Irvine Neighbourhood Board

DRAFT Minute Meeting 11

1.30pm on 26th March 2026

The Circuit, Quarry Road, Irvine

Board Members Present:		
Chloe Robertson	CR	North Ayrshire Council
Nairn Angus-McDonald	NAM	North Ayrshire Council
Mark Boyd	MB	North Ayrshire Council
Barbara Conner	BC	TACT
Fiona Paton	FP	Rivergate Centre
David Phillips	DP	Irvine Seniors Forum
Matthew Moran	MM	Scottish Maritime Museum
Danny Kerr	DK	Marymass Festival Committee
Chris Pless	CP	Irvine Community Council
Scott Morrison	SM	KA Leisure
Apologies:		
Russell McCutcheon	RM	North Ayrshire Council
Steven Easton	SE	Chamber of Commerce
Alan Gemmell	AG	MP
Judith Macgregor	JM	Police Scotland
In Attendance:		
Louise Kirk	LK	North Ayrshire Council
Calum Couston	CC	North Ayrshire Council
Lynne Easton	LE	North Ayrshire Council
Elaine Baxter	EB	North Ayrshire Council
Colin Bradford	CB	North Ayrshire Council
Scott Mclelland	SMc	North Ayrshire Council

1. Welcome & Apologies	**Action**

• CP welcomed attendees including Scott Mclelland from (Building Standards) at NAC. • CP noted apologies from Russell McCutcheon, Steven Easton and Alan Gemmell MP. Louise Kirk deputised for Russell McCutcheon.	
2. Declarations of Interest	
• There were no Declarations of Interest noted	

3. Minute of Previous Meeting	
• No comments were received on the draft minute from Meeting 10 on 2 December 2025 • Minutes were proposed by DK and seconded by FP	
4. Action Log	
• Two items remain outstanding on the Action Log: • 20250912-4 SCIO creation progress; and 20251022-5 Updates to Irvine LPP • CP noted the revised guidance from MHCLG states that Neighbourhood Boards should be moving toward some form of independent governance by Year 3 of their Regeneration Plan. • LE has been investigating options for consideration.	
5. Vice-Chair Update	
• CP reported that the Boards Christmas event was well attended and supported with a lot of good feedback and good will received from the community with some lessons learned. • CP proffered his thanks to Board members who contributed to the success.	

The Forum fire update • CP welcomed SMc from NAC to provide an update on the demolition works at the former Forum site in Bridgegate. • SM shared photos from a recent site visit and confirmed works are likely to complete within the next four weeks. • SM confirmed the demolition contractor will remove all remaining structure down to floor slab level and leave the site in a safe condition protected by a HERAS fence to the perimeter. • NAC Legal Team have made progress identifying the ownership in and around the site • LK outlined that progress with the feasibility study in the wider Bridgegate area is key to understanding future opportunities with the Forum and its surrounds. • SMc and SM both left the meeting.	
6. Chair Recruitment and Programme update • CC confirmed the advert for a new Chairperson is currently open for Expressions of Interest. • CC requested assistance from the Board in promoting the advert as NAC can no longer do so due to pre-election restrictions.	**Board to promote Chair recruitment**

• The advert will close on 31st March. Council Officers will short leet applicants and interviews should take place in April to be conducted by the NAC Chief Executive and Alan Gemmell MP. • The appointment of the new chair will be ratified by the full Council in May.	

7. Finance update • CC confirmed that UK Government/MHCLG has "strongly" endorsed the Regeneration Plan and NAC currently await instruction regarding the Memorandum of Understanding which is described as imminent. • CC explained that UK Government/MHCLG has created a monitoring portal which will open on 1st April and close again on 30th April. The requirement is that the Board sign-off the submission and thereafter make it public, however the portal does not facilitate this, so we are currently creating an alternative format to present the information to the Board for approval by 14th April. • The submission will be a forecast of the first year of spend in line with the approved Plan. • CC confirmed that the Finance slide will be shared after the Meeting. • CC outlined to the Board that there is a commitment for the Board to progress with a wide range of projects, to the value of £742k in year 1.	**NAC to share monitoring report and finance slide**
8. Terms of Reference & Standing Orders update • CC confirmed UK Government updated formal guidance, and NAC Officers will work with Legal colleagues to update the documents to reflect the new guidance. • The updated versions will be submitted for approval at the next Board meeting.	
9. Locality Partnership update • EB provided update on the new Locality Partnership Action Plan being prepared from engagement over 2026/27. • To date there have been four sessions of conversations across the area with 187 attendees from a wide range of stakeholders. • EB to share midway report available on 30th March 2026 on the Teams Channel. • EB emphasised that collaboration between the LP and Board is important for a joined-up approach. • CP enquired whether the use of the CONSUL platform would be appropriate for the Board in their project delivery. • EB confirmed COSLA provide training and this is something which could be accommodated, if the Board felt this was appropriate.	**EB to share midway report with Board after publishing**

10. Bridgegate Enhancement – Brief • CP noted that some appendices were not attached to the brief. • CC outlined that some of the reports contained commercially sensitive information, and NAC Officers were working with legal colleagues to identify what could be shared. • CP queried if Members could sign a confidentiality agreement to allow future reports to be shared. • NAC Officers will explore this request. • CP queried if legal representation on the Board from NAC Legal would be beneficial going forward. • LK outlined the Board's ability to access NAC Legal support with specific queries. • The Board approved the progression of the Bridgegate Enhancement Brief.	
11. Community Funding Proposal • The Board approved the Community Funding Proposal along with the formation of the Working Group to manage it. • The Working Group shall comprise BC, N A-M and MMM along with the assistance of EB. • CP suggested the Working Group should have their own sub-channel on the shared Teams channel and asked LE to facilitate.	**LE to create Funding Working Group Sub-Channel**
12. ZenCity Report • CC confirmed that UK Government/MHCLG had commissioned the report as a baseline for reviewing the success of the programme. More detailed data and background will be shared on the Teams channel. • CP noted it was reassuring to know that the findings reflected and supported the work already done in this area by the Board.	**LE to share detail on Teams**
13. AOCB	

• CP suggested another clean-up event and EB suggested this be considered with the LP who would like to see a wider area tackled. • Ruth Maguire MSP has resigned from the Board as she is standing down as an MSP at the forthcoming election. • CP expressed the Board's gratitude for Ruth's contributions to the Board and wished her well for the future. • There was a discussion around anti-social behaviour in the town, particularly in the Rivergate Centre. EB provided information on the success that Impact Arts have been having in tackling this issue.	
• DP expressed the need for any such projects to co-ordinate with the Plan and provide solutions across the town in a joined-up manner.	
13. Date of future meetings	
• Thursday 25th June 2026 2pm-3.30pm • Venue to be confirmed in due course. • The Meeting was closed at 2.45pm	
14. Key decisions	
• Board approved Community Fund Proposal and creation of relevant Working Group. • Board approved the progression of the Bridgegate Enhancement Feasibility Study. • Approved Regeneration Plan to be shared with the Board and published. • Monitoring document to be issued for Board approval by 14th April 2026.	