and have travel booked, please speak to Claire.

Grants process and criteria

The Board looked at the aims for the youth activity grants. The process for applications and assessments will be managed by the Economic Development team to ensure that there's accountability and that decisions made can be scrutinised as fair and objective. Board members not applying for funding can take part in assessing applications. Applications will be as simple and standard as possible, and support for this can be offered via the team and the Community Engagement Officer. The assessment process will check the required information has been completed, and include the applications being looked at by two people, and scores aggregated. This will help ensure that no one turned down for funding can accuse the board of biased decisions.

The decisions made for the £90,000 allocated for revenue funding in the budget were:

- Grants will be up to a maximum of £10,000 per group.
- It will be open for a wide range of activities for young people from 0-25 years old.
- It will initially be for 1 year only – the board can review the success and spread of activities through the delivery of the grant and can reserve the right to extend activity, as well as stop if delivery does not take place. This will sit alongside the youth development tender that will inform of future needs.
- The wording in the 10 year vision document for Objective Seven – Enhancing life chances (Clifton will invest in facilities and services for all its residents but with a focus on enhancing the life chances of Clifton young residents. We will measure this by both broad community investment and targeted youth outcomes) sums up the aims of the funding.
- Partnership bids would be welcome but not expected.
- Assessment will be required to understand the lessons learned, what additionality the activities bring, and how effectively young people have been engaged in them.

Claire will work with colleagues in Economic Development to shape this for approval at the next Board meeting (February). Then the process can be used for other grants allocated.

Any other business:

Clifton Together have requested consideration for funding for some development work for teachers in Clifton to develop skills around literacy. The proposal is attached as Appendix 1. It was recommended that before consideration, it would be worth checking other sources of funding, such as the Education Department at NCC, and bring to the next board meeting.

Next meeting dates: – Thursday 26th February 5.30-7pm at Hope Church (or Teams if required).