

# Irvine Neighbourhood Board

## DRAFT Minute Meeting 10

10.00am on 2 December 2025

### Volunteer Rooms, Irvine

<b>Board Members Present:</b>		
Chris Pless	CP	Irvine Community Council
Fiona Paton	FP	Rivergate Centre
David Phillips	DP	Irvine Senior Forum
Danny Kerr	DK	Marymass Festival Committee
Chloe Robertson	CR	North Ayrshire Council
Barbara Conner	BC	TACT
Matthew Moran	MM	Scottish Maritime Museum
Russell McCutcheon	RM	North Ayrshire Council
Scott Morrison	SM	KA Leisure
<b>Apologies</b>		
Bill Nolan	BN	Irvine Burns Club
Steven Easton	SE	Chamber of Commerce
Alan Gemmell	AG	MP
Mark Boyd	MB	North Ayrshire Council
Ruth Maguire	RMa	MSP
Judith Macgregor	JM	Police Scotland
Michael Cowan	MC	Police Scotland
Nairn Angus-McDonald	NAM	North Ayrshire Council
<b>In Attendance</b>		
Claire Fitzsimmons	CF	North Ayrshire Council
Louise Kirk	LK	North Ayrshire Council
Calum Couston	CC	North Ayrshire Council
Elaine Baxter	EB	North Ayrshire Council
Tom Unter	TU	UK Government
Charles Farrer	CFa	UK Government
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>		<b>Action</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CP welcomed attendees and wished Bill Nolan a speedy recovery.</li><li>Tom Unter and Charles Farrer from UK Government were welcomed to the meeting.</li></ul>		
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CR had previously advised the Board that, as a member of NAC Cabinet, she would need to excuse herself from any upcoming Cabinet decisions on the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. CR updated the Board to advise that this was not actually the</li></ul>		

<p>case, she just needs to declare her involvement in the Board at any relevant Cabinet meetings.</p>	
<p><b>3. Minute of Previous Meeting</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further comments received on the draft minute from meeting 9 on 22 October 2025.</li> <li>• Minutes were proposed by DP and seconded by BC.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Action Log</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridgegate clean up has been completed. Before and after photos and video are to be circulated to the Board. CP and FP noted that this had made a substantial difference. Thanks also extended to Streetscene for their support and to Aaran McDonald for the video.</li> <li>• DK arranging use of the Our Irvine Boards at the Christmas event as previously agreed.</li> <li>• CP to update at the next Irvine LPP meeting following Cabinet approval of the Regeneration Plan documents.</li> </ul>	CP
<p><b>5. Vice-Chair Update</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CP advised that plans for the Christmas event on 6/7 December are in full swing. Lights will be installed on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed so Board members encouraged to attend and help if available.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. NAC Update</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Finance:</b> CF advised that the only additional spend to note was the previously agreed cost for the Bridgegate Cleanup. The current status of the budget was therefore confirmed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £450,000 Budget</li> <li>▪ £103,620 Spend to date</li> <li>▪ £64,400 Committed</li> <li>▪ £281,980 Balance</li> </ul> <p>CF also advised of an additional invoice received from Ironside Farrer for their ongoing support in developing the Regeneration Plan, the submission documents, updating documentation following the change in programme/prospectus, and their support to the Board following the lack of NAC resource. CF advised that budget was in place for a full year of a PfN Officer. As the officer has not yet started there is underspend in 2025/26 that can be used to offset this additional invoice. The Board approved this payment. It was noted this is the final invoice from Ironside Farrer. Any future support will be subject to new procurement exercises. NAC to share finance slide after the meeting.</p> </li> <li>• <b>Recruitment:</b> CF advised that the recruitment process is now complete. Lynne Easton has been appointed as Regeneration Officer (Irvine Plan for Neighbourhoods) and will start on 5 January 2026. CF passed her thanks to FP for her assistance and involvement in the recruitment process. DP asked where the officer would be based. CF confirmed Cunninghame House with the Council's Regeneration team.</li> </ul>	CF

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regeneration Plan Submission:</b> CF thanked everyone for their reviews and comments on the submission documents. There was unanimous support from the Board for the submission documents. It was confirmed that these were submitted to UK Government on 27 November 2025. As previously discussed, they are subject to Cabinet approval on 2 December 2025 (and subsequent 7-day call-in period). CF will confirm with UK Government when they are formally approved and can be treated as final.</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Community Funding Presentation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CC provided a presentation (slides attached) on considerations for the community funding programme. This included an overview of other community funds and how they run. Following discussion it was agreed that a workshop would be held in January to consider this further. This will include consideration of eligibility criteria, values, objectives, governance, timing etc.</li> <li>• It was suggested that a sub-group be established however the majority present wished to be involved so the invitation will be extended to the full Board membership.</li> </ul>	CC
<b>8. UK Government Visit</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Unter and Charles Farrer from UK Government introduced themselves formally and provided detail on their background to their roles at MHCLG.</li> <li>• It was noted that they expect to have fully reviewed submissions and be in a position to approve them and issue the Memorandum of Understanding in February. This timescale would allow for the first tranche of delivery funding to be released in April 2026.</li> <li>• CP asked about the recent emails from ZenCity and whether this was legitimate. CFa advised that it is legitimate and that he can share further detail with the Board.</li> <li>• DP raised a concern about the ZenCity work being entirely online and how this will exclude some demographics. CFa advised that it is an additional layer of complementary information on top of what we have already done within our community.</li> </ul>	CFa
<b>9. AOCB</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LK updated the Board on the additional £20M Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) funding that has been awarded to North Ayrshire. It was noted that the location for this funding is yet to be announced by UK Government. Constituencies that have previously received funding, such as Irvine, are not eligible.</li> <li>• LK also updated on the £1.5M Pride in Place Impact Fund. It was noted that the approach to this fund will be subject to a Cabinet report once the PiPP area has been agreed.</li> <li>• NAC to share link to Cabinet report for PiPP.</li> </ul>	CF
<b>10. Date of next meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding workshop to be held in January. Board meeting thereafter. CF to advise further.</li> <li>• Now that we're moving towards a delivery phase, it was agreed that meetings should be held quarterly.</li> </ul>	CF

<b>11. Key Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board approved payment of additional Ironside Farrar invoice.</li><li>• Funding workshop to be held in January.</li><li>• Board meetings to be moved to quarterly.</li></ul>	